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.org

Visit the Museum Website at: 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!

President: Bill Oelman, wstein@yahoo.com
Vice President: Ray Monschino, Monschino@msn.com
Treasurer and Board Member: Frank Tyrol, FYro@syranet.com
Board Members: Bill Oelman, cwkossane@gmail.com; BillOdum, susanne@gnosis.media; Bob Flach, bflach@aol.com; Frank Tyrol, FYro@syranet.com; Marc Pereg, creador090@yahoo.com; Bob Oelman, billoelman@gmail.com; Frank Tyrol, FYro@syranet.com; Vince D’Alelio, info@cavecreekmuseum.com; VincesD@carefree.org; Karrie 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 of its kind.

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

By: Remington Pettus, Administrative Assistant

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 public to be able to come back.

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

Nuggets April 2020

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

EMAIL – 488-2764

October 2, 2019 through May 31, 2020

Closed Holidays

ADMISSION

Adults $7

Seniors $5

Students $5

Children under 12 Free

Don’t miss our outdoor exhibits: rhino tools, mining arrastre, historic church, and tuberculosis cabin

Visit the Museum Website at: www.cavecreekmuseum.org

Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Cave Creek, AZ 85331 Permit No. 7
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. Leslie’s 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).

Other activities included heading the committee to extend Scottsdale Road from Pinnacle Peak Road to Carefree 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 and 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.
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 him for promoting and supporting the Cave Creek Museum! Stay strong!

- Tech For Life
- The Horny Toad
- Dynamic Appliance
- Morgan Taylor Homes
- Eye Care North
- Remedy Termiticide and Pest
- Light Electric LLC

Chris Kempster, CFP,CLU,CSA, 480-272-9912

Kiwis of Carefree
Living Landscapes, 480-488-6350
Sharon Brening Fine Art (402) 679-4844
The Mission Chapel, 480-217-8389
Robert Grabe, Photographic Restoration and Reproductions, 602-799-4346
Sonoran Arts League
Sonoran News
Tech4Life, 480-488-0773

Tonto Bar and Grill, 480-488-0698
Towns of Carefree and Cave Creek

Vernon Nolte & Son Painters, 480-488-3420
Vickilyn Hussey, Trendlab

Wilhelm Automotive, 480-342-7100
Wynn Realty Brokers, Elka Youngren, 480-595-9014

Harold’s Cave Creek Corral
Helping Hands Graphic Design Marketing, 480-389-9674

JH Grass Fed Beef, 602-769-4614

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 lapsed dormant until January 1980 when the Cave Creek Mint Creek Mining Company was founded by Pete Incardona, a miner with 28 years of experience. The decision was made to re-establish the small two man mine back to operation in the style of the 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 mine, Ron Kaczor, took over the mine and along with the mining history added alternative Wellness Resources including herbology, homeopathy massage and aroma therapy, use of stones and crystals and a chiropractic Service.

Sources:
The Arizona Republic

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 promised 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

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 communities. 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 Dedera

Don Dedera was an Arizona Republic columnist, reporter, author, and former editor of Arizona Highways Magazine. After moving to Arizona from Virginia, Don Dedera grew up on the Gila Bend Indian Reservation. He 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 Dedera began working for the Arizona Highways Magazine. His interest was in archaeology, and he became head editor of Arizona Highways Magazine in 1963, but returned to his love of writing after two years. A lover of historic sites, Don Dedera has written 20 books and thousands of articles over the course of his career. Mr. Dedera received the National Society of Arts and Letters Literary Award in 1988 and Lowell Thomas Award in 1990. Don Dedera is survived by his loving wife, Nancy. There is no planned memorial service, as Mr. Dedera’s ashes will be scattered in the Mazatzal Wilderness Area.

Business Membership!

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