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**OPEN**  
October 2, 2019 through May 31, 2020  
Wednesday – Sunday  
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.  
Open Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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and tubercular  
cabin



## Make History! Become a Member of 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](mailto:info@cavecreekmuseum.com)

Visit the Museum Website at: [www.cavecreekmuseum.org](http://www.cavecreekmuseum.org)

## WHO'S ON BOARD

Contact any of the following Board Directors with your comments and ideas to make the Museum even better!

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*The Mission of the Cave Creek Museum is to preserve and interpret the natural resources and cultural heritage of the Northern Sonoran Desert*

**Karrie Porter Brace, Executive Director, Remington Pettus, Administrative Assistant; Thomas Brace, Nuggets Editor**



## Cave Creek Museum: Fifty Years of History and Preservation



This year, Cave Creek Museum celebrates its fiftieth birthday! From its quiet, humble beginnings to its current work in preserving the history of the northern Sonoran Desert, Cave Creek Museum has established itself as a household name in the minds of Cave Creek's "creekers". Cave Creek Museum began in 1968 as a small historical society with a handful of volunteers on land donated by Frank and Hazel Wright.

The museum officially opened its doors April of 1970 to the public to preserve the artifacts of the prehistory, culture and legacy of the Cave Creek / Carefree foothills. The museum was originally housed in the First Church of Cave Creek from 1970 to 1985, then moved into a more permanent building in 1986. Additional staff offices were added to the museum in 2003.

Since the museum's modest origins, this small but mighty nonprofit organization has grown to acquire many wonderful volunteers, staff, board members, and associates within the Cave Creek community. The Golden Reef Stamp Mill was acquired in 2009, taking seven years to build. It is the only continuously running stamp mill less than five miles from its original location. The tubercular cabin was donated to the museum in the 1990s by Santos Rubira and is on the National Registry of Historic Places, one of the only one's left of its kind.

**By: Remington Pettus,  
Administrative Assistant**

# NUGGETS

## April 2020

### A Message to our Volunteers, Members, Board Members, Staff, and Associates of Cave Creek Museum

On behalf of the staff of the Cave Creek Museum, we **first** and **foremost** wish to thank you for your continuing support, patience, and understanding during these unpredictable circumstances. Bear with us as we navigate these challenges for the greater good. The Cave Creek Museum **BUILDING** is closed until further notice to the public and, also, to our volunteers. Your health and safety are of the highest priority. We arrived at this difficult decision most decisively when considering how important each of you are to us—as our friends and as members of the Cave Creek Museum **Family**. We **will not** unnecessarily put you at risk, asking that everyone follow the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control to best manage the spread and impact of COVID-19.

A very important part of our plan is how we all **stay connected** and provide the **moral support** required to sustain us in the weeks (and, possibly, months...) ahead. When many of us would have regularly come and gone throughout our weekly schedules, please use the time you would have normally been in the Museum to reach out to one another through calls, correspondence, and courtesy. Social distancing does not mean total isolation; while we must take exceptional care to make sure everyone stays safe, let's stay engaged through CCM with one another, awaiting for the situation to eventually resolve.

We will be providing updates as we progress. Please check our website and Facebook page for news. If you could, please also keep us informed of any news of the Desert Foothills community and its possible impact on our efforts here.

I am so very humbly grateful for all you do on behalf of the Cave Creek Museum, for all of **YOU**.

Sincerely,  
**Karrie Porter Brace,  
Executive Director**



# Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

## Historic Highlights

By: Kraig Nelson

### Les Rhuart-Carefree

There is no question Carefree was the grand and innovative dream of two focused, forward-thinking men including Stanford graduate, Thomas "Tom" D. Darlington and University of Arizona law school graduate, Kenyon Turner "K.T." Palmer. In the 1940s, Mr. Darlington and Mr. Palmer met while attending a Kiwanis luncheon in Phoenix, the concept of a unique, desert-sensitive residential enclave was born. By 1959, the first Carefree home was sold, and a third team-member came aboard, Leslie "Les" Rhuart.

