

NUGGETS

APRIL 2014

Spur Cross Ranch Reunion

THE SPUR CROSS REUNION, HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, was a huge success. Approximately 150 people attended. If we had held a prize for the person who came the farthest, it would have been presented to Melissa Paxton who came in from her home in Texas. Melissa created the mountain lion logo used on the promotional t-shirts and other items to bring awareness to the effort to preserve Spur Cross. (See Melissa in the group photo on page 5, fourth from the left.)

The many people who worked in some capacity on the preservation effort were delighted to see Melissa and Gary Schmitt, two other key players. Also present was Audrey Beaubien Woodward, who lived on Spur Cross when it was a dude ranch owned by her family.



The Buffalo Chip Saloon, Cartwright's, Popcorn Galor, Tonto Bar & Grill and Venues donated food. Mayor Francia, the new town manager Peter Jankowski, and Town councilmen (as well as Museum members and volunteers) Tom McGuire and Reg Monachino, also attended.



Cave Creek Mayor Vince Francia shares memories with R.J. Cardin, director of Maricopa County Parks.

Thanks to the many people who helped in some capacity: Lisa Oujiri, Nan and George Ross, Nancy Zeno, Judy Darbyshire, Ron Roberts, Cindy Link, Tom and Elaine McGuire, Suzanne Johnson, Pete DiPietro, Kraig Nelson and of course Evelyn Johnson.

(Continued on page 5)

Saddle Up for a Spaghetti Western!

ON SUNDAY, APRIL 13, be at Harold's Corral from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., for the first annual spaghetti dinner to benefit the Museum.

Tuck into a glorious spaghetti dinner, accompanied by garlic bread and salad. In between courses, check out a tempting array of silent auction items, including art and jewelry. Be sure to take a chance with the exciting \$10 balloon surprise raffle.

Tickets are only \$15 for adults, \$7 for children to age 12, and free for children under 5.

Tickets available at the Museum ahead of time or at the door.



Mangia!

ADULTS ONLY PROGRAM

Celebrate America

PLAN YOUR SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 12, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., to be creative and patriotic at the Museum.



Make a heart-shaped pin in the Victorian style using red, white and blue buttons, charms and other items to show your pride in America. The pin is perfect for wearing on upcoming patriotic holidays such as Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day and Veterans Day. All supplies and refreshments are included in the \$25 registration fee.

Registration is required. Participants must be at least 16 years old.

Hold your spot by phone (480-488-2764)!



CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS

President's Letter

CAVE CREEK MAYOR VINCENT FRANCIA attended the Spur Cross Ranch Reunion. After the event he sent a really nice letter to the editor of the *Sonoran News* (March 5-11, 2014). This is an excerpt from that letter:

"Volunteerism is prevalent in the community; be it between neighbors, or among our many non-profit organizations, or coming from our organizations that put on community events, the spirit to volunteer is the easy-to-spot dynamic."

I'd like to remind everyone that the Museum has a very small staff: our very capable Executive Director, Evelyn Johnson and one part time administrative employee, Karen Friend. Almost everything else is done by volunteers. We can always use more volunteers especially docents. Even if you are a snowbird you can still be a docent. Consider spending a few hours each month helping people get acquainted with our great museum!

The Children's program "How Do They Craft?" was a big success, although some parents may not agree. The children made working harmonicas out of popsicle sticks, paper, rubber bands and toothpicks. Some of them were pretty shrill! As part of the *High Sonoran Desert Scitech Festival*, the Golden Reef Stamp Mill ran and the kids got to pan for gold too. All of this took lots of volunteers and we thank them.

The upcoming Spaghetti Dinner – April 13th at Harold's could use volunteers.

Please contact Jane Heidel at jheidel@hotmail.com or info@cavecreekmuseum.com if you can help.

Don't forget that even though we close the end of May lots of activities go on in the museum. When the summer heat gets you down, consider volunteering your time then.



Sue Mueller,
Museum President

~As always, your membership supports
collections, preservation and
educational programming. Thank you
for your continued faith in and enthusiasm for
the Cave Creek Museum.

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH:

EASTER BONNETS



IT'S A VERY OLD tradition to celebrate spring by dressing up for Easter.

The new hat or "Easter bonnet" was an important part of the spring costume in the days when hats

were more in fashion than they are today. The Cave Creek Museum is featuring mid-20th Century hats from its collection, as Artifacts of the Month for April.

"In your Easter bonnet,
With all the frills upon it,
You'll be the grandest lady
In the Easter Parade."

"Easter Parade," Irving Berlin, 1933

Reminder!

Home tour ticket booklets
provide free admission to the Museum
to the ticket holder.

Remember the "Good Old Days"?

Write your remembrances of your early days in Cave Creek on the Museum's website:

www.cavecreekmuseum.org.

Go to the "blog" tab and share some of your memories of Cave Creek, whether in the near or distant past.

