



Dates of Interest:

**NO ADMISION FEE
 DURING MONTH OF MAY**

- May 4, Mon, 1 pm
Volunteers Meeting
- May 9, International
Museum Day
- May 13-16, Museum
Association of AZ
Conference
- **Week of May 17**
Summer Hours Begin
Fri & Sat, 1-4 pm
- May 27, Wed, 6-9 pm
Historical Society Dinner
"Escape from Death Valley"
- Aug 29, Sat, 5 pm
Spaghetti Dinner



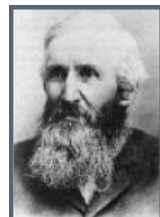
Beginning the week of May 17, the River of Time Museum will be open from 1-4 pm on Fridays and Saturdays only. Winter hours will return on October 20, when the hours will once again be 1-4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

Escape from Death Valley

In 1849 a train of 107 wagons left the Salt Lake area and traveled west in search of California gold. It is a classic American story of character, courage, duty, and triumph over extreme adversity.

John Krizek, award winning documentarian, will tell us the story of these gold rush pioneers who thought they were taking a shortcut to California, but became hopelessly stranded in the place to which they would later give the name "Death Valley." Two young heroes named **Lewis Manly** and **John Rogers**, driven by strong moral convictions and the chivalry of the 19th century, walked, crawled and climbed almost three hundred miles through desert wastelands, over mountain ranges, and across waterless plains in search of a rescue for their fellow pioneers, who were dying in the desert of Nevada.

Krizek who has spent a lifetime as marketing and public relations executive has always been in love with the history of the California Gold Rush and the great Southwest. Without the dedication of cottage historians like Krizek, many of the great sagas of the west would be lost forever. This will be an unforgettable program. Be sure not to miss it.



The public is invited to attend this dinner meeting on Wednesday, May 27. Reservations for the dinner and presentation must be made by Sunday, May 24. They can be made by sending an e-mail to reservations@riveroftimemuseum.org, telephoning (480) 837-2612 or going to the website, www.riveroftimemuseum.org.

The cost of the dinner is \$18 for members and \$22 for guests.

The dinner starts at 6:30 pm; cocktails are available at 6:00 pm at the Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Drive, Fountain Hills.

The menu for this evening is Mixed Salad, Stuffed Chicken Breast, Wild Rice, Baby Carrots, Asparagus and Dessert.



Rancho de San Francisco

John Manly

From the President's Desk by **Debbie Skehen**

We lost a good friend and a Historical Society Board member this past month. **Councilman Keith McMahan** passed away in his sleep a few weeks ago. To honor his memory, a suggestion was made to commission a statue of Jack Swilling which will be housed in the River of Time Museum. Keith had a great affinity for this important character in valley history and had been urging the Board to find money to fund a statue of him. It is appropriate that we remember Keith in a special way and this particular memorial would have brought a smile to his face.

The cost of this statue will be approximately \$5,000. If you would like to contribute to this memorial for Keith, please make your check payable to the Fountain Hills Historical Society with a notation that the funds be credited to the Keith McMahan Memorial Fund and mail it to PO Box 17445, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269.

Many people have written me to express their sorrow at Keith's passing. You might be interested in learning that several organizations including the Museum Association of Arizona have requested his picture and a brief biography to include in their newsletters.

Come to the Museum to see 51 of Keith's photographs now on display in the Clinton M. Pattea Gallery.

We have finally raised sufficient funds to upgrade the wall in the lobby of the Museum/Library building and add proper signage so people entering the building will know that a Museum actually exists in Fountain Hills. A financial grant from the **Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation** has made this possible and **Rex Witte**, the artist who built many of the exhibits in the Museum, will be doing the work. He plans on finishing the wall by this fall. We will have a ribbon cutting event to celebrate the occasion and invite all society members to attend. As you pass through the lobby, you can keep track of his progress.

On April 4 at the Middle School, children from throughout Arizona came to compete for the honor of traveling to Washington D.C. to compete in the National History Day Competition. Executive Director **Judy Confer, Ann** and **Earl Stavely** and I volunteered with **Jean Boatman** with many others to serve as judges and rate the various projects.

It was not an easy task! Many of the displays and documentaries were very professionally done.

Being part of this important competition was a wonderful experience and I encourage anyone with an interest in history to volunteer next year.

