



River of Time Museum

Fountain Hills & Lower Verde Valley
MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Debbie Skehen, Editor

Anne Wicklund, WebWolf Internet Services

Nov/Dec 2005
Volume 15, Issue 5

TROUBLE IN PLEASANT VALLEY



SHERIFF COMMODORE PERRY OWENS

Special Dates of Interest:

- Nov 7, Mon, Meet and Greet the Diplomats, 5-6 pm
- Nov 16, Wed, Historical Society Dinner "Arizona's Pleasant Valley War"
- Nov 21, Mon, Docent Meeting, 9:30 am
- Nov 29, 30 & Dec 1, Champagne Brunch and Lunch at Mayor Wally & Sheila Nichols home
- Dec 4, Sun, Holiday Open House and Home Tour
- Dec 6, Tues, Gems of the Verde Raffle Drawing, Sami Fine Jewelry & Unique Gifts
- Jan 14, Sat, Bingo Night at Ft. McDowell Casino
- Jan 18, Wed, Historical Society Dinner "Dwight Heard" played by Vern Ulrich

The Pleasant Valley War will be the topic for the November 16 dinner meeting of the Fountain Hills and Lower Verde Valley Historical Society, parent organization of the River of Time Museum.

The conflict took place in the remote valley surrounding the town of Young, only about 60 miles northeast of Fountain Hills. Experts differ on what started the trouble: cattle rustling, hatred between cattlemen and shepherders, family issues. Whatever the cause, it soon escalated and involved people throughout the state.

Speaker Jerry Miles asks his listeners to "imagine a small rural Arizona community, maybe a fourth the size of Rio Verde. Imagine that in the space of less than ten weeks at least 25 residents, members of the most prominent families in the community, are killed. They are shot from ambush, killed in gun battles, killed by the sheriff, lynched by vigilantes or just disappeared. Throw in many others who were wounded and, over the next two years, perhaps another 25 killed by vigilantes. That was Pleasant Valley in the period starting in July 1887 and finally ending in Tempe in 1892."

To hear more about this exciting chapter of Arizona

history and about Sheriff Commodore Perry Owens, the society asks people to make their reservations by Sunday, November 13. The general public is invited to the program and catered buffet dinner at the Fountain Hills Community Center. Reservations may be made by calling the Museum at 837-2612 or sending an e-mail to reservations@riveroftimemuseum.org. For members the price is \$18. For non-members, it is \$22. The dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.; cocktails are available at 6:00 p.m. We will all enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving Turkey dinner.



In addition to a fine program set for the November dinner meeting, the annual election of board members will be held to kick off the evening's activities. The nominating committee, chaired by Peg Tibbetts, reports that all incumbents have committed to serving another term. They include Alan Cruikshank, Mary Davenport, Anne Wicklund, Sharon Hutcheson, Niobe Borman and Dr. Clinton Pattea.

Cruikshank would be serving a one-year term while others would be elected to three-year terms. Cruikshank had stated that he would not seek re-election after serving as the

Society's president for more than 10 years. However, he decided on serving another year when the one-year position became available.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for either the three-year or one-year board positions.

Other board members include Debbie Skehen, Tibbetts, Dr. Keith Millett, Keith McMahan, Linda Kavanagh, Walt Dunne, Arlie Denomme, Harold Denomme and Rick Wambach.

Bashas' "Thanks A Million for Friends and Neighbors" Program ...

23927

If you haven't done so already, the next time you shop at Bashas' with your Bashas' Thank You Card, please ask the cashier to enter the River of Time Museum identification number above to your card. This only needs to be done once. Then, use your Thank You Card each time you shop at Bashas' and Bashas' will donate 1% of your purchases to our society up to a maximum of \$2,500.

Receive The Legacy by e-mail ...

You can help us save printing and postage costs if you choose to receive the Legacy by e-mail. You will receive the issue sooner and you will also receive updates and special notices sent out to our Historical Society members. If you have an e-mail address and are not now receiving information from our society to you by e-mail, please send your address to Debbie Skehen:

membership@riveroftimemuseum.org

We thank you

for helping us make every dollar count!



The River of Time Museum is certified by the Arizona Historical Society

From the Desk of Alan Cruikshank

Former Historical Society board member and former town Mayor Jerry Miles will be the guest speaker at the November dinner meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at the Community Center.

I thought the speaker at the September meeting was quite good. He painted a vivid picture of the streets of Tombstone the day of the "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral," which he said was not the actual location.

I'm sure Jerry will entertain us as well. He has extensively researched the Pleasant Valley War. Be sure to mark your calendars.

