**Make History! Join the Cave Creek Museum**

All memberships include a ten percent discount in the Museum Store, free entry to the Museum with membership card, and monthly newsletters.

For membership, volunteer opportunities or other Museum information, call 480-488-2764 or Email: info@cavecreekmuseum.com

**Visit the Museum Website at**: www.cavecreekmuseum.org

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**Collections Team Comes Out of Closet!**

At the May Annual Meeting (pictured left to right): Judith Hattell, Ardis Meaduna, Gwen Harwood, Carol Caldwell (chair) and Nancy Zeno were recognized for all their hard work and professional achievements in advancing the Collections Area of the Museum.

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**As always, your membership supports collections, preservation and educational programming. Thank you.**

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**WHO’S ON BOARD**

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**Evelyn Johnson, Executive Director; Karen Friend, Administrative Support Staff; Stephanie Bradley, Nuggets newsletter Editor**

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**Museum Store**

**Monday-Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Sunday: 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.**

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**The Mission of the Cave Creek Museum is to preserve the artifacts of the prehistory, history, culture and legacy of the Cave Creek/Carefree foothills area through education, research, and interpretative exhibits.**
Welcome to the 2015-2016 season at the Cave Creek Museum. I am honored and humbled to be the President of our museum and look forward to contributing to its ongoing success. As usual, we are looking forward to seeing our returning visitors, volunteers and members. Cave Creek, and the Desert Foothills area, still see many seasonal residents, and the months are fast approaching that bring them here, along with the many tourists the great State of Arizona, and our area, attracts.

There will be many new experiences at the museum beginning with the new displays, including our always interesting Archaeological wing and an updated Pioneer wing. That is as much as I’m going to say about the many new things to see. Instead, I invite you to visit. If you’ve been here before but want to return and, bring a friend. In fact we’d like you, our members, to assist us in increasing our community exposure and growing our membership. It is obvious our members appreciate their Cave Creek Museum and it’s mission (To preserve the artifacts of the pre-history, culture and legacy of the Cave Creek/Carefree foothills areas through education, research and interpretive exhibits) so our members are the perfect ambassadors.

September 26 brings back ‘Museum Day Live,’ hosted by the Smithsonian Magazine, from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free with a Museum Day Live ticket, which may be obtained by registering at www.smithsonian.org. On October 1, the museum opens for the season and October 10 brings the first of our ‘History Highlights’ series with Growing Up In Cave Creek. These are free to our members and only $5 for non-members. Keep your eye on our on-line calendar and future newsletters as these presentations will occur each month through May.

November 10 is our annual Miners’ Dinner fundraiser at the museum. If you haven’t attended one of these previously, you don’t want to miss this one. Demonstrations, food, drink and music all contribute to the fun. And this is just the beginning.

Finally, I’d also like you to reach out to those you know who might have history, or an interest in the history of Cave Creek, Carefree and the Desert Foothills area. We want stories, photographs, historic items, artifacts and memorabilia that will serve to preserve our local history. As days and years pass, so do lives, and with them history. Help us preserve it for all.

Ron Roberts
Museum President

President’s Letter

Each year as June I approach people often ask me ‘what are you going to do with all your free time since the museum is closed?’ I explain that even though the front doors are locked there is more activity going on than during the visitor season. They usually look puzzled until I explain that this is the time that we make new exhibits and plan events and programming for the rest of the season. This year I did take time away from the museum (June and July) — but that does not mean that there was any less work being done. Each time I popped into the museum, I would be shocked at the changes taking place. I wish I could take time lapse photography to show you what I mean. Instead, you get to experience the changes in one grand entry. I can tell you that some exhibit cases moved to one spot, then another and finally back to their original location. You will be amazed — I hope! All of this could not be accomplished without an awesome team of volunteers.

While the dog days of summer seemed to never end, another group was planning events and programming that you have requested. Be sure to check out our calendar of events and make note of those offerings that are of interest to you so you don’t miss them. I’m definitely signing up for the ‘Vino & Canvas’. I can drink wine even if I can’t paint but who knows! A glass of wine might be just what I need to be able to paint. Of course you might like the kokedama class too. In the event that you don’t know what this is I’ll give you a hint; it involves dirt and a plant. All the programs are not set yet so be sure to check the website for up-to-date info. We welcome a new web princess, Jennifer Altoff, who has given the website some updates, added pictures and is trying to make things easier for you, the user. If you have a suggestion, please let me know. We have already implemented two suggestions from users to make it better.

