



**River of Time Museum**  
 Fountain Hills & Lower Verde Valley  
 MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Sept/Oct 2005

Volume 15, Issue 4

## Gunfights of The “REAL” West and the “REEL” West



### Special Dates of Interest:

- Sept 21, Wed, Historical Society Dinner
- Oct 1 & 2, Sat/Sun **River Bank Store Sale**
- Oct 26, Wed, Business Showcase, 3-7 pm, Community Center
- Nov 16, Wed, Historical Society Dinner “Arizona’s Pleasant Valley War”
- Dec 4, Sun, Holiday Home Tour and “Gems of the Verdes” raffle drawing
- Jan 14, Sat, Bingo Night at Ft. McDowell Casino
- Jan 18, Wed, Historical Society Dinner “Dwight Heard” played by Vern Ulrich

The next dinner meeting of the Fountain Hills and Lower Verde Valley Historical Society on September 21, will shed some light on the “real story” of famous gunfighters and the OK Corral Shootout as well as the “reel story” -- Hollywood’s interpretation.

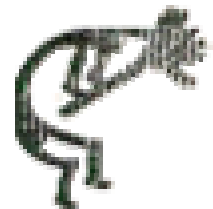
Bob Charnes, a founder of the Arizona Gunfighters, will come dressed in period clothes and bring some “tools of the trade,” an 1873 Winchester Repeating Rifle and a Standard Colt Single Action Army Revolver.

Charnes is uniquely qualified to discuss the gunfighters, having been a lawman for over 20 years and portraying gunfighters in movies and on TV. He was Deputy Sheriff for Alameda County, California, from 1967 to 1991 and started working as a stuntman in 1956 when, as he says, “every other show on TV was a Western.” He says he was in so many, he didn’t keep track of their names.

After a few years of “fooling around” with shopping center openings and similar events, he and some other Old West aficionados started researching history and doing more serious shows with story lines. For awhile he was a stuntman at the Lone Ranger Ranch in Corriganville, CA. Upon retirement, he, his wife, Dale Charnes, and Corky Corkran formed Arizona Gunfighters. They envisioned using their film and stunt experience to pull together a cast of professionals to re-enact the historical stories of the West. From humble beginnings in 1993, the group has grown to over 60 members who have a love for the action and adventures of the heroes and heroines of the Old West. They have participated in the pre-game show for Super Bowl XXX, the Rendezvous of Gunfighters at the OK Corral in Tombstone for the past several years, and countless other civic, corporate and educational events. They are headquartered in East Mesa.

Make your reservations now to hear more little known facts about Wild Bill Hickock, Bat Masterson, Billy the Kid and the most famous gunfight of the Old West in Tombstone. The general public is invited to the program and catered buffet dinner at the Fountain Hills Community Center. Reservations are required by Friday, September 16. They may be made by calling the museum at 480-837-2612 or sending an e-mail to [reservations@](mailto:reservations@riveroftimemuseum.org)

[riveroftimemuseum.org](mailto:reservations@riveroftimemuseum.org). The dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.; cocktails are available at 6:00 p.m. For members the price is \$18. For non-members, it is \$22. “No Shows” to the dinner will be billed because our Society is obligated to pay for every reservation made.



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

## From the Desk of Alan Cruikshank

Can it be? The summers sure seem to be getting shorter. But with the end of summer comes the busy fall and winter months at the museum. Have you been to the museum lately? Did you take your vacationing friends and relatives to the Museum? If not, be sure to remember us next time.

We need more visitors to the museum. Hopefully, we will get more with the opening of the Holiday Inn and Fort McDowell Raddison this winter. In fact, the more I think about it, we should concentrate our promotion efforts at the area hotels including the Inn at Eagle Mountain, CopperWynd, Comfort Inn, Courtyard by Marriott and the area Bed and Breakfasts. Visitors are always looking for things to do, and our museum should be one of their activities. We'll get our marketing committee working on that.

The first dinner meeting of the season is set for Wednesday, Sept. 21. Bonnie Kline has lined up an excellent program for us. Bob Charnes of Arizona Gunfighter Adventures will be the guest speaker. His talk promises to be quite entertaining.

