



Historic Happenings

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Casa Grande Valley Historical Society & Museum



"Hot Wings for History"

2nd Annual Cook-off Fundraiser

Sunday, October 7, 2012 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

110 W. Florence Blvd, Casa Grande



Fun for the whole family!
Come and enjoy the historical museum, tasty hot wings, arts & craft vendors, the Budweiser beer garden, music and raffles

General Admission: \$10

Society Members: \$7

Kids 5-12: \$1 / 4 & Under: Free

FREE Admission with NEW paid membership to the Historical Society

For tickets & info call: 520.836.2223



Could You Help Your Society?

The Hot Wings for History Cook-off is back for its second year. For those who attended last year, you know what a fun day this event provided. Planning for the cook-off, which takes place on October 7, is well underway. The executive committee, comprised of Erica Herman, Ashley Moser, and Regis Sommers, is anticipating an even bigger turnout this year with more participants prepared to cook wings. This is where you come in! If you have a killer wing recipe, consider donating your time and sharing your culinary talent for the benefit of the Society and museum. We welcome professional and amateur cooks from the local community; the day will be capped off with judging in both the

amateur and restaurant categories.

The event also includes arts and crafts vendors who pay a small registration fee in exchange for a space in the museum's front courtyard to sell their wares. We are seeking out local artisans with unique, handmade items. Vendors keep all proceeds from their sales, so it's a great opportunity to reach new customers. The committee expects at least 200 attendees.

Admission includes entry to the museum, one wing from each cook, and access to the vendors and Budweiser beer garden. Society members receive a discount and we offer great ticket prices for kids so the whole family can attend. Please call the Society office for details about participating in the event or for ticket sales.



President's Message

As fall is quickly approaching so is the opening of the museum. Mark your calendars for September 15th. Be sure to check out the refurbished Public Safety exhibit. Many volunteer hours were spent planning, cleaning and painting the Garrett Room, and now the La France fire truck is back. The museum office renovations are complete and the office now has brighter and airier feel to it.

Over the summer your Board of Directors met on several occasions. Our planning session was a great success. With the help of our facilitator, Evelyn Casuga of APS, we were able to accomplish a great deal. Due to a decline in visitor attendance, attributable to the aging of our current exhibits, it was decided we need to explore the possibility of a capital campaign drive. This would allow the Museum to totally renovate the current main gallery of approximately 3500 sq. feet. "Raising the Roof" literally would allow us to expand the useable amount of square footage to its full potential. The goal would be to make the Casa Grande Valley Museum a true destination stop in Pinal County. The new theme of the museum, Trails, would be more representative of the Casa Grande Valley. More interactive and technologically advanced exhibits would increase our appeal to a new demographic. We would be able to utilize artifacts that are currently in storage. The museum would also have the ability to change exhibits on a regular basis to meet the changing needs of the community. These are very exciting times at the museum. As we look forward to future changes at the museum, we will strive to be respectful of its history.

The 2012-2013 season will be starting off with the Down at the Depot speaker series in Heritage Hall. Tickets can be purchased at the office or from Board members. Please reference the calendar for all other upcoming events.

All proceeds from these events are used to supplement operating expenses of the facility. The summer rains have lead to significant damage of Heritage Hall's basement walls, flooding of the basement, and other drainage problems. As monies become available to correct the problems, they will be addressed.

A special thank you to former Board Member Al Faoro. Al and Gene Lehman were instrumental in the installation of the security monitoring system throughout the museum's buildings and grounds. Next time you're in the museum SMILE, you're on camera!