We are off to a great start for the 46th season of sharing our rich history with residents and visitors. We are always looking for new volunteers so if you know someone who would enjoy what we do at the museum, I will be happy to contact them to invite them to be an active part of history making today.

Evelyn Johnson
Executive Director

Executive Director’s Letter

Enjoy Culture Pass!

Enjoy free admissions to such venues as the Heard Museum, Phoenix Art Museum and, of course, the Cave Creek Museum!

Passes, good for seven days for two people, are available at local public libraries, including the Desert Foothills Library.

To see a full listing of FREE attractions and more, visit: www.theculturepass.org.

Thanks to the sponsors, including the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and Macy’s, for promoting the program.

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Visit our ghost on twitter:
She says:
What a racket all summer long with volunteers painting, moving exhibits, cleaning cases. I will be glad to have visitors is waiting for you in the Museum. I saw a dust plume I quickly pulled off the road. Nothing.

All he did was crawl under the door jamb where I kept an eye on him until he gave up and crawled away.

Thirdly, while I have written about Catherine Jones in the past, I will re-state Bill’s warning about going out Spur Cross Road. ‘Watch for the rooster tail of dust filling the air.’ That was the tell-tale sign that Catherine Jones who, in her mind, owned the road. After all, she had been traveling it for decades. If I saw a dust plume I quickly pulled off the road. Nothing.

And finally, of course, don’t waste water.

Editor’s Note: Bev’s lessons are a reminder for even long-time residents, as I count myself to be. In August we had a rattlesnake in the garage, which my husband Steve humanely relocated. The next day Steve noticed a tiny coil, a baby rattler. He gave it a new home. A week later, as we returned from the airport with guests from India, snoozing on the garage welcome mat was an unwelcome guest, another rattlesnake baby. Three more appeared later, all in new homes.—Stephanie Brody

This illustrates that while archaeology is a study of the past through material remains, it does not mean the discipline is stagnant. As we learn more about the ancient people of the Southwest, we can apply that knowledge to the interpretation of the material objects they have left behind.

YE S T E R Y E A R
Desert Lessons for a Chicago Greenhorn

When I married my late husband Bill Metcalfe on November 2, 1960, I abandoned the Midwest and came to Cave Creek to live. The ink was hardly dry on our marriage certificate when he gave me all the survival instructions I would need for desert living.

First, I was to shake out clothes and especially my shoes before I put them on, in case scorpions or other bugs got in them. It helps to keep a spick and span house, as I have only seen three scorpions since I moved here 55 years ago.

Second, I was to look down when going out the door, as rattlesnakes like thresholds. I had one snake try to get in. All he did was crawl under the door jamb where I kept an eye on him until he gave up and crawled away.

Thirdly, while I have written about Catherine Jones in the past, I will re-state Bill’s warning about going out Spur Cross Road. ‘Watch for the rooster tail of dust filling the air.’ That was the tell-tale sign that Catherine Jones who, in her mind, owned the road. After all, she had been traveling it for decades. If I saw a dust plume I quickly pulled off the road. Nothing.

We launched this year’s “Artifact of the Month” exhibit with this sturdy pottery jug made in the style identified as “obliterated corrugated,” which refers to the exterior texture almost certainly crafted by using coil construction. Remember grade school art classes when you exterior texture almost certainly crafted by using coil construction. Remember grade school art classes when you

Pueblo People is a refinement of that, with the craftsper-

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

The Museum Ghost is baa-aack. She says:
What a racket all summer long with volunteers painting, moving exhibits, cleaning cases. I will be glad to have visitors back for some peace and quiet! Visit our ghost on twitter: twitter.com/cavecreekghost

Thanks to all our business members

the Museum Store.

Please! Add the Museum to your thoughtful donations!

What a gem of a store! Find all new jewelry and gift ideas—like the new Carefree History book!

