



# River of Time Museum

Fountain Hills & Lower Verde Valley  
MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Legacy

Debbie Skehen, Editor

Wayne/Anne Wicklund, WebWolf Internet

Jan/Feb 2008  
Volume 20, Issue 1

### The Hashknife Pony Express Riders

#### Special Dates of Interest:

- Jan 16, Wed, 6 pm  
Historical Society Dinner  
*Hashknife Pony Express*
- Jan 23, Wed, 12-2 pm  
Luncheon/Western Fashion Show  
Sunridge Golf Club
- Jan 31, Thurs,  
Pony Express Days  
Community Center
- Feb 2, Sat, Noon-End  
Texas Hold 'Em Poker  
Ft. McDowell Casino
- Feb 9, Sat, 2-5 pm  
"Meet the Miners" and  
"Gems of the Verdes"  
raffle drawing  
Sami's Fine Jewelry
- Feb 16, Sat, 5-7 pm  
Los Artistas Vaqueros  
Annual Sale/Exhibition  
Community Center
- March 19, Wed, 6 pm  
Historical Society Dinner  
*History of the Grand Canyon  
Railroad*
- April 5, Sat, 6 pm  
Hall of Fame Dinner  
Community Center
- May 21, 6 pm  
Historical Society Dinner  
*Warbirds of WWII*

Dave Alford will inform and entertain us at our January Dinner meeting telling the history of the 1860-61 Pony Express and the story of the modern Hashknife Pony Express Riders.



Mr. Alford has ridden with the riders for 24 years, the last 10 as Trail Boss. Rider Jack Lundeen will also attend.

Each January beginning in 1958, the Hashknife Pony Express makes its ride traveling 200 miles from Holbrook to Scottsdale, with a stop in Fountain Hills (usually between 2:00-3:00 pm), delivering 20,000 first-class letters by horseback. More than two dozen riders in authentic cowboy clothing carry the mail, relaying the bags along the route. Neither rain, sleet, nor dark of night can stop these riders. Each January for the last 49 years, the old west is brought to life as this elite group of riders thunder

through Arizona. This exciting event is the oldest

officially sanctioned Pony Express in the world. Each rider is sworn in as an honorary mail messenger braving weather, terrain, and modern-day obstacles to deliver the United States mail.

The Hashknife name derives from a tool originally used by chuck wagon cooks to cut meat for hash, often fed to cowboys on the range. The Hashknife brand originated in Texas as the identification of the Aztec Land and Cattle Company which moved to Holbrook in 1866. The Navajo County Sheriff's Posse retained limited use of the brand. The Hashknife brand now identifies the Pony Express.

This is a special year for the Hashknife Pony Ex-

press – their 50<sup>th</sup> consecutive ride. To commemorate this historic event, a statue titled "Passing the Legacy" by sculptor Herb Mignery will be dedicated this February in Scottsdale. The slightly larger than life statue will be located at the Marshall Way cul-de-sac just south of Camelback on the north bank of the Arizona Canal.

The public is invited to attend this dinner meeting. Reservations for the dinner and presentation must be made by Sunday, January 13. They can be made by either going to the River of Time Museum website: [www.riveroftimemuseum.org](http://www.riveroftimemuseum.org), and clicking on "Dinner Reservations" on the second (main) page, or sending an e-mail to [reservations@riveroftimemuseum.org](mailto:reservations@riveroftimemuseum.org), or telephone reservations to (480) 837-2612. Cost is \$18 for members and \$22 for guests. The dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.; cocktails at 6:00 p.m. at the Fountain Hills Community Center. The menu is Mixed Salad, Pork Tenderloin with Potatoes with Skins, Vegetable, Rolls and Butter, and Dessert.

## *From the Desk of Alan Cruikshank*

We hope you all had a very happy holiday season. January is upon us and there's plenty going on at the museum.

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our first figures for the museum displays. Artist Rex Witte is creating these figures for us. He is the person who did the actual detail work on our museum displays when he worked for Sunbelt Scenic Studios.

It is our hope that we can raise enough extra money each year to add new figures to the displays.

