

Dawson New Mexico Association

528 North 1st

Raton, NM 87740

We are announcing the 2020 Dawson Reunion for September 5-6.

We have received word from the Colfax Land and cattle company, LLC, that our reunion can be held in Dawson again this year. The owner has given us permission to use the Dawson site under the same provisions as in the past years. We are asked to release the Colfax Land and Cattle Company LLC (OWNER), and Preston Wood Cattle Company (Land Leaser), and Dawson New Mexico Association of all liability for injuries, etc., While on the premises. All who enter Dawson must sign a release of liability form.

We also caution that you will be in a rural area and there is no medical assistance or any other services available. The Dawson New Mexico Association is not to furnish or be responsible for these requirements. As usual, you are reminded to bring your own lunch, beverage, chairs and tables. We must leave this area as we find it, so please take all trash with you when you leave or leave it in the barrels provided. Always remember we want to leave "Our Town" cleaner than we found it. We are required to observe FIRE DANGER. There is not to be any open fires anywhere, no exceptions; barbecue grills are ok, but please use caution. Absolutely no fireworks are allowed. Smoking; use extreme care. No Firearms allowed on the premises. There is no picking up sheds or anything on the property. There are no metal detectors allowed. There is no going inside the buildings. We must have the picnic in designated areas only. Please keep all vehicles on the roads and in designated parking areas. All-terrain vehicles are not allowed on premises. Please do not

- Joe & Sue Bacca (575) 707-0703
baccaj2000@msn.com
- Bobbie Jo & Angel Bacca (575) 707-2495
bobbiejobacca@yahoo.com
- John Gabriele (575) 447-0778
kmckelvie233@gmail.com
- Edward & Betty Zavala (575) 445-8544
speedyzavala@yahoo.com
- Pietro Scarafiotti
pscaraf@msn.com

leave any trash in the area. Please remember that all attending have agreed to release The Colfax Land and Cattle Co. LLC, and the Dawson Association from all liability for any accidents that can occur while we are here. We have agreed to leave the site nice and clean. Please comply with all the above, so we can have a safe and remarkable reunion.

Important:

It is very important to attend these reunions. The Dawson New Mexico Association has to obtain permission from the land owners of Dawson every two years. The reunions may one day have to be held somewhere else if they were to stop giving us permission to have the reunions in Dawson. We hope this never does happen, but that why it is important to attend because we never know when that day may come. Donations made at this time will help the Picnic and cemetery committee in making the arrangements that need to be made. Please be generous. Please see the Miner's Pick for more information. Make checks payable to Dawson New Mexico Association and mail it to the address above. If you cannot help right now, we'll give you the opportunity at the picnic. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call any committee member below. On next page is a list of committee members. They are here to help you and answer any questions that you may have. We also would like to encourage if anyone wants to join the Dawson New Mexico Committee please feel free to call any committee member

- John Bizyak (575) 447-5811
bizyak@yahoo.com
- Chuck Speed (806) 359-9177
speedo@chuckspeed.com
- Mrs. Charles Buttram (Lorraine) (575) 445-8709
- Emagene Saracino Buttram (575) 445-8049



MINER'S PICK



WE NEED COOPERATION!!!

Everyone (**NO EXCEPTIONS**) must sign the waivers of liability form to enter Dawson! This means each person must sign a separate form to Dawson. If under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must sign the form. All signatures must be legible. This takes time and patience is required, but we have sped up the process by having extra people at the gate for this purpose. Any information you need will be available after you get in the gate at the picnic committee table.

Dawson Raffle

This year we will have a memory picture blanket for the raffle. If anyone would like to donate any items pertaining to Dawson or mining for the raffle, it would be greatly appreciated. Please remember the raffles help us to keep the Dawson reunions going. You can mail your raffle items to Joe Bacca 528 N. 1st Raton, NM 87740.

Cleanup Day

On Friday September 4, 2020 at 9:00 am will be the cleanup day to get the picnic area clean and ready for the reunion. We need volunteers, along with rakes and shovels to come out and help us. If you have some free time explore the beautiful town of Raton. ExploreRaton.com has lots of info on all that Raton has to offer.

Special Event

On Saturday September 5, 2020, at the Museum we will be showing a documentary by Emily Fraser. We will be serving refreshments from 10:00am-3:00pm. There will be committee members. Here is a link of the film that will be shown <https://www.pineconeimages.com/ghosttown>.

Raton Museum

The museum is at 108 South 2nd Street in Raton. The museum will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. all week. Roger Sanchez will give tours if possible during those hours. This is an excellent resource for all interested in Dawson history. They set up a wonderful Dawson display. We would like to give special thanks to Roger Sanchez, Museum Manger, and the board for all they have done for Dawson.

Dawson Saturday Night Social

There will be a social at The Elks Lodge on September 5, 2020 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00p.m. The Elks lodge is located at 300 South 2nd in Raton, NM. This is a great time to get out and visit with the Dawsonites. This has become a popular social. If you have not been attending you are missing out on all the great stories, memories, photos, and history that all Dawsonites share. There is a handicap ramp on the side of The Elks. We will be selling raffle tickets during the social.

Dawson 2020 Reunion

The Reunion this year will be on Sunday September 6th starting at 8:00 a.m. Everyone must be out of the Dawson site by 6:00 p.m. Please remember to clean up all trash.

New to the reunion this year!!

