



THE BUGLE CALL

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fort Bayard

Historic Preservation Society

July 2026

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Message from the President
- FBHPS Receives Two Grant Awards
- Fort Bayard Featured in *Desert Exposure*
- Fort Bayard Birthday Observance Scheduled
- Fall Movie Series Announced
- Public Library Exhibit
- Volunteer of the Quarter – Anna Hill
- Recent Acquisition – Fort Bayard Mail Sorter
- The Fort Bayard Story – John and Dave Hoagland
- Historic Characters of Old Fort Bayard – Nurse Dita Kinney
- Artifact of the Issue – Victorian Era Stereoscope
- Museum Hours
- Monthly Meeting and Contact Information

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As the reader will see elsewhere in this issue of *The Bugle Call*, our organization has been blessed with the awarding of significant grant support for some of our ongoing efforts. Additionally, we are the beneficiaries of particularly generous donations from several of our members, and I wish to recognize them in this message. Mr. John Lashley, Mr. and Mrs. John Pecoroni, and the Silver City Masonic

Lodge No. 8 have recently made noteworthy donations to our cause, and are deserving of special recognition. I also wish to emphasize that every donation of time and money, no matter how large or small, is the lifeblood of our organization, and is worthy of our gratitude. Your commitment to saving the history of Fort Bayard does a great service for both current and future generations.

We are moving forward with the renovation of Building 53 on Doctors Row, immediately south of the museum building. Board member Ansel Walters is leading a work crew that includes board members John Baker and Lorie Hildebrand as well as others, in the repainting and other needed work in the structure, which when finished, will house more exhibits, research and office spaces for our organization as well as other cooperating groups.

Asbestos remediation is also going forward in the museum building, which has necessitated temporarily closing the facility to the public until that process is complete. We appreciate everyone's patience while we continue making these important updates.

Our recently completed movie series "Crucible of Liberty: The American Revolution in Film" has been a great success, and we have received very favorable comments from our audiences, plus a very kind letter to the editor in the Silver City Daily Press.

Finally, I would like to alert everyone to watch our website www.historicfortbayard.org, and your email for information on the celebration of the upcoming 160th birthday of Fort Bayard.

Doug Dinwiddie
President, FBHPS

FBHPS RECEIVES TWO GRANT AWARDS

We are pleased to announce the receipt of two separate grant awards. We were funded for \$30,000 by the Thirty Something organization to apply toward renovation of the porch of the duplex immediately south of the museum (also known as Building 53). Funds will also be used to install a ramp for our physically challenged visitors into that same structure. Ultimately, we hope to expand our exhibits regarding the Native Apache people as well as the Buffalo Soldiers in that building as well.



Doug and Becky Dinwiddie receiving the Thirty Something Grant “Check” at the Awards Ceremony



Building 53, Front



Building 53, Rear Porch

We also received a grant of \$2,000 from the Southline Transmission Project toward the upgrading of printed materials to be made available for physically challenged visitors who are unable to use the stairs to our upper floor displays in the museum. This will include a standard print edition, plus a large print edition for visually challenged visitors. Combined with funds recently donated by other generous patrons, the grant will also cover the production of teacher packets to help them learn about Fort Bayard, and prepare students for field trips to our facility. The addition of QR Codes to further expand our interpretive materials is also part of the project.

If anyone would like to join in this effort, please contact us through our website, historicfortbayard.org, or call/text Becky Dinwiddie at 575-222-5084.

FORT BAYARD FEATURED IN *DESERT EXPOSURE*

FBHPS invites all readers of *The Bugle Call* to check out the following link to an article that appeared in the latest issue of *Desert Exposure*. Authored by President Doug Dinwiddie, the article makes it clear why Fort Bayard has been designated a National Historic Landmark.



We hope that you will share this link with your friends and family so that those who may not be familiar with it can appreciate the fascinating history of Fort Bayard. We encourage everyone to get involved with FBHPS in support of our mission to preserve and protect the legacy of Fort Bayard for future generations.