Judy Confer, Debbie Skehen, and Anne Wicklund will be attending the 27th Annual Meeting of the Museum Association of Arizona in Bisbee on May 13-16. Topics to be covered range from technology innovations, to marketing, to creating engaging programs and exhibits. We should bring back many ideas to make our River of Time Museum even better!



SOCIETY BOARD OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Debbie Skehen	
<i>Vice President</i>	Anne Wicklund	Executive Director
<i>Secretary</i>	Vacant	Judy Starr Confer
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jerry Miles	

BOARD MEMBERS

Niobe Borman	Stephen Jones	Sandy Myhr	Barbara Wyman
Teena Borman	Linda Kavanagh	Kurt Pare'	
Alan Cruikshank	Jean Linzer	Clinton Pattea	
Arlie Denomme	Keith Millett	Art Tolis	

From the Director's Desk by Judy Starr Confer

This is the time of year that we say "Have a wonderful summer! We'll see you in the fall," to so many of our River of Time Volunteers. It is a bitter-sweet time for all of us because so many of our Docents, Diplomats, Store Personnel, and Board Members are winter residents. We miss you terribly when you are gone, and anxiously await your return, as we keep in touch with you electronically. We may be the only Museum to stay open all year with an all Volunteer staff and part time paid director.

Eileen Snoddy, SRP Public Relations, tells me that she has lauded us all over the state as an example of a very small, all volunteer museum that has set the bar so high and meets its goals that others should look to us as a shining example of what can be accomplished.

So take pride in your L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum and your contributions to it. From the bottom on my heart, I say, "THANK YOU ALL – the Verdes, Fort McDowell, and Fountain Hills." It is a privilege to work with you!

Wish List

Do you have items hiding in your closets in your drawers, under beds, in the shed, in the garage, anywhere? Please let us know (837-2612).

On Saturday, August 29th, we will be having our annual Spaghetti Dinner and we need new or slightly used items for the auctions.

During the month of December we have scheduled another Holiday Mart in our Traveling Exhibit Room and need items to sell.

We are looking for high end items to bring in more money to help us meet operational expenses at the River of Time Museum.

Can you help us with the above? Items can be dropped off at the Museum during open hours.

