



L. Alan Cruikshank
River of Time Museum
 Fountain Hills & Lower Verde River Valley
 MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



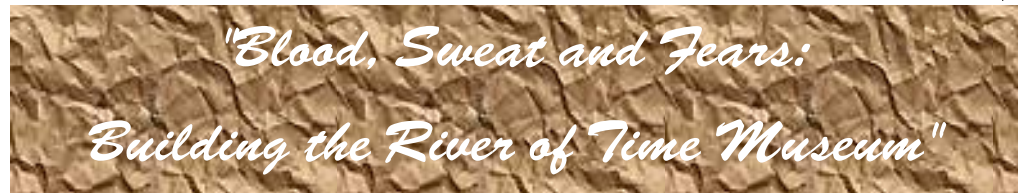
Debbie Skehen, Editor

Wayne/Anne Wicklund, WebWolf Internet Services

Sept/Oct 2009
 Volume 21, Issue 4

Dates of Interest:

- Aug 29, Sat, 6-8 pm
Spaghetti Dinner
Presbyterian Church
- Sept 16, Wed, 5:30 pm
Unveiling of New Entrance
to the *River of Time Museum*
- Sept 16, Wed, 6-9 pm
Historical Society Dinner
Rex Witte, Artist
"Blood, Sweat & Fears:
Building the *River of Time Museum*"
- Oct 10, Sat, 4 pm
Unveiling of the Clinton
M. Pattea Gallery
- Oct 24, Sat, 7 pm to 7 am
Night at the Museum
Time Travelers & Friends
- Nov 2, Mon, 1 pm
Volunteers' Meeting



You are all invited to view the new entrance to the River of Time Museum - a magnificent rock wall that will entice visitors as they enter the Lobby of the Museum/Library building. A brief ribbon cutting and reception will be held in the Lobby beginning at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, September 16, prior to our Historical Society dinner meeting.

Artist **Rex Witte** built the wall this past summer made possible by financial grants from the **Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the FH Community Foundation** and individual donors.. He will be at the reception and then join us in the Community Center to give a formal presentation describing how our Museum structurally came to be.

Rex moved to Arizona from South Dakota in 1969 and attended Mesa High School. Discharged from the Army in 1975, he returned to Arizona and graduated from Mesa Community College. He set up his own sign and commercial art business where he painted all of the banners for the out-field fences in six stadiums here in Arizona for the Cactus League. In 1999 he joined Sunbelt Scenic Studios as a sculptor and a painter and this is where we met him as the lead artist for the color renderings for the exhibits in the River of Time Museum. Rex was asked to sculpt the Museum's Conquistador statue and the



new Yavapai figures. Rex now is employed by the Arizona Museum for Youth as their exhibits designer and works after hours on exhibits for the River of Time Museum. He is a marvelous artist and a delightful speaker.

The public is invited to attend this dinner meeting on Wednesday, Sept 16. Reservations for the dinner and presentation must be made by Sunday, Sept 13. 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.

Winter Hours begin on October 20, when the hours will once again be 1-4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

Store Hours
 Mon-Fri 1-4 pm
 Sat 10-4 pm

From the President's Desk by Debbie Skehen

Over the spring and summer months, the Historical Society has been the recipient of several wonderful gifts. As you enter our Museum, you will see a beautiful copy of Frederic Remington's sculpture "Coming Through the Rye." **David and Patricia Rice** donated this lovely piece and it occupies a place of pride in the lobby of the Museum.



We also received a collection of chieftain wool blankets and robes, various baskets and jewelry from several Eastern and Canadian Native American tribes. This gift came to us from local antique dealer **Dimitrios Vassiliades** of Fountain Hills Antique Center. We are very grateful to him for this collection and for his wise advice.

A most interesting artifact has been donated to the Museum by **Christine K. Lee** of Fountain Hills. We now own a genuine stage coach trunk. It's a small rectangular leather trunk which most likely held cash or fire-arms under the driver's seat. We plan to display it during Pony Express Days.