On page 1 of this edition of *The Legacy*, you will see that the November meeting will include our annual election for board of directors seats. You may recall that earlier this year, I said I was considering stepping down as president after holding this position for more than 10 years. My Parkinson's illness is the main reason why I have been considering stepping down. Both of my doctors and my wife have asked me to get uninvolved from my various activities as stress is not good for me.

We have one board position that is a one-year term that I will be a candidate for. I do plan to step down once the museum programs are running to my satisfaction. We have some terrific volunteers. However, we need more of them. I want to see the Marketing Committee, the Education Committee and Grants Committee functioning on a regular basis. I would

like to see the mannequin figures added to the Yavapai, the trappers and explorers and the water tamers exhibits in the museum during the coming year.

Our museum is something we all look to with pride, but our number of visitors has been less than anticipated.

We are looking to cooperate with the local hotels and bed and breakfast locations to get more of these area visitors into our museum. Walt Dunne is working on developing a field trip schedule that would bring students from Valley school districts to the museum

Call me at The Times, 837-1925, or Judy at the museum, 837-2612, if you can volunteer any hours for service on one of these committees.

Be sure to get your tickets for the Gems of the Verde raffle. Thanks to Arlie Denomme for her efforts with this fund-raiser.

In closing this month, I invite you to make a donation to the museum in the name of Scott Hansen, son of former board member and fund-raiser Fred Hansen. Scott drowned in an accident at a Phoenix assisted living home. Fred was the main fund-raiser for the museum in its development years. Our thoughts are with Fred and Barb.



Memorial for Scott Hansen

Fred has asked that anyone interested in making a contribution in his son's name, mail their contribution to the Historical Society at PO Box 17445, Fountain Hills, 85269.

From the Desk of Museum Archivist by Dave Roberts

The following is excerpted from a Museum Archives article, entitled "*Box Bar Memories*", by Janice Ryan Bryson, daughter of Emmett Ryan and granddaughter of Bill Ryan. Additional information can be found in the Archives and in Robert H. Mason's book, *Verde Valley Lore*, L. J. Schuster Co, Scottsdale, AZ (1957).

In 1954, William A. "Bill" Ryan purchased the 92,000 acre Box Bar cattle ranch on the Verde River. His son Emmett worked on the ranch. Another son, Ed, worked part time, and a number of Indian cowboys from Ft. McDowell and others worked there also. The Box Bar had a nice headquarters (HQ) located close to the river. There was no electricity and the outhouse was located across the horse pasture. The HQ was located on 160 acres of patented ground, and leased land extended north to Bartlett Lake, south to the P-Bar ranch, west to Scottsdale and east to Four Peaks. The HQ was located close to a good fishing hole in the river. The fame of this fishing hole must have spread far and wide, as trespassers constantly came through. One car pulled right into the horse pasture, and the wife and kids had a picnic while the husband walked off to fish. They did not leave when Emmett's wife asked them to move. They didn't care that the horses were milling around the car with curiosity and we had to detour around the car to make our outhouse trips. The gate was locked after that but people would climb the gate and hike in to the river. One day Emmett discovered a man trying to saw through the top rail of the gate. He wanted to drive his pickup down to the river and wasn't going to be stopped by the locked gate. A number of years after Bill sold the ranch, the course of the river changed during flood stage and the fishing hole was no more, which was probably a blessing for the ranch. In 1957, Bill sold the Box Bar to Francis Curtis.

From the River Bank by Ann Stavelly



After the very successful October sale, Ann Stavelly found her store shelves bare and decided to do something about it. New to the River Bank Store are lovely turquoise necklaces with fetishes and nugget turquoise bracelets as well as several Katsina dolls and handcrafted copper magnets in Southwest designs. Ann is continually bringing in new items, so stop in and check out the merchandise with the upcoming holidays in mind.

From the Raffle Rouser Arlie Denomme

Mark Your Calendar for These Holiday Events . . .

2nd Annual Holiday Home Tour. As a fundraiser for our Fountain Hills and Lower Verde Valley Historical Society, a tour has been arranged of four beautifully decorated homes from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 4. The homes include those of Chamber President Frank Ferrara and his wife Jan, Mayor Wally Nichols and his wife Sheila, Linda and Bill Sims of Casa Montana Homes, and Pam and Tom Carlson's Bedlam Bed and Breakfast, said Arlie Denomme, Chairperson of the Holiday Tour Committee.

Each home has a unique personality. The Sims house is reminiscent of a Mexican village. Luminarias will guide visitors through an archway and courtyard to the massive wood door and the interior decorated with poinsettias, a large live tree and Southwestern ornaments. When the Sims lived in Illinois, they collected ornaments with a Western theme. Finding them was easy - Linda owned a gift store that specialized in Christmas decorations and gifts.