This year the Raton local, Art of Snacks, will have their food truck out at the picnic. Everything is priced below \$10. They will have the following: Breakfast Burritos, Assorted Pastries, Cinnamon Rolls, Hot Dogs, Chile Dogs, Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Frito Pies Green or Red Chile, Walking Tacos, Popcorn, Frozen Lemonade, Sweet Tea Slush, Pina Colada Slush, Cherry Lime Slush, Chips, Sodas, Iced Tea, Bottled Water, Coffee.

Miner's Memorial for Dawson Cemetery an article by Pietro Scarafiotti

“Pietro (Pete) Scarafiotti has completed the work on the anticipated Miner's Memorial for the Dawson Cemetery. From 1902 to 1950, 531 men died working for Phelps Dodge in Dawson mostly underground but also in surface accidents, this included the 265 that died in the 1913 explosion and the 122 that died in the 1923 explosion.

Many of the men buried under Company provided crosses in the Dawson Cemetery were victims of the 1913 explosion and they are simply listed as “unknown”, their names are not to be found in the cemetery. Since the company knew that all the victims were buried in the Dawson Cemetery many had to simply be listed as “unknown” on the crosses since the bodies were in such bad shape and could not be identified.

Pete researched the New Mexico State Mine Inspector's Records to finally identify all the miners who died their nationality and the cause and date of death. The Miner's Memorial “story boards” today travel with Pete to be displayed at each reunion picnic. In 2018 it was decided to erect a permanent monument in the cemetery listing the previously identified information. Pete is currently working with the United Mine Workers of America the union that once represented the fallen miners to try to obtain the funds to fabricate and place the monument in the cemetery. Pete will not rest until every man is recognized and memorialized in the cemetery.”

Dawson Cemetery

Good News! In response to its proposal, the Dawson New Mexico Association received a grant from the Freeport McMoRan Foundation to make much-needed improvements to the Dawson Cemetery. The grant is covering the cost of building a strong, high game fence around the cemetery to keep elk and cattle out of the graveyard. These large animals have been breaking through the old barbed wire fence and roaming through the cemetery for years. This has resulted in serious damage to many of the headstones and other grave markers.

The other immediate need at the cemetery was restoring the drainage system to protect the graveyard from storm water erosion. During rainstorms in the past, water ran through the graveyard and over the gravesites causing erosion and washing away topsoil around many of the grave markers including the metal crosses that mark many of the Dawson miners' graves. To remedy this erosion problem, the diversion ditches above and around the cemetery have been re-established to divert storm water around the graveyard. The Dawson New Mexico Association would like to express its gratitude to Freeport-McMoRan, the company that acquired Phelps Dodge, for recognizing the importance of the Dawson Cemetery and acknowledging the rich history and heritage of Northern New Mexico. In particular, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to Harry Milton (Red) Conger, president and chief operating officer of Freeport-McMoRan. Red has a long and deep connection to Dawson from his days as a mining engineer and mine manager for Phelps Dodge.



Also note: We have asked the Freeport McMoRan Foundation for an additional 5 years of funding to help keep up and maintain the Dawson Cemetery. Keep your fingers crossed that they accept our request.

If we missed anything, Chuck Speed has a website, chuckspeed.com; he has a lot of great info on Dawson along with many wonderful pictures. He keeps everyone updated on Dawson. Pete Scarafiotti also has a Facebook page, Dawson New Mexico. He has lots of pictures and info on Dawson as well. They both do such an amazing job!

Dawson Mule

One of our Dawson Reunion members, Tom Hay, has asked Joe Bacca to coordinate a donation drive to purchase an iron mule to be placed in the front of the coal mine pit car which is presently on display at the Dawson Cemetery. This will be in honor of the many mules that were used for years to haul coal from the mines. We have reached the goal and made the purchase of the mule that will be in place at The Dawson Cemetery in time for the 2020 Reunion. We are saddened to announce that Tom Hay has since passed away. We greatly appreciate all that Tom Hay has done for Dawson and the coal mining industry. He will be greatly missed.

There is a lot going on in Raton this year so book in advance. You can also book your room reservations at ExporeRaton.com

Nick Papas

As some of you may know, New Mexico journalist Nick Pappas has been working on a narrative nonfiction account of Dawson's extraordinary history since retiring as city editor of the Albuquerque Journal in November 2018.

Earlier this year, the Albuquerque resident learned his book project has been accepted for \$1,000 in funding by the New Mexico Office of the State Historian under its History Scholars program for 2020. The program, run in cooperation with the Historical Society of New Mexico, helps pay for original research at state institutions into New Mexico's "rich historical and cultural legacy."

As part of that program, Nick will make a public presentation about his findings later this year at the State Records Center & Archives in Santa Fe. Once scheduled, he will share the day and time over the Dawson Facebook page.

Nick's book, which is in the research/interview stage, would be the first to be published about Dawson since Toby Smith's "Coal Town: The Life and Times of Dawson, New Mexico" in 1993.

Former Dawsonites willing to share personal stories, letters, diaries, manuscripts, photographs or other documents are encouraged to email Nick at nick.pappas1205@gmail.com.

List of Raton Hotels:

- Best Western Plus- (575) 445-8501
- Budget Host Raton- (575) 445-3655
- Casa Lemus and Restaurant- (575) 445-2737
- Raton Peak Inn- (575) 245-7325
- Heart's Desire Inn B&B- (575) 445-1000
- Holiday Inn Express- (575) 445-1500
- Maverick Motel- (575) 445-3792
- Microtel- (575) 445-9100
- Oasis Motel- (575) 445-2766
- Quality Inn- (575) 445-4200
- Raton Pass Motor Inn- (575) 445-3641
- Robin Hood Motel- (575) 445-5577
- Super 8- (575) 445-2355
- Travel Lodge- (505) 933-7489

