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Historic Happenings

www.cgvhs.org

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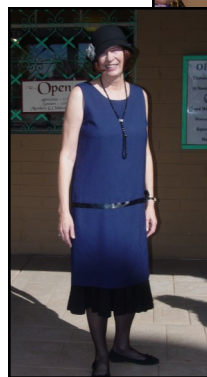
The Society Celebrates Statehood

On Saturday, February 11th, with the help of many dedicated volunteers, the Museum welcomed the community to celebrate Arizona's Centennial. The event had two unique components: Deb Miller gathered about 15 people to portray figures from Casa Grande's past and to demonstrate bygone trades in "A Walk Through the Past." Notable Casa Grandeans such as Angela Hutchinson Hammer and Rebecca Dallis were stationed throughout the Museum grounds to share their past with the 100+ visitors who came through. Guests could also learn the mechanics of flint knapping and pottery making, as well as other trades of the past. A western-style shoot-out at High Noon capped off the

this display with the help of our three

local quilting shops: On Eagles Wings Quilting, Kokopelli Quilts, and Quilter's Corner. With a range from the early 20th century through the 1980s, the quilts—all handmade with exquisite care—celebrated Arizona's rich past in an array of color. Quilters demonstrating their skills in hand stitching and on an antique sewing machine allowed visitors to appreciate the rich detail that goes into the art of quilting. The newly renovated Heritage Hall provided a gorgeous backdrop for this colorful exhibit. The quilts remained on display through the end of February in order to share the exhibit with more Museum visitors.

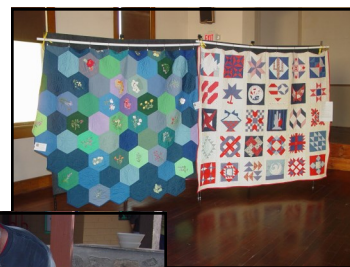
The Board and staff thank Deb, Merrilyn, and all the volunteers who dedicated their time to the Centennial Celebration, whether in preparation for the event, or on the event day. Many hours of hard work are required behind the scenes in order for these special events to occur and we could not achieve them without the community spirit of volunteers!



day's festive activities. With the re-enactors all in full costume, visitors were able to see history truly come alive. Exhibits that may have been viewed many times before

could be seen with a new eye when taken in as a backdrop to history.

The second component of the day was a display of vintage quilts from both local quilters and the Museum's collection. Merrilyn Ridgeway organized





President's Message

During the January 22nd Annual Meeting of the Casa Grande Valley Historical Society elections of new officers took place. Check out pg. 3 for our newly elected Board members and officers.

Our past President, Gloria Johnson-

Storie, was instrumental in the purchase of the Center Ave. property, developing new policy and procedure plans, updating of existing plans, and countless other projects. Thank you, Gloria for the selfless donation of your time and talent.

The activities at the Museum are in full swing. This winter we hosted the Fr. Kino Exhibit, with great success. Special thanks to Fr. John Arnold, The Diocese of Tucson Archives and the Kino Heritage Society for the loan of the exhibit. In conjunction with the City of Casa Grande's Centennial Celebration, the Museum hosted a vintage quilt show, a shoot 'em up, artisans, and cast of historical characters. Hats off to Deb Miller for coordinating the interesting and knowledgeable cast. The museum posted a record attendance for the day.

The 66th Annual Old Timers' Picnic was held in the Trekel Barn March 11th with about 40 attendees. A good time was had by all, so if you've been a Casa Grandean for 25 years or more, we hope to see you next year.

The Down at the Depot speaker series is underway. At the March event, attendees learned about how the Civil War was fought in the Southwest while enjoying a catered dinner. Art Carlton is the brains behind the Down at the Depot Series and the response to the program has been great. Read on to pg. 4 for more details.

The museum will be purchasing new a/v equipment soon. The new portable equipment will be able to be used in the Barn as well as the newly renovated Heritage Hall. This new equipment will allow the museum to host more events like Down at the Depot in future seasons.

Tickets for our signature event, "Night at the Museum," are currently available from Board members and at the office; see pg. 3 for more details. A limited numbers of tickets will be sold, so hurry and purchase yours now. This an evening not to be missed!

The Museum relies heavily on volunteers and we need more of them! If you have a few hours a month to serve as a museum greeter or would like to chair an event please contact the office at (520) 836-2223. There is always a lot to do, and we can find a job for anyone. The Museum has enjoyed a busy year of activities and we would like to continue and expand them next season.