Born in 1917, Leslie was an Arizona native. His childhood home on East McDowell was built in 1912. Les' family moved from California to Arizona in 1896 where his accomplished father practiced law before the Supreme Court of the Arizona Territory. Leslie was educated in Arizona including Brophy High School, Phoenix College, and finally the University of Arizona. Mr. Rhuart earned an engineering degree.

Les Rhuart, the engineer, became a proud and successful family-man, lived in opulent Bel Air, California, and was instrumental developing the initial aircraft cabin pressurization for Garrett Corporation's AiResearch. The Phoenix AiResearch division was developing gas-turbine engines and Leslie's skills were needed; the Rhuart family relocated to Arizona for this new and challenging opportunity. This is where Leslie met and developed a long-term friendship with "creative visionary," AiResearch plant manager Tom Darlington.

Les Rhuart always had an interest in real-estate development so he embarked upon learning new skills. Les left the engineering business at AiResearch and ultimately became a director for the *Arizona-Rochester Corporation* which developed one of the first retirement communities called Youngtown, Arizona. With the planning and development of Carefree underway, coupled with an established relationship with Tom Darlington, Les Rhuart was enticed to become part of the Carefree Development Corporation's team.

Les' job descriptions were numerous, diversified, and significant as the desert-sensitive-hamlet developed. Mr. Rhuart was initially welcomed as Vice-President and General Manager, Mr. Darlington was President, and Mr. Palmer was Secretary-Treasurer. When the Carefree Water Company was formed, Les became president. When the *Red Lawrence-designed*, Desert Forest Golf Course opened Les was vice-president and later president, same with the Desert Forest Inn (later named the Carefree Inn).

## Historic Highlights

By: Kraig Nelson

Other activities included heading the committee to extend Scottsdale Road from Pinnacle Peak Road to Cave Creek Road; facilitating the first Carefree post office; working with the FAA for procuring the Carefree Airport; locating a Carefree drug store and grocery store operator with K. T. Palmer; heading the "Scenic Drive" committee; and finally, planning the Carefree Country Club, today known as the Boulders. When Tom Darlington died in 1969 while having dinner in the heart of Carefree, at Spanish Village, Mr. Leslie Rhuart became President of the Carefree Development Corporation. Upon retirement, Leslie traveled the world with his beloved wife, Marian.



From left to right: Les Rhuart, Tom Darlington, and K.T. Palmer



Carefree residents helped create the scenic Desert Foothills Drive

# Cave Creek Museum Nuggets



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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](http://www.theculturepass.org)**

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





Thank you for remembering the **Cave Creek Museum** with your end of year giving. We are a 501c3 not-for profit institution. **You can designate the Cave**

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The Cave Creek Museum is recruiting volunteers for all areas. Please call (480) 488-2764



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**Enjoy the Cave Creek Museum all season long!**

A membership provides the most convenient way to enjoy the Cave Creek Museum. It's easy, for you and your guests can come anytime we're open.

A membership to the CCM also provides you advanced notice of upcoming events, our Nuggets Newsletter and special member discounts at our Museum Store.

To learn more about our Seasonal Memberships go to <https://cavecreekmuseum.org/membership-in-the-cave-creek-museum/>

**We want to thank our Community Partners during this tumultuous time period! Let's all thank them for promoting and supporting the Cave Creek Museum! Stay strong!**

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# Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

## Cave Creek Mining District: Back in the Day



**Location:** 11 ½ miles N of Cave Creek, on Seven Springs Road.

**History** The Steinegger and Surprise Claims were recorded on this property in 1883 consisting of two 20 acre claims with a 5 acre mill site on Camp Creek. The mine was worked and a patent was granted in 1897. The same year the mine flooded out and the mine was closed down, but free milling gold and silver were found a vein reported to be twenty-four inches to four feet wide.

