



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

May/June 2010
 Volume 22, Issue 3

Early Years in Fountain Hills

Dates of Interest:

- May 3, Mon, 9:30-10:30
Volunteer Meeting
Museum/Library Conf Rm
- May 18, Tues, 1-4 pm
International Museum Day
- **May 19, Wednesday**
SUMMER HOURS BEGIN
1-4 pm, Fri-Sat only
- May 19, Wed, 6-9 pm
Historical Society Dinner
Paul Messenger speaker
FH Community Center
- Aug 28, Sat, 5-9 pm
Annual Spaghetti Dinner
FH Community Center
- Sept 15, Wed, 6-9 pm
Historical Society Dinner
OK Chorale



For more than 60 years, **Paul Messenger** has devoted his time, energy, vision and historic perspective to Scottsdale and the area as a businessman and community leader. Reared on a local dairy farm, he is a former Scottsdale city councilman, state legislator and an honored oral historian.

His passions include maintaining and promoting Scottsdale's history, and chairing fundraising campaigns for the city's most popular sculpture, "The Yearlings," as well as "One With The Eagle" at the entrance to the Scottsdale Airpark. He regularly writes about the history of Scottsdale for the *Scottsdale Republic*, part of the daily newspaper *The Arizona Republic*.

Through the years Messenger has been consistently involved in the community both publicly and behind the scenes in addition to running the business he founded, Messenger Mortuaries, in 1959. Not a single-cause advocate, his interests range from good government to history to the environment.

Messenger is known as Scottsdale's unofficial historian and was honored by being named an Arizona Culture Keeper.

The public is invited to attend this dinner meeting on Wednesday, May 19. Reservations for the dinner and induction must be made by Sunday, May 16.



They can be made by telephoning dinner chairperson **Jean Linzer** at 837-0762 or sending email to: reservations@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, Dinner Rolls and Butter, Pork Tenderloin, Red Potatoes, Vegetables, and Dessert.

(photos provided by Jerry Miles)

Summer Hours
 Friday and Saturday.
 1-4 pm

Store Hours
 Friday and Saturday
 1-4 pm

From the President's Desk by Debbie Skehén

On April 16, the River of Time Museum received a \$1,000 grant from the Fountain Hills Community Foundation to help us in our quest for funds to support our Centennial Project which will be completed in 2012.

As you know, our mission is to preserve the history of the communities in the Lower Verde River Valley and tell the importance of water in the Sonoran desert. Our Centennial Project is to develop a 30-60 minute documentary highlighting the life of **Clinton M. Pattea**, current President of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. President Pattea has been involved in governing his people for over 40 years. His leadership has impacted the entire Valley of the Sun and he has been cited as a national role model among Native American Nations.

In the early planning stages for this documentary, we discussed the concept with Ileen Snoddy, a Director at SRP. She was very enthusiastic and said that we have the rare opportunity of obtaining information and insight first hand from this living legend.

The documentary is being created by renown documentarian **Michael Renaud** who recently produced several segments on the River of Time Museum which can be viewed on the jumbotron at the corner of the Beeline and Shea. Mr. Renaud had a career in filmmaking for Warner Brothers, Columbia Pictures, MGM, Disney and Universal Studios. Upon retiring, he created 60 World War II segments for the History Channel. When he completes the Pattea documentary, we will be seeking and should not have difficulty obtaining statewide and national distribution.

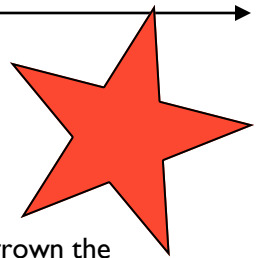
The grant from the Fountain Hills Community Foundation will help us fund this project which will preserve the history of this national leader, educate children now and in the future and promote regional and historical destination tourism. We have now raised a total of \$18,300, but total production costs are estimated to be \$37,000. If you know of anyone who would like to contribute to this Centennial Project, please let us know. All donations are tax deductible.-

International Museum Day is on May 18 this year and we are planning to celebrate this occasion at the River of Time Museum by offering free admission to all visitors. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to stop by. On the 19th the River of Time Museum will begin the summer schedule of being open 1-4 on Friday and Saturday only.