Due to a lack of Museum greeters for this season the museum will be closed an additional weekday. The opening hours are now Thursday-Sunday, from Noon-4 p.m. If you or someone you know has some extra time to contribute,

MEMBERSHIPS

March - July 2012

CORPORATE

Silver

Adventures in Stained
Glass
Greater CG Chamber
of Commerce
Project CENTRL

INDIVIDUAL

Benefactor

Warren Goff
Patricia Norris
& Craig Ross

Patron

Kenneth Robbins

Sustaining
Pat Cooper
David & Becky Daley
Steve & Nancy Daley
Delia Harris
J.K. Hammer
Lillian Peart Hoover
Ron & Vikki Kortsen
Geta LeSeur Brown
Jim Marsh
Dick & Nancy Powell
Merrilyn Ridgeway
Merline Self
David & Gloria Storie

Family

Christine Burton
Decker Denoncourt
Gary & Cindy Ellis
Fred & Marjorie Enke
Helen Erdman
Jane Ethington
John & Susan Goodwin
Jay Hagstrom
Jim Hartdegen
Jerry Hurd

Gene & Linda Irvin
Donovan and Joanne
Kramer, Jr.
Curtis & Linda Meccia
Stephen & Laurie Miller
Gene & Jean Moffett
Kevin & Ashley Moser
Mark Nupen
BZ & Joyce Peindl
Clarence & Elly Sells
Tony Serrano
David & Dianne Trammell
Steve & Mary Wagoner
Charles & Pam Walton
Dave White
Jerry & Nancy Wofford
Ben & Betsy Zink

Individual

Rosemary Barnes
Pearl Boehm
Mary Jane Bollig
Robert Brutinel
Camilla Claeys
Donna Clements
Audrey Crabtree
Ruth Hintz
Brad Johnson
Carol Jones
Noel Kirkland
Gene Lehman
Barbara Little
Jo Macek
Pat MacLaren
Brenda Mason
Julia Mellor
Karl Montoya
Jimmie Noe
Joyce Pretzer
Brenda Randolph
Donald Ross
Pamela Runner
John & Mary Lou Smith
Dawn Snell
Sybil Wilson
Nancy Zales

Please stop by the Museum office. We are always in need of volunteers. Have a great fall and we'll see you at Down at the Depot!

MEMORIALS

March - July 2012

In Memory Of Mary Anderson

DONORS

Fred & Jane Frazier
Stephen & Laurie Miller
Steve & Mary Wagoner

In Memory Of Hazel Bonebrake

DONORS

Warren Goff
Joan Mason
Marlene McHaney
Pam Runner

In Memory Of Jack Foster Sr.

DONORS

Warren Goff
DeeRinda Heinle
Jim & Janet Henness

In Memory Of Jane Norris

DONORS

Brett & Linda Benedict
Sam & Kay Benedict
Steve & Nancy Daley
Bill & Linda Garrett
Warren Goff
Nancy Hancock
DeeRinda Heinle
Janet & Jim Henness
Millard & Dorothy Hurlburt
Brad & Mary Johnson
Gene & Jean Moffett
Kevin & Ashley Moser
Helen Neuharth
Margaret & R S Pieper
Brenda Randolph
Everett & Linda Rhodes
Tim, Evelyn, & Sandy
Robinson
Pam Runner
Suzanne Smith
Dawn Snell
David Snider
& Marilyn Ridgeway
Lee & Patricia Tregaske

In Memory Of Jack Pretzer

DONORS

Margarette Bianco
Robert Davis
Beverly Glover
DeeRinda Heinle
Ed & Jeananie Pretzer
Suzanne Smith
David Snider &
Merrilyn Ridgeway
Jim & Regis Sommers
Cindy Taylor

In Memory Of Charles Ross

DONOR

Dick Powell

In Memory Of Geneva Smith Haduak

DONORS

Jim & Janet Henness

In Memory Of Mary Trekeil Vincint

DONOR

Lillian Breitenbach



A New Display for a New Season

Good news! After a year away in storage our 1929 La France Fire Engine is back in the museum gallery. Because we had to accommodate the Centennial Railroad exhibit and have the museum's Garrett Room available for events, Casa Grande's first fire engine took a season off from visitors, although it did make appearances at the Veteran's Day Parade, the Electric Light Parade, and the Main Street Fair.

Board members Art Carlton and Gene Lehman have been hard at work on a new Public Safety display, covering the fire and police departments, to accompany the engine. Of course any new exhibit installation isn't as simple as putting up a few photographs. Since the popular model railroad exhibit is remaining in the Garrett Room, the banking display had to be moved to the Trekeil Barn. Then, the entire room received a fresh coat of paint, thanks largely in part to Merrillyn Ridgeway, who contributed a great deal of elbow grease to this project along the way. Art and Gene worked together on selecting the photographs and artifacts that would best tell the story of public safety in our community. Though many of these items were included in the previous fire department exhibit from seasons past, they are now presented in a new and cohesive way.