Those claims laid dormant until January 1989 when the Cave Creek Mistress Mining Company was founded by Pete Incardona, a miner with 26 years of experience. The decision was made to re-establish the small two man mine back to operation in the style of turn of the century. Three years were spent obtaining timbers and mining equipment to show everyone a view of an early mining site. He developed a vertical shaft and headframe, but never worked the diggings. In the late 90's Pete moved to Wickenburg to run a stone cutting studio where he made many artistic designs out of the local travertine.

*Arizona Republic*  
 Friday, April 3, 1999  
**Strike more than Gold at the Mine**

Later owner of the mistress mine, Ron Kaczor took over the mine and along with the mining history added alternative Wellness Resources including herbology, homeopathy massage and aroma theory, use of stones and crystals and a chiropractic Service.

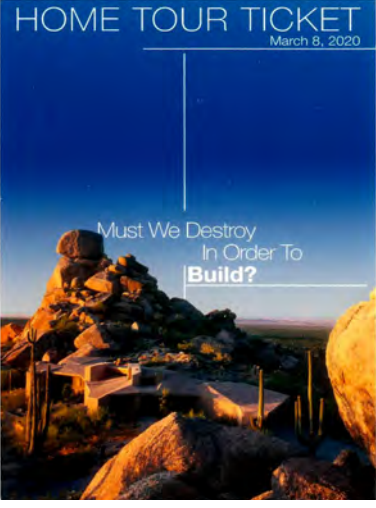
**Sources:**  
**The Arizona Republic**

*Arizona Republic*  
 Friday, June 24, 2005  
**Cave Creek Complex Fire**

The Mistress Mine's story came to an end when fire, caused by lightning strikes, destroyed the Mistress Mine facility along with many other buildings and many acres of vegetation.

By: Charlie Connell,  
 Dream Team Leader and Stamp Mill Expert

## 2020 Gerry Jones Home Tour: Thank You!



Our community should be proud of the success of the Cave Creek Museum / Gerry Jones Homes Tour that shared six of distinguished residences with over 550 chauffeured ticket holders on Sunday, March 8. This was a winning event for the small-but-mighty Cave Creek Museum, a triumph that is the outcome of a shared common purpose.

Architectural designer and builder, Gerry Jones is the man who realized the vision of Tom Darlington and KT Palmer, Carefree's founders. His love and respect for the desert was the founding principle behind his plans for mountainous roads and homes, and what started as a proposal to organize the 2020 annual spring home tour quickly grew into a much larger event. Embracing the resources of both Cave Creek and Carefree with multiple opportunities to raise funds and partner with friends and neighbors, local businesses and restaurants, museum docents, the Dream Team, and volunteers, countless people were eager to participate in our celebration of an important slice of contemporary Desert Foothills History.

The power of this community propelled this occasion to raise awareness of the museum and its mission to preserve and interpret the natural resources and cultural heritage of the northern Sonoran Desert. Notably, the intent of direct action was to honor Gerry. Months and months of preparation and coordination combined with compelling graphic materials promoted a kids' workshop at the museum, an opportunity to visit with the architect and his wife in their home, a party at a Jones-designed residence, and a lecture at Carefree's council chambers.

There are so, so many people who deserve recognition for their energy and contributions: you all take my breath away! Thank you, thank you for your time and devotion, your focus and countless hours to coordinate and help assure the success of this event. I do think it was stellar, if I say so myself ... It takes a village indeed.

Suzanne D. Johnson  
 Producer, Cave Creek Museum / Gerry Jones Event  
 Board Member, Cave Creek Museum



# Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

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## Introducing Cave Creek Museum's Project Developer, Becca Bober!

Thank you all for welcoming me into the Cave Creek Museum community! The museum is truly a unique institution that captures the heart of the Desert Foothills, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to help with the upcoming renovation of the Pioneer Wing. Having lived in the Cave Creek/Carefree community for four years, it is an honor to assist the museum in furthering its mission and vision.  
I come to the museum with experience in international archaeology, collections research, and private sector business management, as well as a passion for building community value. I am excited to use my skills and experience to represent the voices of our community in the renovation. When I'm not busy with helping the museum envision its new space, I spend my time snuggling with my dogs, felting wool, and gardening. I am looking forward to meeting many new faces and making a positive impact in the community of the Desert Foothills. You can contact me at project@cavecreekmuseum.org for any inquiries.