Ferrara House is adorned with a cheerful combination of items from the Southwest, such as Kachinas, an antique Mexican buffet, and family heirlooms. One China cabinet contains china from both Italy and Ireland. "It's Sicilian meets Scotch Irish," said Jan Ferrara. The couple recently built an 800-square-foot ramada next to their pool. It is ideal for entertaining and will be decorated for the holidays. In addition, the couple will have animated figures that are sure to delight visitors as much as they do the Ferrara's granddaughter.

Visiting the Carlson's Bedlam Bed and Breakfast is a series of unexpected delights. Around every corner is a surprise: a playground slide that transports children (and occasionally adults) from the upper floor to the lower, a fountain made from a trombone, and lamps made from a typewriter and a vacuum cleaner. Outside, Adirondack style furniture and a cobblestone patio surround a pool. Like nearly everything at the Bedlam, it has been built by the Carlsons from found materials. Four trees, each decorated in different colors and themes, will be found throughout the home.

The home of Mayor Wally and Sheila Nichols is an unusual combination of homes. They bought a townhouse on the lot behind them to use as a guest house and combined the two into one structure with a pool and courtyard in the middle. The result is a home of unusually shaped rooms, spaciousness and charm. The Nichols are usually away visiting family on the holidays, and haven't accumulated many Christmas decorations, but this year, in conjunction with the Holiday Home Tour, **Today's Patio** has supplied a tree and other items from their Christmas showroom near Paradise Valley Mall. Interior Designer Lois Grate has artfully arranged them to decorate the Nichols' home.

Tickets for the home tour are \$10 and are available at the River of Time Museum and the Fountain Hills Times Newspaper office. Maps to the homes are also available.

The Holiday Home Tour takes place with the assistance of many volunteers. Diana Mallek is designing and making the volunteer badges, the Four Peaks Women's Club will help with baking cookies, serving beverages and selling tickets.

"Pre-quel" Champagne Brunch and Lunch at the Mayor's Home. In anticipation of the Home Tour, the Nichols are welcoming guests to their home for a Champagne brunch (10:30 a.m.) or lunch (1:00 p.m.) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, November 29, 30 and December 1. Tickets are \$25.00 and benefit our historical society. They can be purchased at the River of Time Museum and at the Times office.

Holiday Decorations. Members of the art classes at Fountain Hills High School will be painting the windows of the Museum-Library Building with Southwestern holiday scenes. More volunteers are needed and welcomed. Contact Arlie Denomme at 837-8673 or reservations@riveroftimemuseum.org.



SOCIETY BOARD OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Alan Cruikshank	
<i>Vice President</i>	Debbie Skehen	Executive Director
<i>Secretary</i>	Anne Wicklund	Judy Starr Confer
<i>Treasurer</i>	Harold Denomme	

BOARD MEMBERS	Mary Davenport	Sharon Hutcheson	Keith Millett	Rick Wambach
	Arlie Denomme	Linda Kavanagh	Dr. Clinton Pattea	
	Walt Dunne	Keith McMahan	Peg Tibbetts	

From the Director's Desk by **Judy Starr Confer**

Bonnie Kline has arranged for many interesting speakers for the months ahead. On November 16, Jerry Miles with a talk on the Pleasant Valley War, on January 18, Herb Ulrich will perform as "Dwight Heard". Bonnie will soon confirm the names of the speakers for March 15 and May 17. Please mark your calendars.

Allen Fossenkemper, coordinator of the Traveling Exhibit Guest Gallery, arranged and installed the current exhibit, "Calcites of Bisbee, Treasures of the Desert," on loan from the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum through November 30th. December 4th is the opening of "Dwellings of North America" featuring the electrified 2-story CACTUS CASITA™ home of the imaginary "Cactus Clan Saguaro People" created by your director. It will be on display until January 21. I want to personally thank the sponsors of this permanent exhibit at the museum who are Bank One, Interior Motives, Sorelli's from the Vine, Fountain Hills Chamber Players, Webwolf Internet Services, Kay Kinder's Fountain Fashions, Ft. McDowell Yavapai Materials, Phyliss Kern Realtor, Phil's Filling Station, Copperwynd Resort and Club, Cactus Clan, Ltd., Berce Builders, Fountain Hills Times, Let's Go Entertainment Guide, Art of Music, Vista Magazine, Sami's Fine Jewelry and Unique Gifts, and We-Ko-Pa Golf Club.