Have a great spring and we hope to see you at "Night at the Museum!"

MEMBERSHIPS

December 2011 - February 2012

CORPORATE

Benefactor

Bill Bridwell, Golden
Touch Realty

Platinum (\$500)

Cooper & Rueter, L.L.P.

INDIVIDUAL

Sustaining (\$100-\$249)

Marge Brackett
Carl Crooker
Ben & Phyllis Crow
William & Linda Garrett
Jimmie & Donna Kerr
Trish Georgeff & Dean Weatherly
Phyllis Wells
Walter Wilson

Individual

Sheri Atleson
Geogia Bartram
Mary Sue Beers
Fred Bramanti
Lillian Breitenbach
Margaret Burns
Anne Dessert
Helen Edwards
Nancy Hancock
DeeRinda Heinle
Leota Hopper
Carl Jackson

Norma Jepson
Laverne Jones
Kathy Kenyon
Joan Mason
Christopher Mer-
ry
Joanna Mikkelsen
Susan Olds
C. Ray Peery
Inga Pollhaus
Edward Pretzer
Louise Pulatie

Copper (\$1000)

Casa Grande Valley
Newspapers

Silver (\$100)

Arizona Water Company
Jim Boyle Dairy - Jim and
Barbara Boyle
Philip Ivey, M.D.
Project Centrl

Family

Mel & Pauline Anderson
Scott & Marlene Barber
Art & Kim Carlton
Franklin & Ethel Don
James Don
Al & Donna Faoro
Jackie Guthrie
Marge Jantz
Matt & Erica Herman
Wes Hutchison
Lewis Little
George & Mary Plumb
Ken & June Ramsey
Michael & Trish Ridge
Bill Trulove

Danna Robson
Patty Russell
Suzanne Smith
Charles Weaver

MEMORIALS

December 2011 - February 2012

In Memory of:

Geri Nyman

Dean Weatherly

Barbara Schoen



Donor:

Merrilyn Ridgeway & David Snider

Sam & Kay Benedict
Merrilyn Ridgeway & David Snider

Rosemary Barnes
Brett Benedict
Sam & Kay Benedict
Esther Findall
Carolyn Grenzow
Warren Goff
DeeRinda Heinle
David, Lou Ella, & Stephen Kleinz
Donovan Kramer Jr.
Marlene McHaney
Linda Nystum
Merrilyn Ridgeway & David Snider
Dianna Snurpus
Jane Snurpus

2012 Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 22nd, the annual meeting of the Historical Society was held in the Trezell Barn. About 30 people were in attendance and enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch prior to the meeting being called to order. Local Boy Scout Aaron Plumb and his father, George, were the special guests of the afternoon. Aaron was recognized for the completion of his Heritage Hall service project last August, which earned him his Eagle Scout badge earlier this month. The project initiated the Society's major renovation of Heritage Hall which continued throughout the season.

President Gloria Johnson-Storie handed out certificates to the dedicated volunteers who served the museum throughout the previous year. The value of their hours served saved the Society more than \$85,000. The final awards of the day were the Sunshine Garrett and Quiet Man awards, which honor the woman and man who have made outstanding contributions to the Society and Museum throughout the year. This year's recipients were Jim and Regis Sommers. Jim was Vice President of the Board, and Regis dedicates countless hours to the Society's annual fundraisers. It was quite special that these awards went to a husband and wife team for the first time in the Society's history.

Finally, Nominations Chair Brett Benedict presented the slate for new Board members and the new officers. The Society welcomes Art Carlton, Al Faoro, Steve Miller, and Larry VanHorn onto the Board of Directors. Jim Sommers moved from the position of Vice President to President, with Patty Norris becoming the new Vice President. As new President, Jim thanked Gloria for her hard work and accomplishments during her tenure. The Board and staff look forward to another successful and exciting year for the

Casa Grande Valley Historical Society 3rd Annual Night at the Museum "A Centennial Celebration"

Saturday, April 14, 2012 7:00 p.m.
110 W. Florence Blvd.

Hors d'oeuvres Buffet, No-Host Bar,
Silent Auction, Raffles, and
Music by the Lewis Storey Band

Tickets: \$45

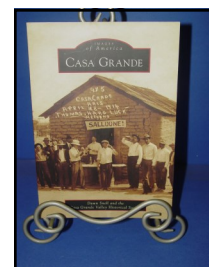
Limited tickets available!
For more details or to reserve tickets
contact the Museum office.