Membership Report and Upgrades by Joe & Debbie Skehen

Welcome **NEW MEMBERS**

Brian and Denise McDermott and Melinda Stanton

~~~~~ **Membership Gifts for 2009** ~~~~~  
**We Thank You One And All**

**Trailblazer Level:**  
**\$2,500+**

John Van Der Werf & daughter Barbara Russo  
John & Jane Mooty

**Adventurer Level:**  
**\$1,000-2499**

Alan & Diane Cruikshank      Dr. Keith and Dottie Millett  
Hosea & Lily Harkness      Mary Zicarelli  
Sami Jack

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

Carl and Eunice Feinberg      John & Linda Kavanagh  
Fred & Barbara Hansen      Joe & Debbie Skehen

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

Richard M. Carrabine      Hank & Susan Lickman  
Walt Dunne      Robert & Joan Lickman  
Robert & Barbara Hegwood      Jerry & Jackie Miles  
Elert & Chris Johnson      Robert Sternfels  
Agnes Kramer      Robert & Diane Thomson

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

Loretta Bayne  
John & Roseanna Bercel  
Jean & Doris Boatman  
Bob & Linda Burns  
Craig & Jeanine Capirchio  
Harold & Arlie Denomme  
Clara Dolan  
Bill & Shirley Eckhardt  
Helen Felts  
Lee & Shirley Fisher

William & Lois Grate Bruce  
& Cassie Hansen  
Harold & June Hayer  
Pat Hemmer  
Jim & Betty Isaacson  
Ed & Dolores Kehe  
Jon & Diana Klesner  
Shelly Knuths  
Allen & Sharon Koehlinger  
Robert & Marcia Krane

Don & Lisa Lawrence  
Marvin & Darline Leader  
Jean Linzer  
Bill & Sally Mantle  
John & Denise McCarthy  
Brian & Denise McDermott  
Merritt & Joan Miller  
Velma Monks  
James & Sharon Morgan  
Roald & Ruth Nelson  
Wally & Sheila Nichols

Ken & Phyllis Osterberg  
Clinton & Rosiebella Pattea  
David & Marilyn Ritchie  
Richard & Virginia Siegle  
Val Stasik  
Earl & Ann Stavely  
James & Roberta Urban  
Tom & Pat Wells

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

After a slow beginning in January and February, our March sales are again on the positive side of the fence. We experienced what every other retailer has experienced - a loss in business due to the tightening of our economic belts. We expected as much, though maybe not as much as we incurred in January. In March we are gaining back some of those losses with sales of \$2,881.26 against last year's sales of \$1,935.73. A nice increase of +48.9% helps a great deal in this economic climate. We are still down for the first quarter by -12.6%. We're confident we can adjust and be ahead by the end of the year.

Part of the success lies in the Volunteers who spend one three hour shift weekly making sales in the store. Also, a lot of the credit goes to all of you who continue to shop in the museum store and we thank all who contributed. We will continue to endeavor to find interesting merchandise for you and all our guests who visit the River of Time Museum and the River Bank Museum Store.

Remember, as a Historical Society Member or a Volunteer you receive -10% off of all regular priced merchandise.

And . . . if you are here during some or most of the Summer months, we could use your help in the museum store. Our summer hours are Friday & Saturday only from 1pm to 4pm. We need all the help we can get from June through October. Come in and learn and grow by giving back to this wonderful regional museum.



**Check out  
this new item in the  
River Bank Store**

This is another great piece of Fine Art we're offering. Pat McCallister, a fine artist painter from Western Arkansas who is an Echota Cherokee has signed her framed giclee print called "Cherokee Flame." It is 27 ½" wide and 31 ¼" long and sells for \$470.00. If you had to pay sales tax of 8.9%, it would cost \$511.83. With the 10% discount this giclee will only be \$423.00. Please come in and experience the power this giclee depicts.

Stephen Jones  
Director of Marketing

## Volunteers



**Chris Johnson** was honored at the recent monthly docent meeting because she has put in the most docent hours in the past year. Chris has been a docent since the museum opened, was in the first year-long docent class in 2002, and has been enthusiastically leading tours at our museum ever since. Her lifelong interest in history led her to our museum and motivated her to spend many volunteer hours here.

Chris always inspects the displays before the doors open and makes sure they sparkle for the visitors. With her husband **Eler**, they are watchful for things needing repair and step in to fix where they can. Never one to toot her on horn, Chris helps in many ways anonymously generously donating items and money. She is pictured here with **Joseph Robertson**, a Prescott artist holding one of his scratchboard pieces.

Chris is also a business owner in Minnesota and returns there for the summer to check up on how her family is handling affairs. She has left us as the temperatures are now climbing, but we look forward to her return in the fall and will welcome her back with gusto.

## 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, p. 5.

### The Last Stagecoach Robbery in America

... in 1900, Pearl Hart, the famed "Girl Bandit," was sentenced to five years in prison for her part in a stagecoach robbery the year before. At her first trial, pretty Pearl was an unabashed flirt, reveling her shapely ankles and coquettish smile to an all-male jury. These red-blooded males found Pearl innocent but declared her cohort, Joe Boot, guilty as charged. The outraged judge ordered her tried again on another charge, that of interfering with the U.S. Mail (Male?). A sympathetic Eastern press condemned callous Arizonans for sending such a fine specimen of Eve's flesh as Pearl to that dastardly prison in Yuma. She was released from prison after faking a pregnancy and went on the lecture circuit for a brief time, explaining to audiences she'd robbed the stage to get money to visit her sick mother in the East. Pearl's escapade turning out to be the last stagecoach robbery in America.