We hope you will plan a visit this season to enjoy this refreshed exhibit that, like all of our exhibits, is the impressive result of many dedicated volunteer hours.

The new display
in progress thanks
to the many
volunteer hours
of Art Carlton,
Gene Lehman,
and Merrillyn
Ridgeway



The 1929 La France
fire engine, back in
its Museum home

THE 2012-2013 SEASON OF DOWN AT THE DEPOT

An evening speaker series at the
Casa Grande Valley Historical Society & Museum.

Learn about local history, explore the museum, and enjoy
a delicious catered dinner all in one entertaining evening!

Railroad History of Pinal County: The 32nd Parallel Route

Railroad enthusiast Art Carlton will discuss the Southern Pacific Railroad
and its significance in the local history of the Casa Grande Valley.



Saturday, September 15, 2012

6:00 p.m.

In the Historical Society's Heritage Hall

*due to the historic nature of the hall, it is NOT A.D.A. compliant

Tickets

General Admission: \$25 Society Members: \$15

Ticket includes the presentation and a catered dinner.

The museum will be open for 30 minutes before and
after the presentation; entrance to the museum during
these times is included with each ticket.

All proceeds go directly to the Historical Society
and help fund further educational programming.

Limited seating available—get your tickets early!



Return to the Depot

The Society is pleased to announce its second season of Down at the Depot, the evening speaker series developed and chaired by Board member Art Carlton. This year Art has scheduled a slate of five speakers, to be held every other month from September to May. The first program, presented by Art himself, will serve as the grand opening of the museum for the 2012-2013 season.

In addition to providing a local history lesson (and a yummy meal!) to the community and welcoming new visitors to the museum, the program was also created as an attempt to grow the Society's membership. Members receive a generous discount off of the ticket price. If you plan to attend the programs throughout the season, a new membership would quickly pay for itself. If you are already a member, we not only encourage your attendance, but also hope you'll bring a friend who is new to the museum. Check out the season calendar for a full listing of the programs; you're sure to find a topic (or two!) that piques your interest.



The archives after its relocation to the first floor Museum office

Despite the museum being closed to visitors throughout the summer, the staff and volunteers never rest for too long in the off-season. Each year as the museum season comes to a close and the temperature begins to rise, the staff and Board members develop a project for the four-month interim ahead. This year's project involved converting a little-used exterior storage room into a convenient new storage space accessible through the museum office. This involved a slight remodel of the kitchen area as some of the cabinetry had to be removed in order to create a doorway into the new storage space. The worn, dated carpet in the office was also replaced with new laminate floors. Once this project got underway, due in large part to President Jim Sommers—who donated his time nearly every weekend of the summer—the staff decided on one more change. A majority of the archives is now housed in the first floor office space, while the second floor now serves as the administrator's office and as storage for additional office files, as well as providing a small space for exhibit design. Having the archives downstairs allows for easier access for staff and researchers alike.

A second component of the summer plan involved a move in the basement collections area and the recently acquired storage building just east of the museum. The main collections storage area was reorganized, with any "heat-proof" artifacts moved into exterior building. Meanwhile, Collections Manager Dawn Snell moved her office into the area that had been used for processing the textile collection. Dawn's old office space underwent drywall repairs due to water damage and received a fresh coat of paint. It now serves as the textile storage extension area since the collection was completely processed.



The freshly painted kitchen, with a view into the new storage space



The relocated Administrator's office on the second floor

A Productive Summer at CGVHS

Despite the museum being closed to visitors throughout the summer, the staff and volunteers never rest for too long in the off-season. Each year as the museum season comes to a close and the temperature begins to rise, the staff and Board members develop a project for the four-month interim ahead. This year's project involved converting a little-used exterior storage room into a convenient new storage space accessible through the museum office. This involved a slight remodel of the kitchen area as some of the cabinetry had to be removed in order to create a doorway into the new storage space. The worn, dated carpet in the office was also replaced with new laminate floors. Once this project



The new storage office storage space

It now serves as the textile storage extension area since the collection was completely processed.