The annual meeting is held during our November dinner. I will be appointing a nominating committee in the next few weeks. If you have any interest in running for the board of directors, please contact Judy or me. We need people who are dedicated to the progress of the Historical Society and the betterment of the museum. Those whose terms expire at the end of this year are myself, Mary Davenport, Sharon Hutcheson, Clinton Pattea and Anne Wicklund.

We are still in need of volunteers at the museum. And if you can find it in your budget to make a financial contribution to the Historical Society, we'd certainly appreciate it. We always seem to find more expenses associated with operating the museum. For instance, the bulbs in the projector in the orientation room cost us over \$400 every time one goes out. And they go out frequently!

Well, I'll close for now and I look forward to seeing you on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Alan

## From the Raffle Rouser Arlie Denomme

The 2005 Gems of the Verdes annual fund raiser will be launched at the September dinner meeting. Arlie Denomme has received the following donated items that will be raffled off at the Holiday Home Tour on December 4. The prizes are:

1. An exquisite pendant designed by Sami Jack; value is expected to be appraised at approximately \$5,000.
2. A party for 20 at Fort McDowell Cowboy Adventures complete with a Western BBQ, hayrides and country music.
3. Accommodations for two for two nights with breakfast in a Deluxe King Suite at the Radisson Fort McDowell Resort and Casino.

Tickets are \$10 each – you may want to buy more than one!

### BIG WISHES

We are planning our online store and we are interviewing applicants for Online Store Manager now. No experience required. Another exciting volunteer opportunity.

Call Anne @ 837-0190

or

e-mail

anne@webwolf.net



## Memorial for Roger Michalsen

Docent Co-Chair Karen Michalsen has notified us that she will be taking a two month leave of absence. Her husband, Roger, passed away in June and a memorial service was held in Eugene, Oregon, where they were long-time residents. The River of Time Volunteers suggested a memorial for Roger in the form of a hard-wired doorbell system. Contributions can be sent to the River of Time Museum, P.O. Box 17445, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269, Attn: JUDY.

## *From the River Bank by Ann Stavelly*



**SALE!!!** Our first ever since opening! As a "thank you" to those of you who have helped support the museum by shopping at the River Bank, we will give a 25% discount on all merchandise (except books) on Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2. Why not take this opportunity to get a head start on Christmas shopping?

You always have the extra bonus of our store being a non-profit organization, so no sales tax.

Of course, the store is open to the public without paying the entry fee for the museum.



Take time to visit and explore other museums certified by the Arizona Historical Society. A list of all museums that are certified can be found at [www.ahs.state.az.us](http://www.ahs.state.az.us)

## *From the Desk of Museum Archivist by Dave Roberts*

### **SURPRISE VISITORS:**

What a wonderful surprise Judy Confer & I had on July 31st when 3 grandkids of former P-Bar Ranch owners, Dick & Delsie Dee Robbins, visited our River of Time Museum! Recall that Lee & wife Delsie Dee Barkdoll bought the P-Bar Ranch in 1935, following Lee's stint as ranch manager at the old Childers-Tremaine Bar-T-Bar ranch, which you see on the right side of the Beeline Hwy every time you drive south out of Payson. Following Lee's death in 1938, cousin Dick Robbins took over as P-Bar Ranch manager and married Delsie. They had 2 girls, Annie in 1939 and Nancy in 1942, in addition to Lee & Delsie's daughter Rene Barkdoll. Our 7/31 guests included one of Annie's 4 children, Richard Sourant from Scottsdale, plus Nancy's son Ben Stuart Jones (& wife Tamara) and daughter Dana Dee Potts, from Oregon. Rene and Nancy (with Richard, Dana & Rene's daughter Paulina) had been here about a year before our Museum was built.

