



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 2010  
 Volume 22, Issue 4

## The OK Chorale

(dedicated to the Preservation of Harmonic Law and Order in the West)

### Dates of Interest:

- Sept 15, Wed, 6-9 pm  
Historical Society Dinner  
"OK Chorale—AZ History through Song"
- Sept 25, Sat, 1-4 pm  
Smithsonian Museum Day  
**FREE** admission
- Nov 5-Dec 24, 1-4 pm  
*Holiday Mart*, Tues—Sat  
River of Time Museum
- Nov 17, Wed, 6-9 pm  
Historical Society Dinner  
"Crown King Mine"
- Nov 25, Thurs, 9 am  
Thanksgiving Day Parade
- December—All Month  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
Tues—Sat, 1-4 pm
- Dec 3-5, Sat and Sun, 1-4 pm  
Open House at Museum
- Dec 5, Sun, 5-8 pm  
*Holiday Home Tour*

**Winter Hours**  
 Tuesday—Saturday  
 1-4 pm

**Store Hours**  
 Monday-Friday 1-4 pm  
 Saturday 10-4 pm

Formed in 2001, the OK Chorale quickly became one of the most popular Western History groups in the Southwest. They have performed throughout Arizona and California and were named the **True West Balladeers** by Bob Boze Bell's *Truewest Magazine*. Bell once said "The OK Chorale's clever and entertaining approach to western history, especially Arizona's colorful past, is truly unique." Keeping the History of Arizona alive along with many of the songs made popular by the silver screen cowboys of the 1930s – 1950s are the main focus of this unique group.

The OKC has many fans and followers and this is the third time they have performed for our society. Founder and lead singer of the group Allen (Yodel'n Al) Fossenkemper and tenor Tony (Tumbleweed Tony) Pistilli are residents of Fountain hills and bass singer and player Jud (Jingel'n Jud) Schandel is a retired career Navy man who lives in Phoenix. All three have been active members of the Barbershop Harmony society as well as other musical groups and choruses.

Two years ago the OKC decided to make the Fountain Hills High School their primary charity and has followed through with contributions to this wonderful asset to our community. The OKC feels very strongly about the value

and benefit of an early musical education and how it can benefit the entire life of a child.

Please welcome the OK Chorale with a big cowboy Yee Ha!

The public is invited to attend this

dinner meeting on Wednesday, September 15. Reservations for the dinner must be made by Sunday, September 12. They can be made by telephoning dinner chairperson **Jean Linzer** at 837-0762, sending an e-mail to [jlinzer@aol.com](mailto:jlinzer@aol.com) or [reservations@riveroftimemuseum.org](mailto:reservations@riveroftimemuseum.org), or going to the website and clicking on "Dinner Reservations" (see last page).

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.

The menu for this evening is Mixed Salad, Chicken Marsala, Pene Pasta, Dinner Rolls and Butter, and Tiramasu for Dessert.



## From the President's Desk by Debbie Skehen

In our Legacy issue last September, we were pleased to announce the completion of a magnificent rock wall which entices visitors as they enter the Lobby of the Museum/Library building. A year later we are delighted to announce that our dream of a covering for the Museum patio has become a reality. Thanks to several donors, especially the **Fountain Hills Community Foundation** and **The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation**, we finally raised enough funds to have this project completed. A very special thank you to all who made this possible.

The size of our Museum has therefore been greatly enlarged and we now have room to broaden our programs to include more activities for children - children from the communities of Fountain Hills, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and neighboring north Scottsdale. Cross-cultural educational sessions will be planned and even include hands on lessons on making pottery, weaving baskets and studying the cultural significance of these tasks. Adults will benefit from this project as well. During much of the year, it is delightful to enjoy Arizona weather as long as we are protected from the sun. Look for many happenings to occur in our extended "space."

Please take a look at "Falcon," our carousel horse, in our building's lobby. Installed by **Rex Witte**, our dedicated exhibits designer and artist, it just didn't look quite right. **Mary**, Rex's wife, decided that a canopy over the horse would complete the colorful look of a carousel. She fashioned and sewed a delightful canopy and now Falcon looks right at home in our lobby. We are so appreciative of **Thelma B. Nolte** for bequeathing Falcon to our care.