The project—as most renovation projects tend to do—lasted longer than expected and was met with a few unexpected challenges. It could not have been achieved without the help of temporary labor workers who came in throughout the summer to empty the office of all supplies and furniture, slowly but surely load it back into the office, assemble new shelving units, move all the heavy archival materials downstairs, dispose of unneeded supplies and equipment, paint the new storage room, etc. They also worked on side maintenance projects such as insulating the garage door and making numerous repairs to the Society's rental properties. Over time these workers came to enjoy their time at the museum, despite the intense heat and constant heavy lifting.

The staff sincerely thanks the Board members, workers, and volunteers who gave their time and talent—paid or unpaid—throughout the summer in order to make our space more workable for staff, volunteers, researchers, and visitors. Although these improvements were not made to the public spaces of the museum, they certainly make for a more efficient and user-friendly environment, thereby allowing us to better fulfill the Society's mission of preserving our history and sharing it with the community.



The Society archives in its revitalized location in the Museum office

Smithsonian Museum Day

For the third year running, the museum is participating in the Smithsonian Museum Day, on Saturday, September 29th, during normal museum hours, Noon-4 p.m. This program, a partnership of museums large and small across the country provides a wonderful opportunity for people to visit a new museum for the first time, or revisit an old favorite, for free! While Society members already receive free admission to the museum, this is a chance for you to bring a friend or family member who is not a member for a complimentary visit. Simply go to the Smithsonian website at smithsonian.com/museumday to register and print your tickets. While online, you can also check out the many other museums that are participating in the program. Please note that you must have registered and printed your tickets prior to September 29th. No free admission will be granted at the door without the necessary tickets, as they must be submitted to the Smithsonian following the event. For questions, please visit the Smithsonian online, or call the Society office.



Collections Update: Pioneer Market Collection



In 1926, Mr. K.W. Ingram bought the George Bennett Meat Market located on Front Street and renamed it Pioneer Market. In 1931, Charlie San Filippo and Gene Smith bought the store and moved it to 119 N. Florence. It closed in 1957 as chain stores moved in and made business difficult. Besides, both men were ready for a rest after 30 years of operating the store. Some of the city's old timer's probably are familiar with Charlie and Gene and shopped at the Pioneer Market.

For decades, invoices, cash register receipts, and other bookkeeping items related to the operation of the Pioneer Market from 1932 through 1957 were stored in the basement of the Historical Society. Over the summer the arduous task of reviewing the 44 banker's boxes containing this paperwork was completed. Every piece of paper was examined and a determination was made as to what needed to be kept. This was not always a pleasant chore as many boxes had evidence of rodent and insect habitation and destruction, leaving dirty, chewed, grubby fragile paper to handle. The name of every entity that Pioneer Market did business with was entered into an Excel database and ultimately, it was decided that the forms from January and July of each month would be kept. If a given company was not represented in those months, paperwork from two other months was kept. At least one piece of paper was saved to represent every company mentioned in the boxes. These papers were then placed in archival folders within archival boxes where they await further detailed processing.

A Well-Deserved Honor

The Powell family has been notified by the Arizona State Library that Dorothy Powell will be accepted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame on November 15, 2012 at a ceremony at the Capitol. Many friends of Dorothy's will recall that her nomination for this prestigious award was submitted shortly after Dorothy's death in 2003.

The Hall of Fame program pays tribute posthumously, and honors in perpetuity, the remarkable women of Arizona and shares stories of their accomplishments and contributions to our communities, heritage and freedom through exhibits, a website, and written materials. Members of the Society may recall seeing the Hall of Fame exhibit here at the Museum during the spring of 2011. Dorothy now joins Rebecca Dallis as the second woman so honored from Casa Grande.