Our next project is already under way. You may have seen the flat screen monitor that has been installed on the wall to the left of the museum entrance door. The touch-activated screen includes profiles and photos of the Lower Verde Valley Hall of Fame members, news of upcoming events and activities of the Fountain Hills & Lower Verde Valley Historical Society and a virtual tour

touch-activated screen includes profiles and photos of the Lower Verde Valley Hall of Fame members, news of upcoming events and activities of the Fountain Hills & Lower Verde Valley Historical Society and a virtual tour of the museum.

Witte will also be installing a faux rock texture on the wall around the video display and museum entrance. It will be similar to the rock walls inside the museum.

Be sure to read about the upcoming poker fund-raiser Feb. 2 at Fort McDowell Casino in this issue of the Legacy. Other upcoming activities are the Pony Express Days and the Artistas Vaqueros events.

And of course, we'll see you at the January 16 dinner meeting. Dave Alford, trail boss for the Hashknife Pony Express riders, will be the guest speaker. He will provide background about the group and preview this year's ride.

~~ Alan

## *From the Desk of our Museum Archivist*

The following is excerpted from [Arizona 2000: A Yearbook for the Millennium](#) by © Marshall Trimble, Arizona's State Historian, Flagstaff: Northland Publishing Company, 1996, pp. 40-41.

### *The Last Lynching*

In 1916 Arizonans rescinded capital punishment in a close vote. Ironically, that might have led to the state's last lynching. On the evening of May 3, 1917, a mysterious itinerant named Starr Daley came upon a young couple from Tucson camped along the old Apache Trail. Daley shot James Roy Gibson in the back four times. Then he raped and abducted his wife, Florence. He donned the slain man's clothes and told Mrs. Gibson they were going to Oklahoma, posing as husband and wife. She refused to do anything until the body of her husband was taken to a mortuary in Mesa, the nearest town. This Daley unwittingly agreed to do. As a criminal, he wasn't the sharpest knife in the drawer.

Before they could begin, Mrs. Gibson had to teach Daley to drive the car. In downtown Mesa, the car ran out of gas. Daley left her alone in the car while he went for gas. This gave Mrs. Gibson a chance to alert a passerby to her plight. Lawmen arrived soon after, and Daley was arrested without incident. He was taken to the Phoenix city jail, where a lynch mob of some five hundred angry men soon gathered. The mob demanded an eye for an eye, though the death penalty in Arizona had been rescinded just a year earlier.

Maricopa County Sheriff W. H. Wilky sent out a decoy car and then tried to sneak Daley out the back way to take him to the state prison in Florence, but the ruse didn't work. A caravan of angry vigilantes chased the lawmen and Daley through the streets of Tempe and Mesa in what must have looked like something out of a cops-and-robbers movie. In the early morning hours of May 6, 1917, the small motorcade was halted outside Florence, and Daley was taken by the vigilantes to the site of the murder near Superstition Mountain.

Most unusual about this lynching was that Daley had to show his executioners how to fashion a hangman's noose so that it would snap his neck rather than strangle him. He then suggested they use a car and the cross arm of a telephone pole as a makeshift gallows. The cause of death was determined to be at the hands of unknown individuals, and no attempt was ever made to prosecute the vigilantes.



**SOCIETY BOARD OFFICERS**

<i>President</i>	Alan Cruikshank	
<i>Vice President</i>	Debbie Skehen	<b>Executive Director</b>
<i>Secretary</i>	Anne Wicklund	Judy Starr Confer
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**BOARD MEMBERS**

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

Welcome back to all of our winter residents, so many of you being faithful Museum volunteers. We look forward to this time of year when Museum activities are in full swing. Our Holiday Home Tour was such a success due to the leadership of Chairperson Arlie Denomme and her legions of workers. The help from ALL of you made all of the activities successful. THANK YOU.

The Annual Director's "Back Door Day Before Angel Party" was its usual welcome oasis for those of you scurrying around with last minute shopping and deliveries. The Museum is a great place to stop for a few minutes or hours to get something to eat or drink-stay for five minutes of rest or stop for an hour or so. I am really happy that I can fluff your wings and polish your halos on the Day Before Christmas each year! This year Stephen Jones kept the River Bank Store open during the party so you could do last-minute shopping. Good idea, Stephen.