Other holiday fun on December 4 at the museum an Open House will feature live holiday music, Christmas cookies and punch, and the place to get your Holiday Home Tour tickets and almost last chance to buy raffle tickets for the Gems of the Verde Raffle. The prizes include a fabulous 5 ct Four Peaks amethyst and diamond pendant necklace set in 14 ct gold, designed by Sami Jack, valued at \$5,000. Ft. McDowell Adventures has donated a wonderful western themed party for 20 (value over \$1,000), and the new Ft. McDowell Radisson Resort has donated a luxurious weekend at their exciting new hotel. Don't miss this opportunity to support our society and have a chance at these wonderful prizes. The drawing will be on December 6th at Sami's Jewelry.

DOCENTS AND DIPLOMATS

The 1st Docent meeting of the year will be on Monday, November 21, at 9:30 a.m. at the Museum, led by Docent Co-Chair Rick Wambach.

The Diplomats will be honored November 7th, 5:00-6:00 p.m., and those wanting to become Diplomats will be introduced. Call Volunteer Coordinator Margie Slater to let her know if you can attend (837-2108). We look forward to this fun and informative "Meet and Greet the Diplomats." If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Margie.

DON'T MISS OUR TRAVELING EXHIBITS

"Calcites of Bisbee, Treasures of the Desert" from Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum through Nov 30

AND

Dec 4 "Dwellings of North America" featuring the Cactus Casita

Membership Report and Upgrades by Joe and Debbie Skehen

New Members:

Since the last issue of Legacy, we have 4 new memberships! *Please welcome:*

John and Carol Kendall (who joined for our 2006 year at the Pathfinder Level)

Elaine Kunzel

Heidi Pearson

Ruth Strickler

Membership Upgrades: We are extremely grateful to the generosity of everyone who chose to upgrade their membership level in 2005. They are listed below. Our membership drive for 2006 has begun, so a listing of the generous members who financially commit to our society at an elevated level will be published in the January issue of the Legacy. *Thank you to the following for the financial support in 2005.*

Pioneer Level: \$500+

Walter & Janet Johnson

John & Linda Kavanagh

Robert & Velma Monks

J. P. & Dee Poole

Joe & Debbie Skehen

Mary Zicarelli

Wagonmaster Level: \$250-499

Richard M. Carrabine

Carl & Eunice Feinberg

Robert & Barbara Hegwood

Carolyn McClure

John & Jane Mooty

Dave & Edith Roberts

Bob & Joyce Walters

Pathfinder Level: \$100-249

Loretta Bayne

John & Rose Bercel

Walt & Mali Berger

Jean Boatman & Peggy Plews

Martin & Terry Brown

Robert & Linda Burns

Craig & Jeanine Capirchio

Art & Jeanette Carpentier

Jack & Christine Colley

Joan Colomo

Harold & Arlie Denomme

John Dunleavy

Walt Dunne

Bill & Shirley Eckhardt

John & Colleen Elken

Lee & Shirley Fisher

Bruce & Cassie Hansen

Fred & Barb Hansen

Larry & Sharon Hutcheson

Frank & Grace Jakubs

Shelly Knuths

Allen & Sharon Koehlinger

Robert & Marcia Krane

Marvin & Darline Leader

Robert & Joan Lickman

Linsley & Jane Lundgaard

Gary & Ronna Martinson

Marilyn McQueen

Merritt & Joan Miller

Wally & Sheila Nichols

Kathleen Nicola

Ken & Phyllis Osterberg

Timothy & LuAnne Sexton

Beth Shafe

John & Val Stasik

Robert & Diane Thomson

Margaret Tibbetts

James & Roberta Urban



**THE LEGACY NEWSLETTER
FOUNTAIN HILLS AND LOWER
VERDE VALLEY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY AND MUSEUM**

P.O. Box 17445

Fountain Hills, Arizona 85269

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Fax 480-836-4292

Email: info@riveroftimemuseum.org



***The River of Time Museum is certified
by the Arizona Historical Society***

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!

www.riveroftimemuseum.org

NEW MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL APPLICATION

General Individual Membership

\$20 / Year

General Family Membership

\$25 / Year

PATHFINDER

\$100 - \$249

WAGONMASTER

\$250 - \$499

I would be interested in contributing

On a higher financial level or a gift

Endowment or major bequest. Please

Contact Me.

PIONEER \$500 or MORE

Name(s): _____ Phone _____

: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership Payment of \$ _____ enclosed or

Please Charge my VISA MASTERCARD

Card# _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

• The IRS has designated this Society and Museum as a 501 (C) (3) organization and