Phone: (520) 836-2223 • Fax: (520) 836-5065
E-mail: info@cgvhs.org • www.cgvhs.org

The Museum's Big Night

On Saturday, April 14th, the Society will celebrate the Centennial and another successful season at the 3rd Annual Night at the Museum. This is the Society's signature fund raising event and we anticipate another successful result. The evening kicks off at 7:00 p.m. with an hors d'oeuvres buffet and no-host bar. Guests are encouraged to stroll through the Museum to see the improvements that have been made throughout the season and to check out the silent auction—a major component of the fund raising effort. The evening's entertainment will be provided by the Lewis Storey band who will incorporate the Night's theme—the Centennial—into his play list.

Have you purchased your copy of our new pictorial history of Casa Grande yet? Written by our Collections Manager, Dawn Snell, this beautiful book is available in the Museum Shop for \$21.99. And remember—Society members receive a 10% discount! These make wonderful gifts for family and friends!

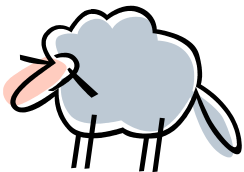


The **Centennial Speaker Series** at the **Dorothy Powell Senior Adult Center** is nearing the end of its second successful season. Having built upon last year's very successful local history programs, this year's programs were given by people who have lived in this community and have an interest in preserving the anecdotes and facts that are tomorrow's legends.

January's speakers were Pam Runner and Regis Sommers who discussed the creation of the Casa Grande Art Museum. In February Jim Norris and Olivia Guerrero discussed their involvement with the Pinal County Council on Senior Citizens. Jimmie Kerr took the stage in March to share memories of his childhood in Casa Grande.



Carmen Auza will wrap up the season on **Monday, April 9th at 10:00 a.m.** with her program, "A Moveable Feast" in which she will share her family's experience in the sheep business, as well as the history of the Basques in Arizona. The program lasts an hour and is free.



SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendar now for the 2nd Annual "Hot Wings for History" Cook-off Fundraiser.

Sunday, October 7, 2012

This event had a great response in its inaugural year, and we hope to see even more of you attend this year.

Stay tuned for more details!



Let's Meet...Down at the Depot

Dedicated volunteer and newly elected Board member Art Carlton has been hard at work developing a new program for the museum. In an attempt to bring historical topics to the local community *and* bring new and existing members into the museum, Art's vision for an evening speaker series first came to life in January for a 4-month trial run. Entitled "Down at the Depot," the series name comes from the idea that during the heyday of the railroad in Casa Grande, locals would gather "down at the depot" to share news and discuss topics of interest. All three series events have been well-received by the public. About 50 people have attended each presentation held on the third Thursday of each month. Upon arriving, guests have a chance to browse through the museum and gift shop. The dinner—themed to the topic of the evening—is served at 6 p.m. with the speaker beginning shortly thereafter. The first talk was held in Heritage Hall to tie in with the Father Kino exhibit housed there, while the subsequent presentations have been held in the museum's Tre-kell Barn. The topics presented thus far have been Father Kino by Barbara Jaquay, the American Cowboy by Gunny Jackson, and the Civil War in the Southwest by former Historical Society director Craig Ringer. Thank you to the speakers who have dedicated so many hours of research in preparation for their lively and informative programs!

Art (a.k.a. Two Socks the Hobo) will wrap up the season on April 19th at 6:00 p.m. when he shares the story of infamous railroad detective Maricopa Slim. Tickets are available in the museum office. Call (520) 836-2223 for more details. We thank the local businesses who sponsored the series: Cooper & Rueter, L.L.P., Casa Grande Cowboy Days, Old Town Glass & Mirror, and Quilter's Corner.

Above: Craig Ringer in his Civil War attire.

Right: Art Carlton, a.k.a. Two Socks the Hobo

Left: Gunny Jackson, "The Broken Down Cowboy"

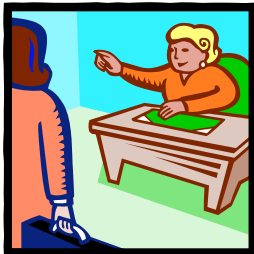


A BIG THANK YOU

The Board and staff owe a huge debt of gratitude to the devoted group of volunteers who have served the Society and Museum throughout the season. More than 4,500 hours have been logged since the beginning of the 2011-2012 season.