Just a quick note about our August Annual Spaghetti Dinner. This year we have reserved four ballrooms at the Community Center for the event. We have completely outgrown the room available at the Presbyterian Church because so many of you year around residents want to enjoy a good dinner and have some laughs while at the same time raising money for our River of Time Museum.

More news about this event as plans finalize, but be sure and mark your calendar for **August 28.**





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	Arlie Denomme	Sandy Myhr	Barbara Wyman
Teena Borman	Linda Kavanagh	Kurt Pare´	
Patt Canning	Jean Linzer	Clinton Pattea	
Alan Cruikshank	Keith Millett	Art Tolis	

From the Director's Desk by Judy Starr Confer

When May rolls around each year, it is always a sad month as well as one where I am extremely thankful. Sad because so many of our loyal volunteers who make the River of Time Museum function return to cooler climes. Grateful because of their many contributions of time, ideas and financial support. Thank you!

The end of the year Docent gathering was planned by **Barb Wyman**, Docent Chair, at Friday Night Franks at Fort McDowell Adventures. The event was expanded to include all museum volunteers. This is what we hope to do as we go forward.

We thank **Denise McDermott** for stepping forward as our new Volunteer Coordinator. She plans a newsletter for the volunteers and we hope with **Niobe Borman's** help as well to have increased communication amongst our volunteers.

We've had several large group tours lately. One was in conjunction with the Fountain Hills/Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Visitors Bureau hosting Travel Agents and Meeting Planners who came at the Inn at Eagle Mountain's invitation. Another was at the Time Travelers chairperson's invitation, **Sandy Myhr**, to the Golden Eagle Foundation to tour the museum before their monthly meeting. Our junior docents, the Time Travelers, were at each exhibit talking individually with the Golden Eagle members. We were so impressed with their knowledge and poise. Thank you all adult docents who mentored these students under **Sandy, Jean Boatman**, and **Barbara Wyman's** tutelage. This outstanding River of Time program was mentioned in *True West Magazine* (see page 9).

Visit our River Bank Store for a great sale pre-Mother's day, and note that Summer hours (1-4 pm, Friday and Saturday) begin on May 19.

Have a grand summer all!

