



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

CAVE CREEK IS ONE of Arizona's great historic towns. From its ancient times to just yesterday, Cave Creek folks have made its history more than a dusty textbook of local lore. This year's Home Tour added to the lively scene.

I have been deeply moved by the generosity and magnanimity of our four homeowners who opened their homes and shared their stories and treasures. Each host had a unique and welcoming abode.

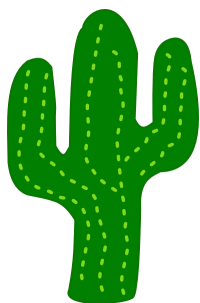
The garden oases of the Monachino Residence offered Southwestern tranquility. The playfulness and creativity of the Davidson Residence showed off their lives' work in glamorous fashion. The Coffee-O'Malley Home and Studio are a workspace, showplace, and gallery all in one. The Wind Horse Ranch Bed & Breakfast and Equestrian Resort is the perfect retreat for anyone to enjoy Cave Creek, riding the trails or in peaceful respite through a yoga pose or a book. All these hosts have my sincerest gratitude.

Our 2018 Homes through Time Home Tour would not be possible without the dedication of our army of volunteers! Tour Chair Sharon McGuire leads her committee to seek out the best venues and establish lasting relationships with our patrons. Rita Treat has created the popular Kitchen Garden Boutique. House captains, co-captains, and volunteers include Barbara Giammalva, Jane Heidel, Debbie Peterson, Judi Smith, Anne Wallace, Nancy Zeno, and many, many others! Great thanks also goes to Pamela Patton who created a lovely keepsake to remember the beauty and wonder of these lovely desert homes. Stephanie Bradley greatly assisted with the Home Tour ticket booklet. Charlie Connell and the Dream Team provided the muscle and ingenuity to overcome hardware and hardship. Museum Assistant Karen Friend has been indispensable in advising and managing the administrative logistics and ticket sales.

All of us, however, are deeply indebted to the life's work of Cave Creek Museum Director Emeritus Evelyn Johnson. Her continuing devotion to this institution ensures all will thrive as we take it into the future. Her mentorship during my on-board transition has provided the support, networks, and resources for the ongoing success of the museum and the Carefree-Cave Creek-Desert Foothills community.

I deeply, sincerely THANK YOU ALL.

Karrie Porter Brace
Executive Director
Cave Creek Museum

APRIL ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH
PRESSED FLOWER ALBUMS

PRESERVING PLANTS by pressing originated with early botanists. Even in Greek and Roman times, flower pressing was a practical way for a botanist to bring specimens back from the wild for later recording and analyzing. The botanist's plant press comprised two large flat boards surrounding alternating stacks of paper which separated plants. The apparatus was kept tight with adjustable straps.

During Victorian times, flower pressing captured and preserved the beauty of the natural world. You may remember a grandmother or great aunt who pressed flowers between the pages of old books.



Newcomers to the area found the local flora unusual and fascinating compared to the verdant green of their former homes. As is often the case with items in the Museum's collection, we do not know the history of the album on display, but it is easy to imagine its creator being enthralled by the flora that thrives in this waterless, sun-blasted environment. Captivated by the delicate flowers that emerged despite the rigorous conditions, the album's maker carefully collected and labeled each specimen.

Make your own pressed flowers! With spring upon us it is timely and easy.

—The best time to collect your flowers is in the morning, but don't let timing stop you from plucking a pretty specimen any time of day. If there is dew on the flower, be sure to let it dry thoroughly.

—Arrange the blossom on any absorbent paper such as coffee filters, papert towels, blotting paper, etc. to dry the flowers as quickly as possible so they retain their color and shape. Once the flower is in place, add several layers of additional absorbent paper on top. Now weigh it down with a heavy book or two, a stack of magazines, any item that is heavy.

—Now Wait! Do not disturb the arrangement for at least a week or ten days; longer is better. If you try to peek before all the moisture is evaporated (or pressed out), the flower can be pulled apart when you separate the papers.

—Once sufficient time has passed, remove the weight and admire your efforts. Congratulations!