Monies collected at the Fountain Hills Realtor Marketing Session Holiday party were donated to the River of Time Museum

We were delighted to learn that the Fountain Hills Realtors group donated \$1,000 to the Museum to purchase a large flat screen television for the Orientation Room. You might remember we had an old, huge box shaped TV on wheels that worked, but was always in the way. This beautiful new set hangs high on the wall and we are grateful to Board Member **Art Tolis** for his efforts in securing this gift and **Derrick Moore** from our local Sears store for installing it.

Eliza K. Kendall donated numerous southwestern artifacts including a McClelland leather saddle, a harness/saddle repair stand, Native American baskets, baby high topped moccasins, and a Pauite water basket. Many of these items will be put on display in the near future.

The society is the beneficiary of two gifts from the estate of **Thelma B. Nolte**: her beloved 1909 wooden carousel horse named Falcon by carver Leo Zollar, and a substantial cash bequest made "in honor of Attorney **Robert E. Thomson's** generosity and service." Bob has served on the Board of the Historical Society and is now President of the River of Time Foundation. This delightful horse will be installed soon in the Museum/Library lobby for everyone to see and enjoy.

The **Fountain Hills Community Foundation** awarded our society a grant of \$5,000. This money will help us purchase a shade structure to cover the Museum's patio thus making the area usable for many groups and for many purposes. We are pursuing other funding sources to complete this project.

We are so grateful to be the recipient of these wonderful gifts and will display them with pride.



Should any of you wish to consider donating southwest items or making a bequest to the River of Time Museum, please call me at 816-4186. We are a 501 (c) 3 organization and your donations are tax deductible.



SOCIETY BOARD OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Debbie Skehen	Executive Director Judy Starr Confer
<i>Vice President</i>	Anne Wicklund	
<i>Secretary</i>	Denise McDermott	
<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**

The Summer is when we try to re-coup, re-pair and re-vamp! We have been doing all of the above during July and August.

A major project tackled by **Jerry Miles** was the creation of a wall of pictures of Fountain Hills history. Please see page 8 of this issue for more information and a picture.

Other needed repairs are underway, including more energy efficient lighting and some new signage.

Our lovely President Debbie decided to re-vamp our storage area and stepped off of a ladder on the side of her foot while holding a heavy box. Whoops! Heavy box dropped on her foot and broke it. Despite her cast and being ordered off of her foot for six weeks, she has forged ahead on all Museum activities.

Judy didn't want to be out done by Debbie, so she tripped over her own feet and severely twisted her back. So, you can see, we have been "limping" along. Good news, health-wise, is that **Arlie Denomme** is recovering from her heart surgery and is finally home. Yeah, Arlie!

We are looking forward to the August 29th 6th Annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church, 6-8 pm. Many thanks to **Redendo's, Phil's Place** and **Fountain View Village** for donating the food; to **Arlie Denomme, Gail Pape** and new member **Lisa Poll** for securing our wonderful donations for auctioneer **Representative John Kavanagh** to present to those attending, and to the wonderful crew of volunteers who work hard to make this fundraiser a success. **Gridley's, Sami's, the Times and Fort McDowell Tribal Office** all sold tickets for us. See page 9 of this issue for more information.

We hope that you will mark your calendars for our September 16th Historical Society dinner and ribbon cutting. The ribbon cutting will take place in the Museum lobby to unveil our new entrance wall designed and created by **Rex Witte**. We will also be unveiling the two Yavapai sculptures in the Ancient Yavapai Exhibit recently completed by Rex. We are so fortunate to have Rex's talent available to us. Dinner will be at the Community Center as usual at 6:00 pm