## In Memoriam...

### Don Deder

(1929-2020)

Don Deder was an Arizona Republic columnist, reporter, author, and former editor of Arizona Highways Magazine. After moving to Arizona from Virginia, Don Deder grew up on the Gila Bend Indian Reservation. Her served as a combat photographer from 1946 to 1948 in the U.S. Marine Corps. Post service, he graduated from ASU with a degree in journalism.  
After college, Don Deder began working for the Arizona Republic in 1951 as a columnist. He became head editor of Arizona Highways Magazine in 1983, but returned to his love of writing after two years. A lover of historic preservation, Mr. Deder helped preserve the Zane Grey Cabin in Payson, the Hubbell Trading Post, and the Phoenix Indian School with his research and writing. Don Deder has written 20 books and thousands of articles over the course of his career. Mr. Deder received the National Society of Arts and Letters Literary Award in 1988 and Lowell Thomas Award in 1990. Don Deder is survived by his loving wife, Nancy. There is no planned memorial service, as Mr. Deder's ashes will be scattered in the Mazatzal Wilderness Area, an area which he helped preserve.



## BEV'S BITS BY BEVERLY METCALFE BROOKS

Since this is the fiftieth anniversary of the Museum, I just thought I would retell a few bits of things I have already written about. We started a historical society through the C.C.I.A. (Cave Creek Improvement Assn.) in 1968. We thought the old pictures, some of us had, and the old artifacts, etc. should be saved and ultimately be put in a museum. This was the start of our C.C. Museum, as ultimately we had to find a place for all these old things. A little further information about the Museum. The following is an article from the AZ. Republic dated Feb. 1, 1924:

### COOLIDGE WILL BE SENT ONYX VASE MADE IN ARIZONA

President Calvin Coolidge will receive, probably next week, a beautiful 12 inch vase, made in Phoenix from Arizona onyx, for use in the White House. Secretary H.B. Watkins of the Chamber of Commerce will forward the gift within the next few days with the compliments of the citizens of Phoenix, and of the 'manufacturers the Calari Onyx and Marble Company. Mr. Watkins will tell the President the onyx is quarried in Cave Creek. In the late 1980s, Cave Creek Museum's (director) Ivenne Scruggs, tried in vain to locate the whereabouts of the White House vase.  
When John Coolidge, the President's son, was contacted he had no recollection of the vase. His best guess was that following Calvin Coolidge's death, Mrs. Coolidge sold their house, "The Beaches," and very likely the vase was auctioned off at that time. The old building on the Museum grounds, the Good Shepard of the Hills Episcopal Church, was donated and moved to the Museum in 1970. This served as our first Museum. In 1986 construction was begun on the new building for the Museum and in 1988 restoration of the historic church to return to the original look was completed. This was done in partnership by members of the Museum and the Black Mountain Community Church congregation.  
The bell in front of the building was given to the first Episcopal vicar, Philip Nelson, by the president of the Santa Fe Railroad. The Gazebo on the Cave Creek Museum grounds was originally in Cave Creek at Village Square located on the southeast corner of Hidden Valley and Cave Creek Roads. In 1963 Real estate lady, Sally Neary, had her office and her gift shop on the property. You know how car companies get the biggest American Flag they can to fly over their dealership, and call attention to what they are selling, Sally decided to get her husband to build the Gazebo to call attention to her two businesses.  
So, Pat Neary got his two friends Donal LaFrance and Farwerll Brand, with discounted lumber from the Cave Creek Building Supply, to build it. It was NeVER a band shell. I was here before it was built, and it never was used for what the sign in front of it says at the Museum. After Sally's death, I believe her daughter donated it to the Museum.