<https://www.desertexposure.com/stories/fort-bayard-frontier-military-post-and-world-famous-hospital,176305>

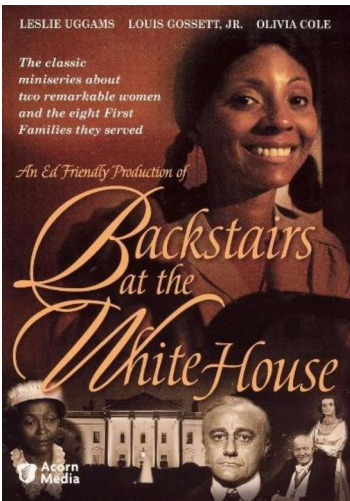
FORT BAYARD BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE SCHEDULED

Fort Bayard will turn 160 years old this year. To celebrate, the FBHPS will hold a special birthday party on Saturday, August 22nd at the fort, from 1 to 4 p.m. This year's celebration will be highlighted by several of our members appearing as living history re-enactors, in period dress. Refreshments, complete with birthday cake, will be served. Everyone is invited, and remember, all of our members receive a 10% discount on gift shop purchases.



FALL MOVIE SERIES ANNOUNCED

The FBHPS will continue its traditional movie series this fall, with a nine-week series running each Thursday evening from September 3 through October 29th. The series is offered in conjunction with the continuing commemoration of our nation's 250th birthday.



The series is entitled "Inside the White House: Consequential Presidents 1800-1960," and features films on Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, plus eight more 20th century chief executives, ending with Dwight D. Eisenhower. Included in the showings will be the award-winning miniseries "Backstairs at the White House."

The films will be screened at the Santa Clara Armory Building, with doors opening at 6 p.m. and movies beginning at 6:30. Admission is free (donations welcome), and concessions are available for purchase at a nominal price.

PUBLIC LIBRARY EXHIBIT

At the invitation of library staff, Doug and Becky Dinwiddie installed a temporary photo exhibit at the Silver City Public Library that will run through this August. The exhibit traces the history of Fort Bayard through its distinct military post and hospital eras. It is our hope that we will reach library patrons who may not be aware of all we do at Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, and encourage them to visit and or join our organization.



The library is located in the heart of Silver City at 515 W. College Avenue.

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

Anna Hill

We are pleased to recognize member Anna Hill as our Volunteer of the Issue for this edition of *The Bugle Call*. While she is a relatively new member of our organization, she has a long-time connection with Fort Bayard, having brought her public school students to Fort Bayard Days in years past, as part of her commitment to preserving and recognizing the historical importance of the facility. We are especially pleased that

Anna represents the Apache culture within our group, and will serve as an important link to the indigenous community within our organization. Anna is an absolute dynamo of energy, and we greatly value her contributions to our efforts. She kindly provided a biographical summary of herself, which we are sharing here in its entirety.

Born late in the fall of 1961 in the small farming community of La Union, I entered the world in my maternal grandmother's adobe home, surrounded by a heritage deeply rooted in courage, perseverance, and determination. The name La Union, meaning "the union," reflects not only the community where I was born but also the blending of cultures, traditions, and family histories that shaped my life.

My story begins generations before my birth. I am descended from strong, brave, and tenacious individuals who crossed dangerous roads, traveled through unfamiliar lands, on foot and horse drawn wagon, and even traversed an ocean in search of opportunity and a better future for their families. My ancestry reflects the rich cultural tapestry of the American Southwest, including Spanish, Mexican, Apache, and Mexican-American roots. These ancestors settled throughout the villages and agricultural communities of southwestern New Mexico, where they worked the land, raised livestock, cultivated crops, and built lives through hard work and sacrifice.

The fertile Mesilla Valley region provided both sustenance and livelihood for generations of my family. Like many families in the area, my ancestors depended upon irrigation, planting and harvesting crops to feed their households and earn a living. Their resilience in the face of hardship established a legacy of self-reliance and commitment to family that continues to influence me today.