Historically yours,

Judy Confer
Executive Director

Membership Report and Upgrades by Joe & Debbie Skehen

Welcome **NEW MEMBERS**

Carol Ann Braun ~ Norman & Lee Ann De Shon
Paul & Susan Erickson ~ Peg Glink ~ Paula Kimmel

~~~~~ Membership Gifts for 2010 ~~~~~  
We thank you for your generous donations!

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

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

\*Alan & Diane Cruikshank  
Hosea & Lily Harkness  
Boe & Marie James  
\*Jerry & Jackie Miles

\*Keith & Dottie Millet  
\*John & Jane Mooty  
\*Joanne Thyken  
\*Mary Zicarelli

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

\*Fred & Barbara Hansen  
\*John & Linda Kavanagh

\*Joe & Debbie Skehen  
Wayne & Anne Wicklund  
and Snow

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

Richard M. Carrabine  
\*John & Carol Coates  
Clara Dolan  
Lee & Shirley Fisher  
\*Karen Holloway  
Elert & Chris Johnson

\*Agnes Kramer  
Hank & Susan Lickman  
\*Robert & Dorothy Mason  
Bill & Charlotte McCluskey  
Brian & Denise McDermott  
\*Robert & Diane Thomson

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

Hon. Joe & Ava Arpaio  
Tony & Sally Atchinson  
Charlie Axtell  
Loretta Bayne  
Jean & Doris Boatman  
Art & Jeanette Carpentier  
Craig & Jeanine Capirchio  
Harold & Arlie Denomme  
Bill & Shirley Eckhardt  
Helen Felts  
\*Jeff & Marla Fryer  
Peg Glink

William & Lois Grate  
Bruce & Cassie Hansen  
Robert & Barbara Hegwood  
Pat Hemmer  
Dr. Charles & Marilyn Humes  
Jim & Betty Isaacson  
Stephen & Diane Jones  
Ed & Dolores Kehe  
Jon & Diana Klesner  
Allen & Sharon Koehlinger  
Robert & Marcia Krane  
Dan & Beth Kuchan

Don & Lisa Lawrence  
Marvin & Darline Leader  
Robert & Joan Lickman  
Jean Linzer  
Bill & Sally Mantle  
Velma Monks  
Roald & Ruth Nelson  
Ken & Phyllis Osterberg  
Clinton & Rosie Belle Pattea

Donald & Judy Peters  
David & Marilyn Ritchie  
\*Dave & Edith Roberts  
Stuart & Judy Shoob  
Val Stasik  
Earl & Ann Stavely  
James & Roberta Urban  
Tom & Pat Wells  
Dori Wittrig

# *From the River Bank by Patt Canning*

**SPECIAL SALE SATURDAY MAY 8th FOR EVERYONE WHO EVER HAD A MOTHER!  
A 10% DISCOUNT WILL BE APPLIED TO ALL PURCHASES!**

With Mothers Day, Graduation day and other fun holidays approaching why not come into the River Bank Store and do your tax free shopping?

We have new merchandise that will please and delight everyone. Lovely southwest jewelry, some from local turquoise mines, and beautiful necklaces and earrings. We have a large variety of Tommy Singer jewelry. Our prices are excellent and his jewelry is a collector's dream.

We even have a gift for the new baby, a sterling silver rattle, that will delight both parents and baby.

Beautiful hand made silk scarves would make a very welcome gift for all the ladies. These are beautiful and very soft colors just perfect for Spring.

We have books for the coffee table and for the history buffs among us. There are books on wild flowers that teach us to appreciate all the beautiful flowers we are seeing now. A large selection of books for children which will help them enjoy their summer break. Come visit us and see how much we welcome you.



Our wish list continues and we are making good progress. *Our new eCommerce web site is almost ready* and we hope to have it up and running very soon. We are planning a signature piece to represent the Museum and shop. We are working very hard to make the shop the friendliest shop in town and we have the best volunteer shopkeepers. If you would like to join us please stop in and we will welcome you.

*Watch for our new look  
On  
[www.riveroftimemuseum.org](http://www.riveroftimemuseum.org)*

## Volunteers



Meet our new Volunteer Coordinator! **Denise McDermott** has always taken a strong interest in her community and likes to be an active participant in any organization to which she belongs. She became involved in the museum after visiting it with the Four Peaks Women's Club. Currently, she serves as Secretary on the Board of Directors and most recently agreed to accept the additional responsibility of being the museum's Volunteer Coordinator. She is also an officer of the Friends in the Hills Welcome Club and the past President of the Irish Foundation of Arizona.

When not busy with volunteer activities she enjoys spending time with her husband, Brian, and their dogs Dougal and Cooper. Her interests include history, travel, cooking, music, golf and photography.

Denise hails from Philadelphia and came to Fountain Hills by way of Orlando, FL and Leesburg, VA where she was active with a local Shetland sheepdog rescue group and served on the boards of her community HOA and the Institute of Management Accountants.

## *From the desk of our Museum Archivist*

The following is excerpted from Crossing Trails with Marguerite Noble, Payson, Arizona: Git A Rope! Publishing, Inc., 2003, p. 7

### Jackass Mail

The first regular mail service across Arizona stated in 1857, before the Civil War. It was the San Antonio and San Diego Mail Line.

It stretched 180 miles across rough country and sand dunes in California, and here passengers had to ride mules. And so, it was called the Jackass Mail.

The route started near the Alamo in San Antonio ran across Texas to El Paso, then through Apache Pass to Tucson.

The government paid a fee to the owners for carrying U.S. mail on two round trips a month.

Money paid by passengers was not enough to pay expenses. Animals, coaches, stations, drivers, attendants, and guards cost a great deal of money.

The line lasted a short time. It was replaced by the Butterfield Overland Stage Line in 1858.

The Butterfield Stage even had to use mules across the sand dunes. Some mules were so wild they had to be blindfolded for harnessing.

Did you know ~ ~ ~ ~