In addition to enjoying a scintillating museum tour by Mike Downes, the grandkids were anxious to see what archival material we had collected on the Ranch and the Robbins family, which is considerable. As they thumbed through several Archives albums, they became more excited with every reference to family genealogy and ranch history, which prompted stories of their own, passed down by their family. Some of their comments were, "Great job on the museum", "Thanks for the history", "Beautiful museum, well done" and "Loved it, thank you!" We promised to help them get copies of photos and text that they had never seen.

This kind of interest and gratefulness makes all the work which goes into archival research worthwhile. We hope some of you will take advantage of our Archives, too! For those new to our community, the P-Bar Ranch eventually became Fountain Hills (~12,000 acres) and McDowell Mountain Regional Park (~21,000 acres), plus some small Scottsdale and State Trust Land parcels



### SOCIETY BOARD OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Alan Cruikshank	
<i>Vice President</i>	Debbie Skehen	<b>Executive Director</b>
<i>Secretary</i>	Walt Dunne	Judy Starr Confer
<i>Treasurer</i>	Harold Denomme	

<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>	Mary Davenport	Linda Kavanagh	Dr. Clinton Pattea	Anne Wicklund
	Arlie Denomme	Keith McMahan	Peg Tibbetts	
	Sharon Hutcheson	Keith Millett	Rick Wambaugh	

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

We are looking forward to our Fall schedule and to welcoming back our "winter" residents, and to our year round residents who also managed to escape our monsoon season. Sept 7, Saturday, we will resume winter hours: Wed-Sun, 1-4 pm. We will be CLOSED for the Labor Day Weekend.

Thank you Margie Slater for the wonderful juggling job you have performed by arranging for Docents, Diplomats and other volunteers to welcome visitors to our accredited Museum.

The Spaghetti Dinner was strongly supported through ticket sales for Bruce Hansen's famous spaghetti (once again cooked and served by his great crew of Terry Merrell, Joan Nelson, Pam Aister, Joyce Szeliga and Cassie Hansen; Sharon Morgan, our Special Events Chairperson, did wonders planning this event that offered not only a live and silent auction, but entertainment by Broadway star Holly Cruikshank, our own Jeff Dayton who now writes songs in Nashville, Scott Holleck, and the Fountain Hills Community Theater who previewed their Fall Season for us. Linda Kavanagh and Sharon Hutcheson organized the White Elephant auction items that members of our community donated to help fund the Museum. *THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR ACCREDITED River of Time Museum.*

We have received a \$600 grant from the Arizona Historical Society to purchase archival supplies, and thanks to the Questers' generous \$2,300 grant we have been able to purchase and install in the climate-controlled room a large metal flat-file storage cabinet. Anne Wicklund and her Grants Committee of Walt Dunne, Debbie Skehen and yours truly recently attended "Piper 101", a seminar for those interested in applying for monies from the Virginia Piper Foundation.

September 21 is the first Historical Society Dinner of the 2005-2006 year. Make your reservations and bring a friend with you.

**Chocolate!**

**Chocolate!**

**Chocolate!**

**And what a wonderful gift to give!**

**Lovely "Thank You" gift for dinner parties.**

**Buy your chocolate petroglyph NOW**

**From the Diplomats**



**DON'T MISS**

the

**GI BILL EXHIBIT**

on loan to the River of Time Museum

from

The Capitol Museum, Phoenix, Arizona

Currently in our Traveling Exhibit Hall until Sept 25



## *Membership Report and Upgrades by Joe and Debbie Skehen*

### **New Members:**

Since the last issue of Legacy, we have 7 new memberships! Please welcome:

Keith M. Bernier  
Denise Boman  
John & Kathy Buchanan

Bill & Sally Mantle  
Michael & Jeanne McGonigle  
John & Connie Riley

Dr. C. T. & Mary Wright

### **Membership Upgrades:**

We are extremely grateful to the generosity of the following members who have chosen to upgrade their 2005 membership level. We want to publicly thank them and acknowledge their additional commitment to the Historical Society and the River of Time Museum. With their generosity and commitment, our "gem in the desert" continues to shine brightly!

#### **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

Phone: 480-837-2612

Fax 480-836-4292

Email: info@riveroftimemuseum.org



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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!!**  
[www.riveroftimemuseum.org](http://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