Wish List

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. Please call 480.837.2612

Membership Report and Upgrades by Joe & Debbie Skehen

Welcome **NEW MEMBERS**

Vivien H. King ~ ~ Richard Sourant

~~~~~ **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 & Dottie Millett  
Hosea & Lily Harkness      Mary Zicarelli  
Sami Jack

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

Carl & 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

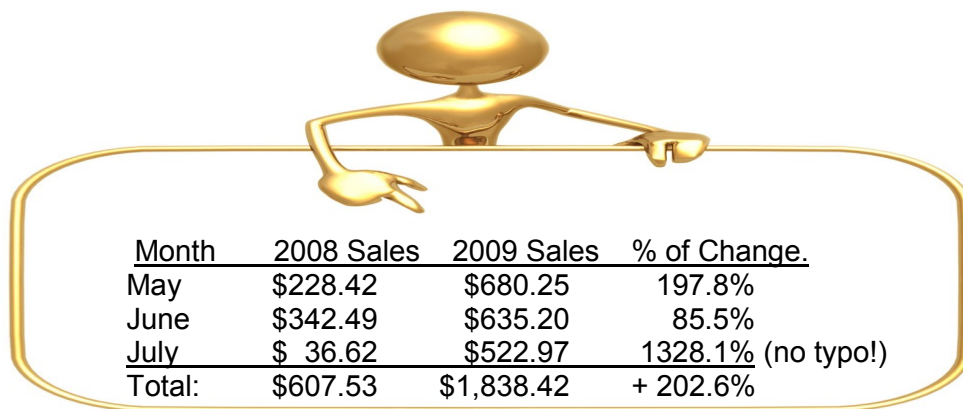
Ken & Phyllis Osterberg  
Clinton & Rosie Belle Pattea  
David & Marilyn Ritchie  
Richard & Virginia Siegle  
Richard Sourant  
Val Stasik  
Earl & Ann Stavely  
James & Roberta Urban  
Tom & Pat Wells

# From the River Bank by Stephen Jones

WOW! What a summer so far for your Museum Store sales! We all know it's a tough year. We've had tough times in the store as has everyone else out there trying to do business in this awful economy.

First, let me make one note about all the sales info you'll soon read about...we've been in Milwaukee, WI. Diane and I left May 15th and hope to be home by the weekend of the 10th of October so all but half a month of selling under my evil eye has been done with me out of town. All you'll read about is what our group of Volunteers have done. We're so lucky to have them working in the store this summer. What a performance!

It is a fact by the end of April our sales were down by -33.5%. March was the only plus sales month in the first quarter of 2009.



| Month  | 2008 Sales | 2009 Sales | % of Change.       |
|--------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| May    | \$228.42   | \$680.25   | 197.8%             |
| June   | \$342.49   | \$635.20   | 85.5%              |
| July   | \$ 36.62   | \$522.97   | 1328.1% (no typo!) |
| Total: | \$607.53   | \$1,838.42 | + 202.6%           |

The big picture gets even better. Now we're only down for the year by a mere -22.15% and August 2008 sales were \$68.34, September 2008 sales were \$138.75, and as it goes we may end up in the plus column by year's end. The gals are super, but to continue this effort, they need all of your support.

Please, don't hesitate stopping by the Museum Store to pick up a book or a gift, or something for yourself. You help support our economy, the Museum and of course everyone one working there looks really good on an overall sustaining basis. And remember you still receive the -10% discount on all purchases and you don't pay sales tax either.

An aside: To date the River Bank Museum Store has given \$5,300.00 against the annual expected dollar amount of \$7,000.00 budgeted for the Store by the Museum. With a check for \$1,700 to be delivered soon, the total given will be \$7,000.00 with 3 months to spare. Will we be able to give more? It's up to all of us to see to it that that can happen. Your purchases are more than just a gift or a book or a little something for yourselves. It's helping the Museum to move forward in so many good ways. Thank you for your continued support.

Stephen Jones  
Director of Marketing

## Volunteers



After very successful sales this quarter in the River Bank Store, we felt it was appropriate to honor some of our summer store volunteers who made these sales happen. Pictured are **Patt Canning, Cindy Ruiz and Pat Solski.**

Pat Solski has stepped in to schedule volunteers and manage the store during the summer when Marketing Director Stephen Jones is back east. She is a busy lady volunteering also at the library book store and serving on the Board of Directors and Secretary of ADOG (Association of Dog Owners Group) a non profit organization.

Cindy is a part time nurse at Scottsdale Shea hospital and we are grateful that she finds the time to volunteer in our store as well.

Patt is a fairly recent resident moving here in 2005 from Ridgefield, Connecticut, where she was active in the Keeler Tavern Museum which is a colonial museum from the 18th century. She also was president of her garden club and we are very pleased she has elected to help in the River Bank Store.

We have wonderful volunteers at the River Bank Store and in the River of Time Museum. We couldn't keep our doors open without all of you.