January begins the New Year with so many exciting activities. The Historical Society Dinner meeting is on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> with Hashknife Pony Express Trail Boss Dave Alford as speaker. Get your reservations in early. You won't want to miss him.

January 31 is the big day when the Hashknife Pony Express Riders deliver the mail to the Fountain Hills Post Office after leaving Holbrook 2 days earlier. This is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the famous ride, and we hope you will participate in all of the fun as we greet the riders at the Community Center instead of on our Patio. It will be DOLLAR DAY at the Museum as in the past. Send your special letters to be carried by the riders by mailing them in the specially marked barrels at the Post Office.

Another fun activity will be the luncheon at Sunridge Canyon with Kay Kinder's exquisite western wear from Fountain Fashions. This takes place on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, from noon to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00 and should be purchased ahead of time at the Museum or from Board Members.

Big news is the Texas Hold'em Charity Poker Tournament being held at the Fort McDowell Casino starting at noon February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the day before the Super Bowl is played. Please join us that day at the Casino. We will have many items displayed for sale in the large hallway leading from the Poker Hall to the Radisson. We will keep you posted with developments by e-mail and you can always call the Museum for an update at 480-837-2612.

DON'T FORGET Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2-5 pm -- our FABULOUS Gems of the Verde drawing at 5 pm at Sami's Fine Jewelry during her "Meet the Miners Day."

Please reserve Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> for our exciting annual Los Artistas Vaqueros Annual Sale and Exhibition.

Looks like we'll be having lots of excitement together! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

We welcome many new faces to our Historical Society:

Louisa Babu \* Bill & Bonnie Coolum \* Pam Cupp \* Vaden Doyle  
Frances Kidwell \* William & Elizabeth Koeller \* Phyllis Sirls \* David and Patricia Solski

## ~~~~~ Membership gifts for 2008 ~~~~~

### **Adventurer Level: \$1,000+**

Alan & Diane Cruikshank  
Hosea & Lily Harkness  
Sami Jack  
Keith & Dottie Millett

John & Jane Mooty  
Doug Schmidt  
John VanDerWerf

### **Pioneer Level: \$500-999**

Fred & Barbara Hansen  
Mike & Sheila Jones  
Joe & Debbie Skehen

### **Wagonmaster Level: \$250-499**

Walt Dunne  
Carl & Eunice Feinberg  
Carolyn McClure

Dave & Edith Roberts  
Mardelle Willson

### **Pathfinder Level: \$100-249**

Charlie Axtell  
Don & Andy Baer  
Loretta Bayne  
Beverly Belury & John Hersey  
Mali Berger  
Joe & Nancy Bill  
Jean & Doris Boatman  
Hank & Roxanne Boryczki  
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Roald & Ruth Nelson  
Ken & Phyllis Osterberg  
Dr. & Mrs. Clinton Pattea  
Earl & Ann Stavely  
James & Roberta Urban  
Tom & Pat Wells  
Wayne & Anne Wicklund  
& Snow

## *From the River Bank by* **Stephen Jones**

The River Bank Store has a brand new look. Stephen Jones is the new director of marketing for the Museum store and he has made many changes. “We are making room for new merchandise,” Jones said. He is adding pottery and wall hangings to the store’s collection, and art from the Los Artistas Vaqueros. Other items featured are gourd art, jewelry, metal art, baskets and some fine art pieces.

Stephen has extensive retail management and marketing experience. He managed men’s clothing stores and also served as regional marketing director for Estee Lauder’s *Aramis* men’s line of cosmetics. He and his wife Diane just began their 20<sup>th</sup> year as owners of the *Phoenix Conexion*, a unique women’s clothing business. Diane is a fine artist who switched from canvas to clothing and paints on women’s casual wear in Southwest and American Indian motif for their business. They have been a familiar sight at our Fountain Hills Fairs since 1989.

Stephen stated “This Museum store has not had the opportunity to flourish as most retailers in town do. It runs on volunteers alone and is relegated to hours those individuals are available to work. The need for volunteers with some form of retail experience is huge. We’d like to see the store become a destination stop for everyone visiting our town and especially those who live here bringing guests in and of course all the members as well.” If you have a couple free hours a week, please contact Stephen. For more information about the store, visit [www.riveroftimemuseum.org](http://www.riveroftimemuseum.org) or call (480) 837-2612. The River Bank Store is open from 1-4 Monday through Friday and 10-4 on Saturday.