Without the dedication of volunteers our visitors would not be greeted with a smile, our collections would not be processed, our exhibits would not be refreshed, and we could not offer special programming and events to the community.



It is thanks to you that we can continue to fulfill our mission.
Thank you!

66th Annual Old Timers' Picnic

About 40 people attended the Old Timers' Picnic, which has remained a Casa Grande tradition and has endured through the decades. It was held in the Trekel Barn on Sunday, March 11th. A delicious potluck was enjoyed by all.

Recognition was given to the oldest male and female attendees, as well as to those who had lived in Casa Grande the longest and traveled the farthest to attend the event. There was a virtual tie for "oldest male" between Tommy Caywood and Damon Mashore who are only 3 months apart at age 89. Connie Dorsey took the honors for both "oldest female" and the longest resident of Casa Grande, having lived in Casa Grande for all of her 93 years. Nelson Ragland took the prize for "traveled the farthest," coming from Yucaipa, CA.

Many thanks to Patty Norris and Dee Heinle for making all the arrangements and putting their special touch on the event!



HELP WANTED!



Are you a eager to 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 next season, as well as help

with special programs, collections, data entry, technology, and maintenance.

Contact the museum office for more details!
(520) 836-2223



From left: Tommy Caywood, Nelson Ragland. Connie Dorsey, and Damon Mashore

Who has fully realized that history is not contained in thick books but lives in our very blood?

-Carl Jung

QUOTE

CORNER

STAFF UPDATE



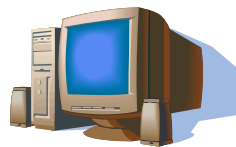
Archivist **Kay Benedict** comes in two days a week to process books, photos, and other documents, as well as to field research requests that come via phone and e-mail. She also works with Merrilyn Ridgeway on processing the Oral History Collection. It seems as if the task of processing all the

archival materials is never ending and Kay has been steadfast in her commitment to this project.

Longtime volunteer **Nancy Hancock** continues to come into the museum twice a month to process new and renewal memberships to the Society. Although some of the membership process has moved to a computerized system, Nancy still handles all the membership mailings, as well as memorial donations. She has also co-chaired the Dorothy Powell Speaker Series with Merrilyn this season. We thank Nancy for her dedication!

Office assistant **Dee Heinle** continues to serve as the smiling face that greets visitors as they come into the museum office. In addition to her administrative duties Dee also devotes her special touch to the Museum Shop, finding unique toys, gifts, books, and jewelry to sell. Maintaining the inventory, pricing the items, and processing sales can be a busy task, but Dee handles it all. She frequently steps in as a substitute museum greeter when there is a vacancy in the schedule, and always works the first Sunday of each month to run the Family Fun Sunday program for our young visitors. Dee has also added her creativity to the Annual Meeting and Old Timers' Picnic, arranging the set-up and decorations. We appreciate all that Dee does for our museum!

Technology coordinator **Lou Hillman** has been a great resource to the staff. He is always willing to help with any technical issues that arise—printers, fax machines, phones, or e-mail. And sometimes the issues aren't as technically challenging, like painting a display case or changing a light bulb, but Lou is always willing to help out! One of his bigger goals is the museum's website; he keeps it up-to-date in the short term with a plan of revitalizing the website in the long term. We are happy to have him on board!



Volunteer **Deb Miller** did an excellent job orchestrating the "Walk Through the Past" event for the museum's Centennial celebration. Numerous hours went into writing scripts, designing costumes, and gathering volunteers in order for this very successful program to

take place. Deb also continues to select and display the Artifact of the Month case in the museum lobby. This is a great way to let the public see items from our collection that are usually stored away. We greatly appreciate her contributions to the museum.



April 1st marks the end of **Ashley Moser's** first year with the Historical Society and Museum. As administrator, Ashley works closely with the Board, staff, and volunteers in their various roles at the Museum in addition to the administrative tasks that come with running the museum office. She has overseen the special exhibits, events, and programs held throughout the season—particularly the Hot Wings for History Cook-off and the Father Kino exhibit—and is already formulating next year's calendar of events. She has also supervised the Heritage Hall renovation which grew and evolved from its original idea. However, Ashley could not have achieved such a successful season without the hard work of the devoted staff and volunteers that truly keep our museum running. Ashley is currently working closely with Chairwoman Gloria Johnson-Storie and the Night at the Museum committee for the 3rd annual fundraiser on April 14th.