## 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. 78.

### *Hollywood Comes to Arizona*

During the Depression, Harry (Goulding) learned Hollywood was looking for spectacular vistas to film Western movies. He loaded up his old car with some of photographer Josef Muench's black-and-white photos of Monument Valley and headed for "Tinsel Town." His mission was to show the photos to famed director John Ford, but Ford's secretary gave him the brush-off when she learned he had no appointment. Undaunted, he rolled a Navajo blanket out on the floor and informed her he would camp out in her office until Mr. Ford was available.

She brought out an assistant director to remove him from the premises, but as Goulding was being hustled out the door he flash-carded Muench's photos in the assistant's face. The spectacular vistas caught his eye, and in a matter of moments they were spread out on the floor again. This time, John Ford himself was gazing with awe. The rest is history.

Ford gave Goulding carte blanche to go back to Monument Valley and set up facilities for a movie set. Ford was planning to film the old Ernest Haycox novel, *Stage to Lordsburg* under the name *Stagecoach*, and Monument Valley was to be the location. It would be the first major film for a young man named John Wayne.

In that film Navajo people were hired to portray a war party of Apaches. During the next couple of decades Ford returned again and again to make films. The Navajos played Comanches, Cheyennes, and Navajos in *Wagonmaster*, a film that starred Ben Johnson, Joanne Dru, and Harry Carey, Jr.

These films and others that followed make Monument Valley one of the world's most recognizable locations and tourism a major industry, all starting the tireless efforts of the Gouldings.

# In Memory

We lost good friends of the Historical Society this summer.

**Ted Anderson** was our Treasurer for several years. Ted was a beloved member of our community and an early supporter of the Museum donating many items before we opened our doors. Known as a strong member of the Community Chorus, he also transcribed books to Braille.

**Mary Davenport** was a charter member of the Historical Society, served on its Board and was a perfect greeter for all of our events. She also made numerous telephone calls to alert people to society events and encourage participation.

**John VanDerWert** was an early and ongoing financial supporter of the River of Time Museum. He and his wife Pat were charter members of the Historical Society and gave the first donation of \$1,000 to kick off the campaign to build the Museum.

We are thankful for all the efforts these fine individuals gave to our society and the River of Time Museum.



## ***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 call**

**480.837.2612**

# New and Exciting Stuff

*New Exhibit: Fountain Hills  
From its beginnings . . .*

**Mayor Jay Schlum** commented to former Mayor **Jerry Miles** (our Treasurer) that the Museum was wonderful. However, since we have been open 6 and 1/2 years, could we perhaps update our Fountain Hills exhibit? So that is exactly what has happened.

The Design Update Committee headed by **Walt Dunne** and consisting of **Judy Confer**, **Mike Downes**, **Jean Linzer**, **Jerry Miles**, **Debbie Skehen**, and **Barb Wyman** met and the result is an entire wall of photos of Fountain Hills history. Thanks to **Jerry** and his sub-committee of wife **Jackie**, sister **Joan Pharr**, **Jean Linzer** and **Betty Pantuso**, we now have a very lovely photographic history opposite the east windows. The 100+ pictures were culled from almost 8,000 that were copied from many individuals including Keith McMahan's 7 boxes of prints, the wealth of information from the Fountain Hills Times and many other Town residents. Congratulations and many thanks to everyone who helped with this project.



This exhibit will be updated from time to time to reflect the changes that occur in our Town. Admiring this new addition to the Museum are **Barb Wyman**, **Eleanor Cisak**, **Judy Starr Confer** and **Patt Canning**.

Jerry is continuing his work on a coffee table style book on Fountain Hills history as well with the help of many individuals including **Ann and Earl Stavely**, **Alan Cruikshank**, **Mike Scharnow**, **Dave Roberts**, **Don Lawrence** and **Glen Atchison**.