**The first European to view the  
Grand Canyon was  
Don Garcia Lopez de Cardenas**



## ***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.**

**A bequest through your will, living trust or other estate plan will aid the work of the Museum and Historical Society and can provide significant tax savings for your estate. You may make a gift by designating a specific amount, a percentage of your estate or the remainder of your estate after you have provided for other needs. You may give cash, securities, real property or many types of personal property.**

**Please call the Director at 480/837-2612 for a confidential consultation.**

**The IRS has designated this Society and Museum as a 501(c)(3) organization so donations are tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor for specific information.**

**For more information,  
please call**

**480.837.2612**

# Recent Events



The River of Time Museum hosted the March meeting of the Central Arizona Museum Association (CAMA). Members met at Fort McDowell Adventures to hear speeches on successful community outreach by representatives from Free Arts of Arizona, Center for Progressive Leadership and SRP Community Outreach.



Seen in this picture are CAMA members huddled around a fire pit for warmth as Fort McDowell Adventures representative Raphael Bear told everyone about activities offered at this facility.

Following the program, CAMA members drove to the River of Time Museum for a tour of our facility.

## CHAMBER BLAST

The Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce has an e-blast system whereby our local businesses, including our restaurants, can reach the residents with special offers, discounts, and upcoming events. Don't be left out of these special offers! This service is free and it's easy to join. Send your name and email address to Jean Yanish at [jean@fountainhillschamber.com](mailto:jean@fountainhillschamber.com) and start receiving your e-blasts right away.

## THANK YOU

Thank you volunteers for all that you have done to help our River of Time Museum become a meaningful part of our Community - throughout the past year and now.

We are planning a get together on the museum patio which will be scheduled at the end of September or early October to thank you for your past efforts and get you excited about events being planned for the fall and winter months. Plan on joining us to enjoy some food and learn about the exciting upcoming events. As soon as a date is confirmed, we will let you know.

Again, thank you for being the main force of the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum --you, our volunteers,

*Arlie Denomme*

Holiday Events Chair

# NEW EXHIBIT

**Walt Dunne**, Chair of the Design Committee at the Museum, Executive Director **Judy Confer** and President **Debbie Skehen** went through the items put into the Town's time capsule 20 years ago and chose representative pieces for a new exhibit in the River of Time Museum.

Most of the contents of the bin were in terrible shape. With permission from the Town, we have thrown out a lot of the smelly, moldy stuff, but kept what was possible to use in the current display or later in other ways.

Pictured here are Judy and Walt going through and placing some chosen objects into the display case. The pictures in the display were provided to us by **Bob Burns** of the *Fountain Hills Times*.

The display case is located next to Little John's bar.



## True West Magazine

We were delighted to find in the May 2010 issue of *True West Magazine* an article on Kid-Friendly Museums, and, listed as No. 1 out of 25 museums discussed, was the River of Time Museum! The copy on page 36 of this issue reads:

"Travel back in time: Of course that's what you do at any museum, right? But we're especially taken with the "Time Travelers" program at the River of Time Museum in Fountain Hills, Arizona. Each year area students, mainly in grades four-six, are invited to become youth docents for one of the museum's 11 sections. They learn about being a trapper, miner, soldier, geologist and more. Now that's how to get kids hooked on history. Awesome!"

We are very proud of our Time Travelers and their leader **Sandy Myhr!** They are an active group. Recently the Golden Eagle Foundation held their monthly meeting in the Museum/Library Conference Room. Prior to the start of that meeting, the group was greeted by our Time Travelers who told the members all about the River of Time Museum.

We hope that the Time Travelers will be available to host the Chamber Mixer in May and inform the many business people in town more about their town and its history.



**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**

|                                                                                                                        |                    |                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <b>General Individual Membership<br/>\$25 / Year</b>                                                                   | <b>PATHFINDER</b>  | <b>\$100 - \$249</b>   |
| <b>General Family Membership<br/>\$35 / Year</b>                                                                       | <b>WAGONMASTER</b> | <b>\$250—\$499</b>     |
| <b>I would be interested in contributing<br/>On a higher financial level or a gift<br/>endowment or major bequest.</b> | <b>PIONEER</b>     | <b>\$500—\$999</b>     |
| <b>Please Contact Me [ ]</b>                                                                                           | <b>ADVENTURER</b>  | <b>\$1000—\$2,499</b>  |
|                                                                                                                        | <b>TRAILBLAZER</b> | <b>\$2,500 OR MORE</b> |

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.**