Did you know ~ ~ ~

**Arizona was originally part of the  
Territory of New Mexico**

# In Memory



As befitting an Irishman, Keith McMahan passed from this plane on St. Patrick's Day. He was serving on our Board of Directors and his second term on the Town Council. He previously served as a trustee of Fountain Hills Road District No. 9 and two terms on the Fountain Hills School Board. He was a former president of the Fountain Hills Republican Club and was very active with the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce, their special events, and in preparing their monthly newsletter as well as interviewing members for that publication. Keith moved to Fountain Hills in 1973 to work in the advertising department of McCulloch Properties.

In recent years, he also operated his own advertising agency. Known as "Mr. Fountain Hills," he was a good friend to the Museum and to the Town of Fountain Hills. He will be terribly missed.



## ***Legacy What Will Yours Be?***

**What will you bequeath to future generations? How will the ideals and memories you cherish now be sustained then?**

**The Mission of the River of Time Museum  
Is to recount and preserve the captivating past of the Lower Verde River Valley and to illustrate the vital role of water in our Sonoran Desert.**

**Your membership can go on into perpetuity and also provide you with significant tax savings for your estate.**

**For more information, please**

***Give back to your community ~~~***

**Volunteer!!**

480-837-2612



# Upcoming Events



## Clinton M. Pattea Gallery

Our Traveling Exhibit room has been renamed for Clinton M. Pattea, President of Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. On display in the Gallery are 51 photographs taken by **Keith McMahan** as he chronicled life in Fountain Hills since its beginning. **Jerry Miles** went through boxes of Keith's photographs, selected a very nice collection, enlarged the photos and matted them. They were on display in the Community Center for the reception following the memorial service for Keith. They were then moved to the River of Time Museum to remain on display until July 25.



## International Museum Day

May is Museum Month in the valley and the River of Time Museum will celebrate the month by charging NO ADMISSION FEE for the month!

Other museums throughout the valley will be offering special deals. It's a great time to go to that museum you have been meaning to visit.

For a quick check on the many museums in the valley, go to the Central Arizona Museum Association website ([www.azcama.com](http://www.azcama.com)), and check out the more than 50 valley museums and the various special activities occurring in May.



## Spaghetti Dinner

### August 29

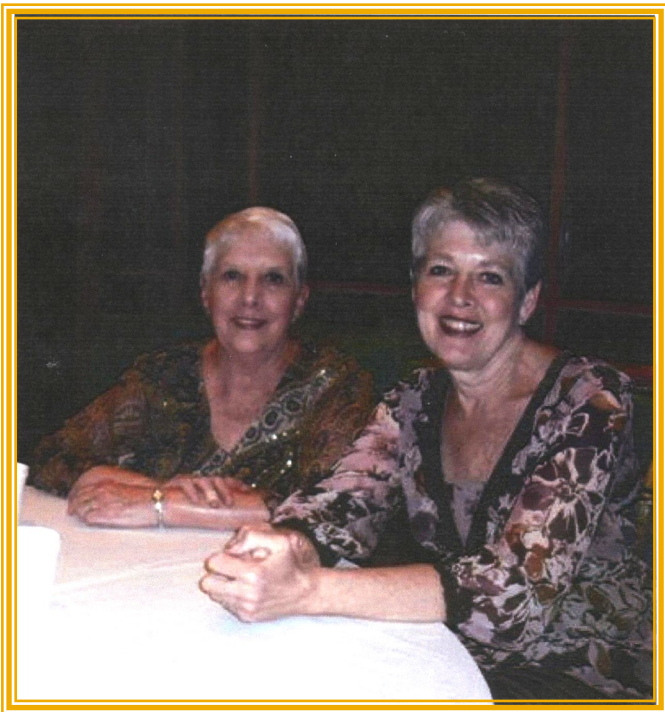
Keep close watch on the Fountain Hills Times and local stores to buy tickets for our annual Spaghetti Dinner which will be held at the Presbyterian Church. This is an annual event that the whole Town looks forward to. Donations for the auctions are being taken at the Museum—looking for new and/or slightly used items.

Great food—great friends—great times!!

# Upcoming Events

## Carlos Hadaway

Many of our society members thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon at the museum home of artist **Carlos Hadaway**, well known as the “Arizona Kid.” His collection of memorabilia is fascinating and with each piece is an exciting story that he eagerly tells. Carlos appeared in many Western movies along with well known names such as John Wayne, Gary Cooper, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers to name a few. He roped and wrangled for 30 years in Northern Arizona. Pictured here with Carlos in his living room are **Joe** and **Debbie Skehen**.



We are very thankful to **Niobe** and **Teena Borman** who arranged for this delightful event and to **Gwen Laske** (not pictured) who served wine and cheese to the visitors.

If you haven't been to **Carlos Hadaway's** home, and the opportunity arises, be sure to go! Numerous treasures from cowboy life, western movies, and Carlos' artistic talents fill his home – and the stories he has to tell are wonderful!



THE LEGACY NEWSLETTER

FOUNTAIN HILLS AND LOWER

VERDE RIVER 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](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)

## NEW MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL APPLICATION

General Individual Membership

\$20 / Year

General Family Membership

\$25 / Year

I would be interested in contributing

On a higher financial level or a gift

endowment or major bequest.

Please Contact Me

PATHFINDER

\$100 - \$249

WAGONMASTER

\$250—\$499

PIONEER

\$500—\$999

ADVENTURER

\$1000—\$2,499

TRAILBLAZER

\$2,500 OR MORE

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed or

Please Charge my VISA or MASTERCARD

Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

• 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.