An Integral Part of the Community

During these tough economic times, the Historical Society has felt the strain of a weak economy just as most everyone else has. Funding from local government and grants is ever-harder to come by. The steady decline in our membership through longtime members passing away only exacerbates the financial challenges we face.

However, despite these challenges, we cannot lose sight of the valuable role the Historical Society and Museum plays in the community. We constantly strive to develop new programs and exhibits that will bring more visitors through our doors each season so that we can cover our operational and personnel expenses, *and* continue to offer these services the community has come to expect. The past year saw one of the busiest seasons ever at the Museum.

The season began with a renovation of Heritage Hall spearheaded by a local Boy Scout, Aaron Plumb, and continued through generous in-kind donations from local contractor Bill Bridwell, of Golden Touch Developers, and electrician Jay Hagstrom, of Quest Electric. Next, there was a new fundraiser, *Hot Wings for History*, which brought together local cooks in a friendly competition to serve the best wings to the event's 175 attendees, many of whom were first-time visitors to the Museum. Around the holidays, local residents and schoolchildren were invited to experience a unique temporary exhibit on Padre Eusebio Kino. In February

over 150 visitors took part in the Society's *Walk Through the Past* event, and a quilt show, to celebrate Arizona's Centennial. Community members were also to partake in two unique speaker series last season; one at the Dorothy Powell Senior Adult Center, the other, a dinner series, held at the Society Museum. The Society also participated in the Veteran's Day Parade, the Electric Light Parade, and the Main Street Fair before ending the 2011-2012 season with our signature fundraiser, *Night at the Museum*.

It is clear that the Society has a lot to offer the community. But of course we cannot fulfill our mission alone. Membership dues should be one of the cornerstones of a historical society's income, but this has not been the case in recent years at CGVHS. Therefore, we must look to the very community we seek to serve for support.

Please contemplate the value you place on the Historical Society and Museum. If you are able, consider increasing your membership level, ask your friends and relatives to join the Society, or even encourage local business owners to invest in the Society through a Corporate Membership. And as always, we encourage you to visit the museum, attend a program, see what's new, and see where you might contribute to our Society's future.

WITH THANKS...

From time to time, the Society receives a sizable donation that is not associated with a memorial or a specific project. We feel that these generous contributions should be recognized and commended. While every donation helps, these significant gifts go a long way to help the Society further its mission.



Donald Ross—\$500

In honor of Marilyn Ridgeway

Kenneth Strumm—\$500

Along with his donation, Mr. Strumm donated photos of his late father, Lieutenant Commander Fred Strumm, commissioning the U.S.S. Casa Grande, and receiving the Bronze Star following his WWII service in 1946.



HELP WANTED!



Are you a eager to get interact with your local community?

Do you have a knack for planning events?

Enjoy working with children?

Or maybe you have handyman or technical skills you would like to donate?

Your Museum needs YOU!

Just a day or two each month would be a great help!

Volunteer opportunities are available in many areas.

We are seeking Museum Greeters for the new season, as well as help with special programs, collections, data entry, education, technology, and maintenance.



Contact the Museum office for more details!



**CASA GRANDE VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& MUSEUM**

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Casa Grande, AZ 85122

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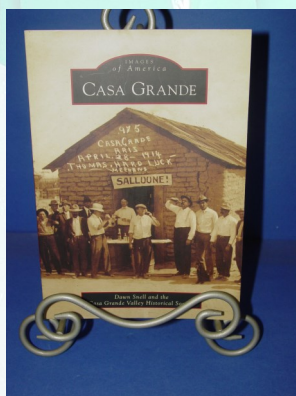
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We're on the Web!
www.cgvhs.org

Need a unique gift idea? Looking for some goodies with an Arizona flavor? Or maybe an educational book or toy for your child or grandchild?

Simply visit the Museum Shop at CGVHS!

We feature a wide variety of artisan-crafted jewelry and gifts, Society hats and T-shirts, souvenirs, and books on an array of Arizona subjects.



Have you purchased your copy of the pictorial history of Casa Grande? Copies are available for just \$21.99. These are wonderful keepsakes, and make for a great gift for family or friends!



Don't forget— Society members receive a 10% discount on all Museum Shop purchases!