Stop in and see the new merchandise. There are many unusual items that cannot be found in other stores. Unique items are Stephen’s specialty! AND there is no sales tax – you get an automatic 8.9% discount!



**Did you know ~ ~ ~**

**Dolan Ellis is the official balladeer of Arizona**

# Upcoming Events

## PONY EXPRESS DAYS

Two events celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Hashknife Pony Express Ride into Fountain Hills:

On Wednesday, January 23, a Western Fashion Show will take place at Sunridge Canyon. Models from Kay Kinder's Fountain Fashions will show off some fancy western duds and lunch will be served. Cost is \$20 per person. Tickets may be purchased at the Museum and at Kay Kinder's store in the Bashas' Center.

On January 31<sup>st</sup> everything takes place at the Community Center from 3-7 pm. Things really begin to happen when the Hashknife Pony Express Riders gallop into town. They will join in the activities at the Community Center – activities which will keep everyone busy -- and the event is free!

Entertainment will be provided by "The Melting Pot" band, the FH Senior Center Line Dancers, the FH High School Dance Company and a special performance by the Community Youth Theater. And of course there will be clowns!

Two raffles will be held – one for a painting by Los Artistas Vaqueros artist Doug Katonak called "Ranch Life" and one for a wood sculpture by Ralph Sealund.

Food may be purchased from Tom's BBQ and ice cream from Sweet Town. For those in the mood, a wine and beer bar will be available. And, of course, no celebration is complete without an Anniversary Cake!

A special room will be set up for children 3-6 years of age with fun games and an enthusiastic supervisor.

Mark your calendar and join in the fun!

## LOS ARTISTAS

The 2008 Los Artistas Vaqueros Reception and Sale moves to new "Digs." For the third year, the event is underwritten by Doug Schmidt of Legacy Asset Management. "I enjoy supporting events that help establish the reputation of the Museum. These artists have been a pure pleasure, and it is enjoyable to support their growth."

The annual exhibition of the artists who are members of the Los Artistas Vaqueros will be held in the Community Center from February 16 through March 7. Two new members, Roger Archibald and Michael Swearngin, will be installed this February. Roger creates his rustic images primarily with pencil and ink, and Michael is a water colorist who uses an unusual technique that resembles batik.

The LAV Annual Sale/Exhibition will be held at the Community Center on Saturday, February 16, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and benefit the River of Time Museum. The reception will feature the art work of all of the Artistas, entertainment, light refreshments and the newest additions to the River of Time's permanent art collection. Tickets will be available at the River of Time Museum and from Los Artistas Vaqueros Committee members.

Photo: Left front      Roger Archibald  
Lower right        Michael Swearngin  
Standing            Paul Kolwaite, Judy Confer,  
                              Doug Schmidt and Carlos Hadaway





## Texas Hold'em

The River of Time Museum is holding a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament fundraiser at the Fort McDowell Casino on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12 noon. In addition to the tournament, there will be sales of original art from Los Artistas Vaqueros, Sports Memorabilia, and other items sold to benefit the museum. Sheriff Joe Arpaio has agreed to be our celebrity guest and his posse members will be on hand selling pink underwear.

This fundraiser has the potential for being a big money-maker for the museum and you all know that funds are needed to further our educational outreach programs, to bring in new traveling exhibits, to better fund the upkeep of our current pieces, and to bring in interesting speakers for our dinner meetings.

In order for this tournament to be a success, we need the help of each of our members to spread the word about the event to your friends. The museum gets half of all the income from the sale of tickets on that day so the more players we have, the more we make. Tickets for the buy-in are \$100 each.

The prizes for this tournament are very exciting. The first place winner will be awarded a seat at the World Series of Poker championships in Las Vegas. The value of this prize is \$10,000. There is also an additional \$10,000 in prizes for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> place. We will also have raffle prizes that will be awarded throughout the event.

For more information or to buy tickets, please call 1-800-TheFort ext 4284. For general information about the event, call Linda Kavanagh at 837-5612 or [lmkavanagh@cox.net](mailto:lmkavanagh@cox.net).