—Darlene Southern



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MUSEUM HAUNTINGS

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★ APRIL 2018 ★

CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS



~BEV'S BITS~

ROMY LOWDERMILK



IN THE 1880s cattle ranchers settled in the Cave Creek area. By the turn of the twentieth century, there were several well-established ranches. Among them were Hoskins (1881), Linvilles (1887), Cartwright spread (1887) at Seven Springs, the Morris' Quarter Circle One outfit (1890) and others.

Cave Creek was good cattle country. The Arizona climate was in a wetter cycle in those days. The old timers told me stories of Cave Creek stream running above ground year-round all the way to the valley, of grass being knee high, and of lots of filaree. So there was plenty of water and feed for the herds, until the drought in the early 1900s. At that time, Cave Creek stream went underground and those ranchers that did not have a good water supply were forced to leave. The Cartwright's spread was at the beginning of Cave Creek stream so they could keep going.

One of Cave Creek's many real working cowboys was Romaine Lowdermilk. Romy worked at the Kay El Bar in Wickenburg. That had been a working cattle ranch before he turned it into a dude ranch. He became known as the "Father of Dude Ranching in Arizona." After owning several other spreads he came to Cave Creek in 1943, and

acquired the old Howard Ranch and turned it into his last dude ranch calling it "Rancho Mañana."

In the book *Folksingers and Folksongs in America*, Romy, a noted singer, musician and composer of western music, states: "I was just lucky enough to be born early enough to get acquainted with some of the cowboys who had worked the ranges through the 1870s and 80s, to see occasional longhorns on open range. I saw big roundups and drives; saw the old backyard cowboy reunion commercialized into the modern rodeo; saw bands of wild horses on the mountain and plain, and the gradual change from the genuine Spanish mustang through the bronco era to fine quarter horses. I have seen altered brands, cow thieves, blackleg, ticks, pinkeye, screw worms, bad men in high places and good men on the dodge, stampedes, range arguments, water troubles, storms, droughts, and lots of bright sunshine and fair weather when everything's lovely and nothin' is wrong, and I'm just lazy-like, lopin' along."

That kind of tells you what the old cowboys were like that were my old friends.

I did not get a chance to meet this old cowboy, as he had sold Rancho Mañana and moved to Sedona, where he died just a few months before I moved here in 1960. But he was much like the other REAL cowboys I knew. They talked like that and had stories to tell. Just putting on a pair of boots and levis does not a cowboy make, knowing how to punch a herd of cattle does. I was fortunate enough to have known some of the old cowboys that were still here.

—Beverly Metcalfe Brooks

YESTERYEAR ★ YESTERYEAR

A RESCUE TAIL

WE ARE USED to seeing Paul Diefenderfer, aka, "Dief" working with the other Dream Team volunteers at the Museum. Dief has lots of interests and experiences beyond metal work, finagling and his artistic creations.

When the new year was still new, Dief was feeling a bit punk and stayed home. Distracting himself on Facebook, he spied a local call for help. A woman's dog had fallen 50 feet into a dry well. The pup and owner were frantic. Dief wrote to the dog's owner and said he was on the way, bringing with him a background in mountain rescue and climbing experience.



Dief and a grateful Sophie.

Dief said Sophie, the pooch, was stuck in a space smaller than she is. He fashioned a noose onto a 50-foot length of rope. "It took time and patience, trying to get the loop under her legs," Dief said. Eventually he wriggled and joggled the loop around the poor pup's middle and hoisted her up with only a scratch on her head.

The well is now tightly covered.



REMEMBERING...

We are sad to report the passing of longtime Museum member Dick Stewart on February 21 at age 89.



★ APRIL 2018 ★

www.cavecreekmuseum.com



MEN AT WORK

THE CONTRIBUTIONS of some early Phoenix residents to Cave Creek's growth were monumental; some minimal, but still important. William B. Hellings is in the monumental category, as is Francis A. Shaw and Hiram C. McDonald. Dr. Roland L. Rosson is in the minimal category but he invested in an important mine on Continental Mountain. Let's examine the importance of Hellings, Shaw, and McDonald first, and then the investment of Dr. Rosson.

