



DECEMBER ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

Christmas in the early years of the 20th century, was a much simpler and more community oriented celebration than current day festivities.

We don't have any information on how townsfolk celebrated in December of 1912, but festivities documented elsewhere suggest Cave Creek would have celebrated similarly.

The family would have risen early — not with a gift-driven melee by a Christmas tree, but with chores that did not recognize the calendar. After the daily responsibilities were taken care of, THEN the children could investigate what Santa had brought them.

Depending on the economies of the family, they may or may not have had a Christmas tree, which, given the absence of evergreens in the desert, probably only the most affluent of Cave Creek residents "imported" a pine tree from the mountains.

In most cases, the family ran to stockings that had been "hung by the chimney with care". The stockings would have been lumpy with nuts, maybe some penny candy, an apple or — extravagance — an orange!

There also might have been a few paper wrapped packages. Christmas wrapping paper was first invented in 1903 in St. Louis by the Hall brothers (guess what company they founded!), but probably was expensive and not easily accessible to the average resident, so the paper would have been recycled newspaper or tissue, tied with ribbons and hiding handcrafted items such as toys, hankies, knitted socks. Wealthier families, someone might have visited the stores in Phoenix for luxury items. After gift-giving, the family would have sat down to breakfast.

And then, according to Christmas Customs Around the World, by Herbert Henry Wernecke (Westminster Press; 1959), the community would start to gather at the local church. Well, Cave Creek did not have a church until the first one was built in 1946, which is now part of the Cave Creek Museum collections. One might assume that they would have come together at the Cave Creek School. The gathering would probably

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have been preceded by a brief religious service by a local minister or town elder. And then came the feast! Everyone would have brought a dish to share.

According to Wernecke, "The meal consisted of meats and potatoes and beans; bake goods of every variety and a caldron of oil was set above a fire to fresh-fry doughnut that were drizzled with honey or sprinkled with sugar. There were tubs of coffee and cases of breads and buns. Family and friends would gather to eat at numerous campfires."

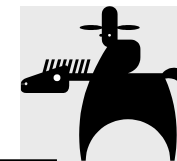
Because frontier communities were also cultural mixed bags, there probably would have been dishes inspired by the Hispanic community, such as beans and rice and tamales. Favored fare from Slavic countries and Germany and Poland might also have been included. Wernecke reports that after: "... the bounteous meal, a siesta under the trees is in order. Later the babies continue to sleep, the children play and the grown-up continue to visit. At dusk all gather in the church [school] for the program — songs, music, recitations, even the "Hallelujah Chorus." After the program, Santa comes through with sweets for the children. Another joyful Christmas Day has come and gone.

—Darlene Southern

In Memorial

Longtime member Ed Myers passed away September 22.
Former volunteer and member Arline Fraser passed away October 7.

Member Robyn Davidson on October 26.
Veterinarian Brent Baker passed away November 1.
Our condolences to the families of these Museum friends.



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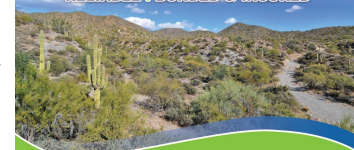
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holidays! Museum programs and
shopping the Museum Store and
mixing with Christmas Past.**



CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS



~BEV'S BITS~ CHRISTMAS PAST

I WENT TO MY FIRST MOTHER'S CLUB meeting in September 1961, and was given the job of running the Halloween Party, the Christmas Party, and the Easter Egg Hunt.

With another December upon us, the old Cave Creek Christmas Party comes to mind. The Mother's Club had a Santa Claus suit that my late husband Bill Metcalfe readily agreed to put it on. Two things pertaining to costumes and Bill: 1. Wild horses could not get Bill away from wearing a costume, and 2. our two little children Rusty and Randi Ann never believed in Santa Claus because they helped him get dressed in his outfit every year for the Christmas Party.

The Mother's Club bought a present for every child in our community from the fifth grade on down to the tiniest baby. The first year I did it all by myself. It was a big job, but I had fun with it. You have to understand that there were only 500 people in our entire school district, at the time, so it was not an impossible task. When I married Bill, there were only 66 kids in school, and very few pre-schoolers.

Also in 1961, Bill brought me to Beverly Thelander's house when she started the choir practice for the Christmas Pageant. I have been singing since I was about three years old, so this was right up my alley. I made a lot of friends over the next few weeks. Only one is still alive, Vera Roberts



Gugel, our Museum president's mother, my dearest, oldest friend.

That pageant was FABULOUS. Beverly asked Vera to sing *Ava Maria* in Spanish, as Vera had such a beautiful voice. At first, she said no as her husband had died just a few months prior, but she finally said yes, and did a magnificent job! The night was so clear and the stars were so bright, it was nothing like I had ever experienced before, coming from Illinois. I had said that it did not feel like Christmas without snow, but Mary Bonnell put me straight right away, saying that this weather was more like the desert where Christ Jesus was born.

I have never heard *O Holy Night* as beautifully sung before or since as when it was performed by seventeen year old Johnny Breitner. All of the songs we did that night drifted out over the desert air into the natural amphitheatre of Black Mountain to where people were sitting.

The Pageant was started in 1952 by Jean Hackler and her eight 4H girls as a Christmas Present to the whole community. It was meant to be a one time thing, but is still being presented over a half a century later. Dr. Hudson, owner of one of the ranches north of Cave Creek, offered the grounds on the north side of Black Mountain for the performance. These days the Pageant is held at Spur Cross.