## A Month in the Life of Our Executive Director Judy Starr Confer

**Wayne Wicklund** suggested that I keep a short diary of "what I do" so those interested could see what a museum director's life consists of. What one doesn't know prior to accepting such a position is that it really is a 24/7 job. Fortunately, I love it. I am paid for 20 hours per week. The rest of the time I donate to do the job of running the Museum. I could not do it without the 100 plus volunteers from Board Members, Foundation Trustees, Committee Chairpersons, Fund Raising Chairpersons, Docents, Diplomats, Store Volunteers and the help from the Town Administrators, Rio Verde Development Offices and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Tribal Council and Enterprise Managers.

I bring to this job my past experience as a certified K-12 educator, designer of both products and interiors, my sales experience, my volunteer experience, and my artistic "talents" -- most of all, I bring my passion for history and love of people. Without all of these past experiences, I would not have achieved much success. My gratitude to ALL who assist me ALL the time.

I am keeping this diary for the month of August -- a time when the Museum is only open 8 hours per week, but also a time when we get geared up for the fall and winter events and the return of our winter visitors. In the next issue of Legacy, this diary will be presented to illustrate the variety of responsibilities and people involved in maintaining and continually developing our River of Time Museum.

# Upcoming Events

## Spaghetti Dinner

You will receive this issue of Legacy just in time to remind you about our annual Spaghetti Dinner -- a fundraiser for the River of Time Museum. Begun 6 years ago, this dinner has been a welcome summer event full of good food, fun and exciting auction items. This year is no exception.

In the past we have been blessed to enjoy **Bruce Hansen's** famous spaghetti sauce at these events. This year **Carolyn Redendo of Redendo's Pizzeria & Pasta** offered to donate the pasta, spaghetti sauce (meat and vegetarian), salad and garlic bread. **Phil Rodakis of Phil's Place** stepped in to supply the ice tea and lemonade, and **Fountain View Village** offered to bake 20 dozen cookies for dessert. When I told a friend about the wonderful generosity we have received, she replied "Congrats on getting unteered. This community is it???" It is indeed. It is a

Several businesses came forward with prizes. **Fire- side Grill at the Holiday Inn** donated a pool party and **Adventures** offered a Friday \$100 (party of 20) and in addition, horse back riding for 2. **Fort McDowell** offered a tour of the fire house engines. **Kay Kinder's** offered a unique lacquered wood (\$300) and some canvas **ity** sent us a certificate for



donated some miscellaneous wrought iron sculptures and candleholders. **The Radisson Fort McDowell Resort** donated a 2 night stay plus extras and the **Comfort Inn** supplied a certificate for a 1 night stay. **The Fire-rock Golf and Country Club** donated a round of golf for 4 players. The **Fountain Hills Community Theater** donated 2 adult season tickets (\$270) to their productions and 2 adult tickets to the Sound of Music (\$50). Various individuals donated nice items such as 2 tickets and parking pass to the Phoenix POPS concert (\$164), an Indian Collectible Doll (Hamilton Collection) by Sherry Simon titled "The Proud Spirit of a Cherokee Indian" (\$175). **Representative John Kavanagh** (pictured above) again supplied a certificate for a Tour of our State Capitol and lunch. We received free passes to many museums in the valley. Individuals also have brought in a like-new sewing machine, pieces of art, cleaning pail inserts, an electric charcoal starter, an electric broom, golf clubs, and even pink shorts from **Sheriff Joe**. Many, many items are being dropped off at the Museum and all will be put together in baskets for the live and silent auctions. We will also have some sports memorabilia available.

So, if you haven't yet gotten a ticket, they are \$15 for adults or 2 for \$25. Children 10 and under at \$5. A free glass of beer or wine is included in the ticket price. Tickets can be purchased at the Museum on Friday or Saturday from 1-4, at Gridley's, at Sami's, at the Times, and at the Fort McDowell Tribal Office. What more could you want to liven up your summer before the busy fall and winter season begins? Join us for fun and good food. *Hope to see you there.*



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



*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.