Shop the Museum Store Books* Jewelry* Gifts open during Museum hours

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Thanks to all our business members
Overton Mystery

Her historical doyenne, Mrs. Frances C. Carlson, author of Cave Creek and Carefree, A History of the Desert Foothills, passed on June 24, 2015. Her book, published in 1988, is the definitive resource for anyone interested in Cave Creek or Carefree history from the canal-building, prehistoric Hohokam to the ingenious Carefree developer Tom Darlington and K.T. Palmer in the 1960s.

One issue in Carlson’s book remained unanswered, and that was the source of the name of Cave Creek’s first post office, called Overton. The first permanent Anglo settlers in the area were Jeriah and Amanda Wood. They settled near the creek, named Cave Creek by the U.S. Army in 1866, near today’s Rancho Mana'a Golf Resort. The couple established Cave Creek Station in 1877 and by 1880 the first post office in the area was operating. Mrs. Carlson states in chapter three, “Jeriah Wood’s little station began to take on a busy, prosperous air...he supplied the needs of passing travelers and sold beef and milk to the nearby [mining] camps. In the fall of 1880, his station became a post office, and he took on the duty of postmaster. For reasons lost to history, this first post office at Cave Creek Station was named Overton.”

I have a hypothesis which may solve this enigma. It involves the fact Cave Creek Station was in an area replete with an abundance of Hohokam artifacts and irrigation canals (ditches) according to today’s archaeologists. It involves one of the entrepreneurial founders of the towns of Phoenix and Cave Creek, William B. Hellings. And finally, it involves an Arizona county that no longer exists. Let’s put the puzzle together.

Think of the shape of the state of Nevada. As it tapers to a southern point, most of which is now called Clark County, includes a town called Overton (and also includes the entertainment mecca of Las Vegas). Overton, Nevada (north of Lake Mead) was settled in 1869. In the 1880s it was the location of the only store in the area called Moapa Valley; it was also the location of a plethora of ancient Native American artifacts and petroglyphs. In Overton today, one may find the “Lost City Museum.”

The museum’s emphasis is on the Native Americans who thrived in the area from A.D. 300 to A.D. 1200; archaeologists now identify the group as Ancestral Puebloans (formerly Anasazi). This situation sounds strikingly similar to Cave Creek Station. Could there be a correlation? Overton was in Nevada, or was it?

Originally, Overton was in Arizona! Almost the entire southern “tip” of Nevada was a part of Arizona; now called the “Lost County.” Pah-Ute (Pauute) County, as it was known, existed from 1865 until 1871. When the United States Congress approved legislation to transfer this property to Nevada there was an Arizona firestorm of contention, albeit fruitless. I would suggest that Jeriah and Amanda Wood became aware of this area, including Overton from the knowledgeable and influential William B. Hellings.

Mr. Hellings owned and farmed two sections of land near the Salt River. He eventually built an extremely prosperous flour mill; this area, just a few miles from the original Phoenix town site, became known as Mill City. In 1873, Mr. Hellings hired 50 men to build Cave Creek Road and started purchasing mines in the Cave Creek area. One mine was called Continental Mine, and it ties the namesake of Continental Mountain. Mrs. Carlson tells us he intended to establish Cave Creek Station, but he didn’t. Did he communicate with Jeriah and Amanda Wood and influence them to move forward with this idea? I believe he did because his neighbor in Phoenix was Josiah Wood, Jeriah’s brother. Did they discuss the “Lost County” and Overton’s similarities to Cave Creek Station? It would be quite a coincidence if they didn’t. I guess we’ll never know.

Thanks to the Cave Creek Museum, the history of Cave Creek Station, the Overton post office, and Mrs. Carlson’s invaluable legacy will be preserved in perpetuity for appreciative future generations. Mrs. Frances C. Carlson was a first-class historian, and always, gave her stamp of approval to the Cave Creek Museum.

Kraig Nelson, docent

This article by Kraig won Peak magazine’s “Write Stuff” contest.

Fran Carlson, author of Cave Creek and Carefree, Arizona, passed away June 24, shortly after the death of her husband. Despite the early loss of her father and the Great Depression, she and her siblings graduated from college. Fran married her wartime sweetheart Duane in 1946. After he retired, they moved to Arizona. Fran became active in local historical societies, published numerous magazine articles, and worked as a historical researcher. Her area history book is still used in docent training.