At the May Scholarship Awards night at the Community Center, the Historical Society presented a \$500 scholarship to Helen Howard, graduating senior at our high school. Helen participated in the National History Day competition two years in a row; placing 3rd in the state one year and one year as 1st. She went on to take 3rd at the nationals. Helen is a National Honor Society Member and will now be studying at Notre Dame as a History Major. The \$500 scholarship money was obtained through a special fund raising event for this purpose. We hope to be able to continue providing this scholarship as one of our goals as a society and museum is to further education in the history of our region.

Just a quick note about our August Annual Spaghetti Dinner. This year was better than ever. It took place in the four ballrooms at the Community Center so we had plenty of room for the event. Huge thank you to all who donated items and purchased treasures, to **State Representative John Kavanagh** our master auctioneer, and to **Redendo's** (who donated the food) and **Phil's Filling Station** (who donated drinks and dessert.) All was contributed at no cost to our Society. **Thank you—thank you—thank you!**



Last May the River of Time Museum hosted the monthly Chamber of Commerce Mixer and our knowledgeable and delightful Time Travelers told our story to approximately 100 visitors. Pictured below are Chamber Ambassador **Bill Bumbalo**, Time Traveler **Sam Aker** and Docent **Mike Downes**.



**SOCIETY BOARD OFFICERS**

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

We are in the "dog days" of summer, operating on reduced summer hours, but your Museum goes forward, thanks to our faithful volunteers. We can always welcome more!

We use these days to repair and improve the Museum. Thanks to all of your donations for lights and to the efforts of **State Representative John Kavanagh**, we also received a grant from SRP and the Town is now installing the new lights in the Museum.

We are planning a joint exhibit with the Maricopa County Library of Etienne Delessert's children's book illustrations. We hope to have this up early next year.

We have received a large painting by Howard Barrett from Smith Family Chiropractic. It reflects how Fountain Hills looked before the Smith Clinic was built on their lot. Thank you, Dr. Grant Smith, and continued success to you.

Committees are working on future events at the River of Time. On September 25 we will once again participate in the national Smithsonian Museum Day when we will not charge any fee to new visitors. Mark your calendars for the Holiday Mart beginning on November 5 and continuing until Christmas and the annual Holiday Home Tour on December 5. Many activities could use more help, so your participation in any of the upcoming projects would be greatly appreciated. Call me at 480-734-7342 or the Museum at 837-1286.

### **Did you know?**

**FACT:** Hayden Road is not named for Senator Carl Hayden. It is named for Wilford Hayden, a different family thought not to be related to the Arizona Senator's family.

**SOURCE:** Joann Hanley, Director of the Scottsdale Historical Society and Museum.

**STORY:** Mr. Bob Jones of Fountain Hills brought in a photo of the Hayden's with a baby in the picture. The baby grew up to be his father. He obtained the photo from Paul Messinger whom he said told him we had the photo in our museum and he wanted to see it. I told him I did not think we had such a photo, but let's look together, which we did. No photo. I thought it might be in the Scottsdale Historical Museum. I called Director Joann Hanley and found it closed for the summer, but Joann continues to work and 14 hours later I had the answer. They do not have the photo, but would like it if I can get a copy, and yes, they have much Hayden history.