Phoenix was established in 1867 and was officially recognized in 1868. When the original Phoenix townsite was identified by the Salt River Valley Town Association there were 23 signatories. William Hellings was one of them. Hellings was one of the founders of Cave Creek as well.

In 1873, he built the original Cave Creek road with 50 strong men, some hearty horses, and his own money. He intended to build Cave Creek Station (a resting spot for travelers) per historian Frances C. Carlson, but when other business issues arose, Jeriah Wood (brother of Hellings's neighbor) and his wife Amanda established Cave Creek Station in 1877. Unofficially, the town of Cave Creek was established when the Woods built their one-room adobe home near the Creek. Officially, Cave Creek states its founding year as 1870 when General George Stoneman rode through this area while establishing a shorter route to the territorial capital of Prescott, from Camp McDowell (later in April 1879 Fort McDowell). Stoneman stayed only long enough to rest, feed and water his weary horses in this new-found oasis, near today's Rancho Mañana Golf Resort, an area that **did** become the location of Cave Creek Station seven years later. The extremely ambitious Hellings started buying mining claims on Continental Mountain, including the Golden Star Mine. The Golden Star Mine eventually became the Golden Reef Mine which is where the Museum's historic Stamp Mill originated.

The first neighboring hamlet was Marion, which was later renamed Liscum, located about five miles from the Museum in today's Spur Cross Conservation Area. Both communities were anchored by what became the nationally-famous Phoenix Mine. Marion, Liscum and the Phoenix Mine have vanished but had a far-reaching effect on Cave Creek.

There was an important symbiotic relationship. The first

Docent's Corner

lived there, complete with a school, general store, and at least one saloon. The activity spawned stage service to Phoenix from Cave Creek Station to move freight, mail, and residents. The Phoenix Mine was discovered in 1878 by three Phoenix men spending free time looking for their fortune when they found large gold nuggets glimmering on the ground. The three men were Francis A. Shaw, Hiram C. McDonald, and William Kent. Mr. Shaw and Mr. McDonald had important roles in Phoenix. Francis Shaw became the second mayor of territorial Phoenix from 1881 to 1883. Hiram McDonald became a deputy town marshal and spent fifty years with the Phoenix Police Department. Little is known about Kent and was lost to history per Carlson.

Historian Carlson identifies the three most important miners on Continental Mountain: Hellings, Charles S. Fleming, and Charles E. Philes. Each was important to the future town of Cave Creek. Philes's mining claim eventually was incorporated into the last dude ranch in Cave Creek, Sierra Vista, which remained in business until 1962. Dr. Roland Rosson "grubstaked" Charles Philes, investing in the mine in hopes of future profit. Mrs. Carlson defines the concept of grubstaking as "Those unable to leave their profession grubstaked the...prospectors."

Does the name Rosson sound familiar? The Rosson House is the magnificent Queen Anne Victorian mansion/museum in Heritage Square in central Phoenix. The ten-room, 2,800 square-foot home was built with advanced amenities including hot and cold water, electric lights, indoor bathrooms, and a telephone when completed in 1895. Dr. Roland Lee Rosson was a general physician, surgeon, and politician. He was elected Maricopa County coroner, county treasurer, the ninth territorial mayor of Phoenix, and he was a Cave Creek investor.

In 1897, Dr. Rosson and his wife Flora sold their Victorian masterpiece and moved to Los Angeles amid published reports in the *Arizona Republican* of financial problems including tax delinquencies. Dr. Rosson purchased several life insurance policies, and on May 12, 1898 his luck ran out as well, as he died in Los Angeles.

Kraig R. Nelson



Rosson House

post office with the name Cave Creek was established there. Over 100 mine workers and their families



Easy as 1-2-3? Well, a few more steps were needed but the Dream Team got the Tram working.



Using brute force the wheels were placed on the cable



Group Shot

Moral of the story "there is more than one way to skin a cat"



Home Tour Chair Sharon McGuire (left) and Jane Heidel welcome Home Tour visitors. The event marked another successful fundraiser, thanks to the wonderful volunteers and organizers.



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