—Beverly Metcalfe Brooks

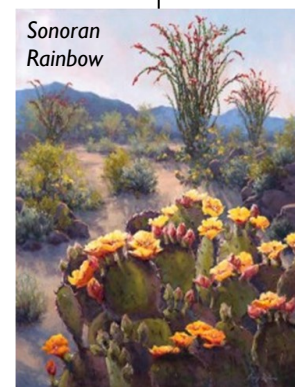
YESTERYEAR ★ YESTERYEAR

(Lucy Dickens continued from page 1)

Lucy took classes and workshops, visited museums and studied works by other artists. The more Lucy painted, the more she discovered a talent for seeing, capturing, and painting moments that stir one's emotions. Lucy describes her style as an expressive or painterly realism.

"The interplay of light and shadow draw me deeply into a scene," she explains of her process. Lucy employs her spiritual love of nature to evoke feelings of peace in her artwork. She wants to capture these "God moments" and share them with the world, to bring hope and light to those that view her paintings, to in-

spire, causing them to pause and see the beauty around them.



Sonoran
Rainbow

"It's those moments of beauty that cause me to feel, to reflect, and to give thanks; a scene that has a power, placidity and intensity that draws me in. It's these fleeting illustrations that I strive to capture. There is a story in these segments of time, and therefore, a story in all my paintings. I am a Fine Art Storyteller."

Each of Lucy's paintings is a window created to take a journey and find serenity. Peer into her paintings, giclees and signed prints on display in the Ansbaugh Auditorium. All are available for purchase.

★ **DECEMBER 2017** ★

www.cavecreekmuseum.com

**Becoming Arizona**

TERRITORIAL HISTORY is an important part of what's exhibited and discussed at the Cave Creek Museum.

Let's start with a short quiz, one question. When did the future state of Arizona achieve territorial status? Select one answer: a) 2/14/1862 b) 2/24/1863 c) 9/9/1850 d) all the above. Let's examine each date starting with the earliest first. First, some historical background.

The United States battled Mexico in a war that started in 1846 and ended on February 2, 1848 with the *Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo*. The U.S., under President James K. Polk (eleventh president), prevailed. The Mexican-American War resulted in America acquiring nearly all the land now recognized as New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, California, Texas, and western Colorado.

U.S. land acquisition from Mexico didn't end in 1848. The next acquisition was a real estate deal, not a war. In 1853 President Franklin Pierce (fourteenth president) sent diplomat James Gadsden to negotiate with Mexico's President Antonio de Santa Ana for land that would provide a route for a southern railroad. The U.S. eventually agreed to pay Mexico \$10 million for 29,670 square miles of land which became part of today's Arizona and a small allocation to today's New Mexico. All parties signed the agreement by June 8, 1854 ratifying the *Gadsden Purchase*.

After the *Gadsden Purchase*, the land for America's future 48 contiguous states was in place. On September 9, 1850, the territory of New Mexico was created, which included most of the land we recognize today as New Mexico and Arizona—today's fifth and sixth largest states respectively. (If both were joined today, the combined land would cover over 79,000 square miles, larger than California.)

The capital of the 1850 territory was Santa Fe. Because of legislating and enforcing law over such a huge area (exacerbated by marauding Apaches), the government in Santa Fe began thinking of territorial division; seminal "Arizona" discussions were born.

In April 12, 1861, the Civil War started. The Confederacy wanted the southern portion of the New Mexico territory to gain access to California, lucrative mines, and the opportunity for a Confederate southern railroad (ultimately, the Southern Pacific Railroad was built in the

Docent's Corner

early 1880s). The Confederate States of America wanted a slave state. During secession conventions in March 1861, delegates voted to create the *Confederate Territory of Arizona*. This territory consisted of the southern half of today's New Mexico and Arizona south of the 34th parallel. This was the first territorial entity called Arizona! The capital was Mesilla (now in New Mexico). On February 14, 1862, Confederate President Jefferson Davis officially approved the new territory. Although the Confederates were ousted from the region in March 1862 after the Battle of Glorieta Pass (about 15 miles southeast of Santa Fe), Confederates recognized the area as their territory until the end of the Civil War. At that point the capital was moved to El Paso, Texas, a slave state.

Ohio Congressman, James Ashley, introduced the *Arizona Organic Act* to Congress in 1862. The purpose was to create a Union Arizona Territory. State historian Marshall Trimble says Mr. Ashley found strong opposition in both Houses because there were fewer than 2,500

Anglos living in the area with boundaries we recognize today, a north/south division with New Mexico at the 109th meridian. Mr. Ashley felt, and sold the idea, mineral wealth in Arizona would help the Union War effort (it didn't hurt that two of the largest mines in Arizona were chartered in Ohio). On February 24, 1863, President Lincoln signed the *Organic Act* and Arizona became a territory. Fort Whipple was the first territorial capital and shortly, Prescott was established and became capital.

It looks like the correct answer for today's quiz is (d) all the above.

As Museum docents we are able and happy to answer difficult questions. Because of this we have received effusive praise over the years, it's almost embarrassing. I

guess that's why, as a group of proud docents, we are considered to be extremely... "well-red."

Kraig Nelson, Docent



2016-2017 Volunteers of the Year: Nancy Zeno and Sue Mueller for their work in the Archaeology Wing.



On November 5, friends gathered to wish Evelyn Johnson well on her retirement as Museum Executive Director (above with husband Don).

Below: Carol Caldwell (left) and Geena ? (right) wish new adventures to Evelyn Johnson and Museum dog Aegle as they both explore new activities.



Left: New Executive Director Karrie Porter Brace salutes Wild West Days in the event's November parade.

Miners' Dinner 2017

Right: Diane Flach and Geri Voss cheer a fun evening under the stars.



Chowing down on great barbecue and lots of it.



A balmy evening made for a relaxing evening of wonderful food, melodious music by Mike Ewing, demonstrations and good friends.



Below: Pam DiPietro, Mary Gavagon, Janet Mueller and Bev Brooks share stories from "the early days."



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