Thank you in advance for your help and support of our wonderful museum.

## Gems of the Verdes

Raffle tickets are on sale now for the annual "Gems of the Verdes Raffle" -- \$10.00 each or three tickets for \$20.00. The drawing will be held on February 9 at Sami's during the celebration of "Meet the Miners" day from 2-5 pm when the men who work the Arizona Four Peaks Amethyst Mine come and explain how they extract such beautiful gems!

This year the prizes are:

-- A custom designed one of a kind Arizona Amethyst and Diamond Ring valued at \$6,900 donated by Sami Fine Jewelry. The center stone is a princess cut 8.88 ct. Arizona Amethyst. The Four Peaks Mountain Range is accented on the sides of the shank with brilliant white diamonds weighing .16 cts.

-- A Tour of Boulder House, "The Most Unique Home in America," including a Wine and Cheese Reception for 10 valued at \$500 donated by Fort McDowell Adventures.

-- An exclusive Amethyst Body Renewal Treatment donated by Copperwynd Resort & Spa. This is a 90 minute treatment using amethysts formed in the Four Peaks Amethyst Mine.

Don't miss out! Get your tickets today at the Museum Store, CSI Printing, Grecian Hair and Beauty Salon, Gridley's, Kay Kinder's Fountain Fashions, and Sami Fine Jewelry,

# Thanksgiving Day Parade

Holding the banner and following the River of Time Museum wagon in the Thanksgiving Day Parade are members of our Time Travelers who are junior docents at the Museum. Many thanks to Dr. Pattea for arranging to have the Fort McDowell Adventures horse team and wagon available for the Museum's enthusiastic riders!



## 2007 holidays THANK YOU

Arlie Denomme chaired the many events that took place during last month's Holiday Season! She is pictured here with Museum Executive Director Judy Starr Confer taking a break in front of our Christmas tree. It was a very busy season with many fun times which wouldn't have been possible without the volunteers and financial help we received.

A very special thank you to the following businesses who contributed in many ways to the success of these events:

American Legacy Homes~ Bashas'~Carlos Hadaway~ Copperwynd~Community Bank~ CSI Printing~Discount Air Service~Disability Mobility~Ft. McDowell Adventures~Fountain Hills Times~Grecian Hair Salon~Gridley's~ Image Weavers~Kay Kinder'sFountain Fashions~Let's Go~MCO~Meridian Bank~Paul's Ace Hardware~ Pier 1~Safeway~Sami Fine Jewelry~Shaklee~Vista Magazine~the Town of Fountain Hills.

And we could not have done all that we did without the wonderful volunteers from the following organizations:

The American Legion~Auxiliary Church of Ascension Daughters of Isabella~Four Peaks Women's Club~Friends in the Hills~Noon Kiwanis~the Historical Society Board members and our new director of marketing at the River Bank Stephen Jones and his wife Diane.

A special tribute to the wonderful people who opened their beautiful and unique homes for the very successful 2007 Home Tour: Bill & Bonnie Coolum, Shannon & Margaret Davis, Briget Koller, Tod & Patricia Isaacson, and Tom & Tina Duffy; and to Mike & Sheila Jones who opened their home for a "Let the Holidays Begin" party for Home Tour owners and Museum volunteers.



# Your Dues are Due

Remember, your membership and donations are the life blood of our organization! Because we receive no funding from the Town, we must raise all the money necessary to keep our River of Time Museum open and up-to-date. We submit grant proposals, hold fund raising dinners, plan events such as Pony Express Days, Los Artistas Vaqueros and Texas Hold 'Em Poker, hold raffles such as the Gems of the Verdes Raffle -- all designed to supplement your donations and dues paid to the Historical Society.



We greatly appreciate your financial support! Please help us by sending in your membership dues now and save us the time and money required to send out a reminder notice.

## Sponsors We Thank





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Email: [info@riveroftimemuseum.org](mailto:info@riveroftimemuseum.org)



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

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!!**

[www.riveroftimemuseum.org](http://www.riveroftimemuseum.org)

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

**Donations are tax deductible to donor. Please consult your tax advisor for specific information.**