Merrilyn Ridgeway is one of our "full-time volunteers" who does grant writing for the museum, oversees the education program, and co-chaired the Dorothy Powell Speaker Series. However, that is nowhere near the extent of her jobs at the museum. She has also overseen the transcription and digitization of the Oral History Collection, run the docent training, organized the Centennial Quilt Display, assists with clerical tasks, and she continues to lend insight and organization to every event and exhibit here at the museum. We thank Merrilyn for her untiring efforts!



In addition to serving as Secretary of the Board, Collections Manager **Dawn Snell** has been hard at work finishing up accession of the Johnson Collection, which includes a variety of stone tools and shell jewelry. With so many small artifacts that require descriptions, measurements, and photographs as part of the accession process, this has at times been a tedious collection to process, but Dawn is nearing completion on this project. Dawn has also been working with Dee and Vice President Patty Norris on the Annual Meeting, Old Timers' Picnic, and Night at the Museum committees.

Be a Part of History

Our strong collections of photos, artifacts, yearbooks, and documents tell the story of life in Casa Grande during its first 50 years. That is not, unfortunately, true of the most recent 50 years when change has been so dramatic.



Items that help tell the story of education, agriculture, town life, prominent people and events in Casa Grande are being lost forever. Because the Society does not seek out and purchase artifacts, we depend on the thoughtfulness and generosity of local citizens and members.

Unless objects that today seem mundane are preserved, there is little hope for the future for our museum. We are appealing directly to our membership and to those who have lived in Casa Grande since 1960 to consider donating items and photographs to bring our collection more up to date.

In order to fulfill our mission of collecting, sharing, and preserving local history the local community must play a role in our Society and Museum. Your help is needed now so that your children, your grandchildren, and others will be able to learn from the stories each of us has to tell. If you are not sure whether the Society would need an item or items, and you would like to speak with someone about your donation, please call the Society office at 520.836.2223.

Photographs will be scanned and returned, if the donor wishes. Your contribution is tax deductible.



ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

Moccasin is considered a Cree or Algonquin word only because the Algonquins were the first Indians Europeans encountered wearing the distinctive footwear.

Originally made of soft leather sewn together with sinew, many other tribes in other locations made them of deer, elk, or buffalo skin. Styles and patterns differed from tribe to tribe. Based on the style and type of decoration, tribes could often be identified just by their footwear. Beads, quills, and other decorative elements were used to decorate the moccasins. Bead work was most common among the Plains Indians and their moccasins were elevated to a work of collectible art.



Research Update

The museum staff receives requests for information throughout the season in person and via phone and e-mail. The following is merely a sampling of some recent requests.

In February, Aleta Ringlero, a PhD student from the University of Arizona searched our photograph collection to assist in her exhibition research for the Arizona State Museum. Her search included photographs of Casa Grande, the railroad depot, and photos featuring Pima, Papago, and Maricopa objects. Local resident Sue Reeves came in to gather information on one of the Society's founders, Sunshine Garrett, for a presentation. In March, Marge Jantz completed research on the Presbyterian Church (now the museum's Heritage Hall) for an article for the Historic Preservation Commission. Late last year, the staff was contacted by another local resident, Paul Bundy, who referenced an article in the New York Times about the proper pronunciation of our town. It even mentioned the Historical Society. How exciting that Casa Grande gets mentioned in national newspapers!

In all, we have received about 15 research-related queries since the beginning of the season. The staff is happy to accommodate researchers and share the museum's archives and collections with the public. Please call or e-mail the office 3-5 days in advance so that we can gather materials pertaining to your topic of interest.





CASA GRANDE
VALLEY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY & MUSEUM

110 W. Florence Blvd.
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

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

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Casa Grande, AZ 85122

A great way to support the Museum with a chance to win a gorgeous piece of history...

Centennial Quilt Raffle

Tickets \$5 each

This beautiful king-sized quilt was hand-made by local resident Donna McMahon.

The raffle drawing will be held at the 3rd Annual Night at the Museum on Saturday, April 14.

You need not be present to win. All proceeds go directly to the Historical Society. The quilt is currently on display at the Museum. For more details or tickets please contact the museum office at (520) 836-2223. Raffle tickets are also available at the museum Front Desk.

