

Facts & Traditions

Published by the Historical Society for Southeast New Mexico, Inc. February 2016

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Mission of the Society

To assemble, preserve and interpret the history of Southeast New Mexico and to promote a greater interest, understanding, and appreciation of the area's past.

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Elvis was in the Building

If I could write a book, "These are a few of my favorite things" certainly the holiday season here at the Historical Society and "THE ELVIS FLEMING EVENT" rank at the top. This season we had an amazing Christmas Open House—and then the torrential snow made for some challenging days throughout Roswell, but some of the most beautiful snowcap pictures the Historical Museum has ever seen.

Now for my most special feature, my most fond moment since I have been here at the Historical Society (by the way going on three years)... "THE ELVIS FLEMING EVENT". I have had many fond memories in my life but this will rank at the top of my list having the honor and privilege to celebrate just some of Elvis's many accomplishments. As many of you know, I can't just throw a simple little party; however, this particular event was truly worth celebrating in a big way. It would take years to mention his achievements and accomplishments... books, articles, awards, songs written, students impacted, archives established, archive building completed, etc.... but it was worth the attempt, and quite frankly I think we did a darn good job of it. From 106.5 talk radio doing a feature I believe 3 days the week prior, to Pioneer Bank flashing Elvis's great picture on the marquis, to being on the front page of the Roswell Daily Record to the finale of a wonderful day of celebration on Sunday, January 31st, 2016. The good times kept a-rollin'. The actual event was emceed by none other than *the* John Lemay (as per Elvis's request) who began the procession by telling about the friendship and working relationship they shared. Then the Mayor's Proclamation was read by Caleb Grant, City Councilman, declaring "Elvis Fleming Day", followed by fond words and stories from Elvis's dear friends; Morgan Nelson and Mary Lou Glass. Elvis received his award from the Historical Society and the Historical Foundation, then he addressed the crowd, sharing some of his own humorous stories. He saved the best for last with his musical presentation *The Ballad of Billy Matthews* accompanied by his dear friend Tina Williams. At the conclusion of the program, the Archive room (which Elvis helped get built) was full of Elvis's dear friends such as Roger Burnett, students, his church family and pastor, volunteers from the Historical Society and Foundation, and media. Elvis wore himself plum out and his lovely wife Menza was able to be right by his side.

THANK YOU ELVIS FLEMING FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE NOT ONLY FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO BUT THE WORK YOU CONTINUE TO DO!!!!!! (Haha we knew you couldn't stay away for long)

Thank you again to all who helped make the Elvis Fleming event possible including the Historical Foundation. Great things continue to happen at the Historical Society- with the Sons of the Pioneers event coming in March, School Tours right around the corner, and renovations on its final phase—here's to a great 2016!!!!!! The best is yet to come!

Blessings to you all,
Amy McVay-Davis