Anna Hill

I attended schools in the Gadsden Independent School District and graduated in 1979. Determined to continue my education, I moved to Silver City, to attend Western New Mexico University. There, I pursued my passion for learning and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1986.

Shortly after graduation, I began what would become a fulfilling and meaningful career in education. Over the course of 27 years, I served students and families in both the Cobre Consolidated Schools and Silver Consolidated Schools. Education became more than a profession; it became a calling. Throughout my years as an educator, I worked to support, encourage, and inspire young people as they developed academically and personally.

Committed to lifelong learning, I continued my own educational journey while teaching. Balancing parenting, professional responsibilities with graduate studies, I earned a Master of Arts in Teaching degree, strengthening my knowledge and enhancing my ability to serve students effectively.

My life has always been characterized by a willingness to work hard and take on a variety of responsibilities. During my youth, I worked as a lifeguard and swimming instructor during the summer months, teaching water safety and helping others develop confidence in the water. I also served as a Boy Scout camp director, helping young men build leadership skills, self-confidence, and an appreciation for the outdoors.

Family responsibilities were equally important. I devoted time to caring for my maternal grandmother, whose love, wisdom, and example played a significant role in my life. I also learned practical skills through handyman projects, helping maintain and improve our family's older home. These experiences taught me the value of service, responsibility, and perseverance.

Family remains one of the greatest blessings of my life. I am the proud parent of one son, who is a member of the Jicarilla Apache Nation in Dulce, New Mexico. His connection to his tribal heritage represents the continuation of cultural traditions and family history that span generations. For more than thirty years, I have shared my life with my husband, Jeff Hill. Together we have built a life based on commitment, partnership, and mutual support. We reside in the peaceful Little Walnut area in Silver City, where we enjoy the beauty of southwestern New Mexico.

In 2024, I experienced a meaningful reconnection with my ancestral heritage when I became a member of the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico. This affiliation reflects a family history that reaches back generations. According to family accounts, my paternal Apache great-great-great-grandmother was born in what is now Grant County, Silver City, New Mexico. During a turbulent period in Southwestern history, she and her family migrated south to Mexico and eventually settled in La Union. Historical records indicate that many Apache families were fleeing military campaigns and forced removals carried out as the United States Army sought to relocate Native peoples from their homelands. The survival and endurance of these ancestors remain a source of pride and inspiration.

RECENT ACQUISITION

Fort Bayard Mail Sorter



We are pleased to acknowledge a unique donation from Silver City resident Anne Beeby, who gifted us a mail sorter that was used at the Fort Bayard Post Office. According to records, Fort Bayard maintained a post office from October of 1867 through October of 1965.

Pending further research, we are not sure what years this sorter might have been in use, but it makes a great and unusual addition to the collections of the FBHPS. Thank you, Anne, for your thoughtful donation!

THE FORT BAYARD STORY

Editor's Note: Dr. John Bell is leading a project to collect oral histories of persons who worked and/or lived at Fort Bayard during the hospital era. We will publish one of these interviews in each issue of *The Bugle Call*. (Stories are edited for space and clarity.)

John and Dave Hoagland

As told to me by John Hoagland, son of John Hoagland Sr.

John Hoagland Sr. (1917–1976) grew up in Swayzee, Indiana. He had two siblings, Dave and Roberta, and his mother was Sara Helen Mattache. During World War II, John Sr. served in the Navy. Later, while living in Indiana, he worked for Shell Oil Company delivering bottled gas. John Sr.'s son, John, was born in Long Beach, California, in 1945.

Unlike many people who worked at Fort Bayard, no one in the Hoagland family ever suffered from tuberculosis. John Sr. came to Fort Bayard in 1952 to visit his brother Dave, who was already working there. Uncle Dave oversaw special services, including entertainment.

John Sr. oversaw maintenance engineering at Fort Bayard. His responsibilities included electrical systems as well as elevators, water, heating, the steam plant and other facility requirements. His son, John Jr. lived at Fort Bayard from 1952 to 1964, from age seven until he finished high school and one semester of college. The school at Fort Bayard for the early primary grades was in the Sojourner's Club. Mrs.