**MORAL:**

1. History gets re-interpreted all the time and we continuously learn, and
2. Museum directors work 24/7!

# Membership Report and Upgrades by Joe & Debbie Skehen

Welcome **NEW MEMBERS**

**Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey B. Greene**

~~~~~ 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 Millett  
\*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  
Velma Monks  
\*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  
Roald & Ruth Nelson  
Ken & Phyllis Osterberg  
Clinton & Rosiebelle 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

After a long hot summer, we at the River Bank Store are now looking ahead to a great fall season and are looking forward to all our shopkeepers returning to help in the shop. We have been very lucky this summer to have a new volunteer shopkeeper. Carol Coates has been working with us and is a great addition to our staff.

We have introduced new merchandise and we are planning a sale to help make room for all the new and exciting merchandise that will be arriving.

Our new website is ready to be introduced to all and the accompanying picture is a small preview as to what is ahead for us. The plan is to make this website user friendly to all and will introduce our Museum to e-commerce. Big plans are under way and we hope that all will look forward to seeing the finished site.



As always we welcome everyone to come in and visit with us and browse our selections of jewelry and books as well as our selection of art and pottery. Also remember that there is never any tax on your purchases.

If you have any suggestions, we welcome your ideas and comments also.  
Thank you for your continuing support,

Patt Canning, Store Manager

## From the desk of our Museum Archivist

The following is excerpted from Arizona Trivia by Marshall Trimble, Arizona's State Historian, Phoenix: Golden West Publishers, 1997, p. 64.

### Questionable Facts about the Weather and Climate of Arizona

Lukie and Melba Spurlock have been living in Payson for the past 68 years of their marriage. They both claim Payson has the healthiest climate in the whole USA. Even more remarkable, Lukie has never been to a doctor in that entire time. Early on, they agreed that when they got into an argument she'd go into the kitchen and he'd go outside and sit on the porch. He attributes his good health to all those years spent outdoors.

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Arizona boasts some of the most notorious dust storms ever recorded. On July 19, 1973, Ira Gerlach was driving to his mobile home in Apache Junction when a huge dust storm hit. The dust was so thick he couldn't see ten feet ahead. Then, he spotted two taillights and decided to follow. This went on for several miles until suddenly he ran into the back end of a car. Ira jumped out and shouted at the driver, "Why didn't you signal before you stopped?"

"Why should I?" the other guy retorted, "I'm in my garage!"

## Volunteers



A smiling, knowledgeable person often greets visitors to the River of Time Museum, though her primary function is to guide groups through the museum explaining the exhibits and answering questions about the Lower Verde River Valley. **Barbara Wyman** is currently a Board Member who served as Co-Docent Chair with **Rick Wambach** for three years and assumed full Docent Chairmanship when Rick and Julie changed their abode from Fountain Hills to Paradise Valley.

But Barbara, a woman of many talents, has been volunteering in many capacities since moving to our beautiful town in the late 1970's.

Her major at Stanford University - Music - served her in good stead. She was first the Organist and then the Choir Director at the FH Presbyterian Church for many years. Music brought her into contact with the Rio Verde choir members directed by **Aggie Kramer** and the choir at the Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation Presbyterian Church which was established in 1903. Barb even played the organ during the River of Time Museum Holiday Mart last year.

Her El Paso roots gave her a life long love of the Spanish language and culture which she still continues to study.

This active lady finds time to travel with her husband of 59 years, former Town Councilman **John Wyman**.

Sadly, her "famous" black wool 1920's bathing suit has disappeared, so this icon can no longer be borrowed for wearing in talent and fashion shows by various models.

Thank you Barbara and husband John for your devotion to the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum. The Museum feels most fortunate that Barb serves as the person to welcome and over-see the training of our new docents.

## Holidays

Our River of Time Museum entry for the Fountain Hills Thanksgiving Parade will be the best of the best. President Clinton Pattea has again allowed us to have the Fort McDowell Nation's team of parade horses and wagon and our very own Time Travelers, our Junior Docents, will be marching with us again as last year. Participants in our Holiday Home Tour will be driving their vehicles. If any of you have more ideas for a great parade, just let us know.

November will be outstanding! We are anticipating providing you with an outstanding presentation of Holiday items for sale. The Holiday Mart will be open Tuesday to Saturday from 1 to 4 PM for you to browse and buy. As last year, we have an eclectic array of items. Our community has rallied behind us with donations of exciting gift items. Want to volunteer to staff the shoppe? Please contact me, Arlie Denomme, by e-mail at [ahdeno@aol.com](mailto:ahdeno@aol.com), or leave your name and phone number at the museum. I will get back to you. We have sorting, pricing and setting up to do. Help us get ready for the first week of November when the Holiday Mart officially opens.

The Museum will offer free admission during the month of December to all visitors. Join us, tour our the Museum and shop. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 3 - 5, we will have holiday music, punch and cookies for you in the Library/Museum Lobby.

Sunday, December 5th, the Annual Holiday Home Tour will feature community homes all gussied up for YOU. Yes, four homes and again our Fountain View Village will welcome you with light beverages and cookies during the hours of the tour.

Enjoy your Museum and the many activities taking place there during the holidays. Thank you one and all,

~~ Arlie Denomme

Did you know ~ ~ ~

**25 of Zane Grey's novels  
were set in Arizona**



## ***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**



**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.**