* FALL 2015 *

www.cavecreekmuseum.com
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- Rosson House Museum, Phoenix
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★ OR, if you have an account, just go directly to it.
★ Once in your account, register for the Fry’s Community Rewards by clicking ‘Community’ from the menu tab.
★ Under ‘Find Your Organization,’ Enter 97371 or Cave Creek Museum then select ‘search’.
★ Then select ‘save changes’.
★ If you have registered correctly, you should now see the museum listed under ‘Community Rewards’ on your Account Summary page.

Sue Beastall, Ann Engdahl and Margie Olson had a rousing time at last year’s Miners’ Dinner and are ‘raving to go’ at this year’s! Join them!

Michael Quintance swabs the deck last summer in preparation for the AmAZing Cowboys exhibit.

(Celebrate the Stamp Mill!
PLANNOW TO ENJOY AN EVENING UNDER THE STARS WITH FRIENDS AT THE FUN AND POPULAR MINERS’ DINNER
ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
STARTING AT 4:30 P.M.
WATCH FOR DETAILS IN NEXT MONTH’S NUGGETS.

(Amazing cowboys continued from page 1)

The hackamore was a gentler introduction for horses learning to be controlled by a rider. Some horses responded so well that they didn’t need to transition to a conventional bridle and bit. A hackamore, woven by an anonymous cowboy, is available for your inspection and appreciation.

Another braided item, also woven by cowboys on the range, is a set of hobbles on the Porter saddle. Their use is demonstrated in the nearby art work. Out on the range, trees are sparse so there is no ready place to tie up horses. These hobbles allowed horses to rest and graze but the constraint deterred their escape.

Our thanks to Michael Quintance and Kyra Quintance for their efforts in making this outstanding exhibit and “Saddle Up,” the accompanying exhibit in the Pioneer Wing featuring European saddles. The West wouldn’t be the West without our cowboy heritage. Here in the Cave Creek area, that heritage is every bit as true.

Whether you saddle up regularly or know about the cowboy life from old westerns, this exhibit has an array of fascinating detail about the accouterments of cowboys. Pictures relate to the physical exhibits.

What do you think of this the way to wash our clothes?

Is this the way to wash our clothes?

Michael Quintance swabs the deck last summer in preparation for the AmAZing Cowboys exhibit.

The Archaeology Collection’s Dynamic Duo—Nancy Zane and Sue Mueller—dismantling displays in preparation for new ones.
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PLAN TO GATHER ALL THE GENERATIONS IN YOUR FAMILY FOR A FASCINATING ARRAY OF FREE HANDS-ON FAMILY WORKSHOPS GUARANTEED TO SPARK INTEREST, EDUCATE AND ENTERTAIN!

Sunday, October 4
Our Desert Animal Neighbors
Learn about desert animals - where they live, what they eat, and how to identify their tracks and scat. Try your hand at identifying ‘who goes there’ at night.

Sunday, November 1
Gold Fever
Get “gold fever!” Discover what it took to mine for gold in the nearby hills by mining chocolate chip cookies. Use your “chips” to buy supplies from your gold exchange. You even get to eat your earnings at the end of the event!

Sunday, December 6
Holiday Party
Join us as Gary, Arizona’s Singing Cowboy, and his trusty horse, Dusty, entertain at this joyful holiday party. Before Gary and Dusty perform at 2:30 p.m., discover what traditions were part of the holiday season in early Cave Creek. Try your hand at gold panning! And, of course, plan on cookie decorating! Note time: From 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 3
Our Pioneer Ancestors
Join us for bread and butter making to celebrate the life of the pioneers in Cave Creek at the turn of the century. Discover how they were the REAL recyclers by weaving rugs, and playing games from yester-year. Add a new (old) game to your family evenings.

Plan to gather all the generations in your family for a fascinating array of free hands-on Family Workshops guaranteed to spark interest, educate and entertain!

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For the second year in a row, we extend congratulations to both Nuggets columnist Kraig Nelson and Nuggets Editor Stephanie Bradley who were recently recognized for their writing skills by the online Peak magazine. Kraig was adjudged winner 2015 for the “Seeing and Doing” category and Stephanie for her poem in the “What’s Worth Preserving” category.