HELP NEEDED:

If you can help at the spaghetti dinner as a ticket seller, food server, cocktail server, with set-up and /or clean-up, please call (480-488-2764) the Museum and we will sign you up!

CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS



BEY'S BITS

When I first came to Cave Creek, the post office was in the building where the Flat Tire Bicycle Shop is located, corner of Cave Creek and Basin Roads. That building had been built in 1930. I am just guessing here, but since he built most of the things in Cave Creek at that time, I think it was constructed by George Smith. He was "the builder" in Cave Creek.

In 1960 a new post office was needed to handle all of the 500 people that were then in the greater Cave Creek area. I remember that the dedication was in the middle of October of that year. My certainty is founded on firm, special memories.



I was on my second Hube Yates trail ride from Heber to Cave Creek to bring his herd of horses down from his ranch on the Rim for the winter season at Sierra Vista Guest Ranch. We had gotten to Seven Springs on our ninth day out, and Lucille Baughman and several of Hube's friends from Cave Creek

came up to meet us, bringing a pot luck dinner for everybody. We had a fun get together that night.

I specifically remember because that was the day that Bill Metcalfe got me away from the riders and took me across the Cave Creek dry creek bed. He sat me up on a cottonwood limb and asked me to marry him. I was just stunned and at first I said "no" because I had never wanted to get married.

I gave in four days later when he put me on the plane going back to my home in Chicago. As I settled into my seat, somewhat melancholy, the pilot announced that

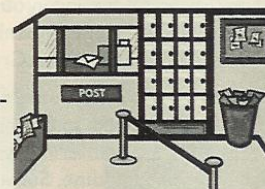
he had an emergency message for someone on the plane and that we would turn around from our taxiing on the runway. The stewardess opened the door and there was Bill. He looked up and down the planeload full of people and finally found me.

He came and pointed his finger at me and said, "You are going to marry me."

I sank down in the seat and said "I give up".

When we got married three weeks after meeting, everyone gave it about a month. It lasted 22 years until he died. We had a good marriage with two wonderful children, Rusty and Randi Ann.

But to get back to the post offices. Lucille Baughman was our post master. (We did not call her the postmistress as postmaster was and, I imagine, still is the correct terminology). She told us that a big ceremony



had been held that day dedicating the new building that is now where Flapjack's restaurant is in the center of town. Lucille was really good at her job. She was a widow and ate, slept, and drank her job.

When we outgrew that building another was erected where the Village Square is located. It is the building where Tycha's was located. (Now where there are big signs announcing a going out of business sale.)

The fourth building is the one built at Schoolhouse Road and Cave Creek Roads across from the old Cave Creek school, now Ventana School.

We just keep growing and needing more space.

Beverly Metcalfe Brooks

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Soleri Bells!

Hop on down the bunny trail to the
Cave Creek Museum Store

◆◆◆ Find perfect Easter basket ideas right
here at the Museum Store...



**Cave Creek
Carefree Book!**

Remember!
Museum members receive a ten
percent discount on most items at
the Museum Store.

Just a bit of trivia: The Buffalo Chip was called the Maverick when I came to town. It had been built in the 1950s, and when I moved here it was managed by the Steffan family. I still miss them, as I do all my old friends.

UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS:

April 12: Celebrate America

April 13: Spaghetti Dinner

See past issues of *Nuggets* online
at www.cavecreekmuseum.org!

★ APRIL 2014 ★

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CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS

Prehistoric Potters

THE HOHOKAM WERE LIVING in the Cave Creek area about 1,300 years ago; arriving around AD 700. In the 1870s, their abandoned canals ("ditches") were revitalized by early Cave Creek Anglos to nurture thirsty crops. We know the Hohokam were master engineers as demonstrated by the fact that approximately 1,000 miles of primary and secondary canals have been identified in the Phoenix Basin, going back as far as the year AD 1. The Hohokam were the only prehistoric cultural group to rely on a canal system, irrigating approximately 110,000 acres. Sixteen types of crops were cultivated by the ingenious farmers. Skills and methods they refined in the Phoenix Basin were brought into the Cave Creek area.

With the cultivation of crops, stable communities developed, exposing a new concept that "hunting and gathering" societies didn't have—surplus time. Surplus time allowed the Hohokam to pursue cultural and societal-enhancing endeavors that included the development of utilitarian and artistic pottery.

Fortunately for us, the pottery legacy became a very important mechanism for historical communication between the prehistoric Hohokam and us. The Hohokam didn't have a written language. In this discussion we will focus on the Hohokam pottery legacy without minimizing other extraordinary artistic expressions. Flagstaff historian Rose Houk states, "Their artistry speaks of a people who had a refined sense of aesthetics."

Before the development of pottery, prehistoric people created coiled baskets which were typically woven with durable willow fibers. Some archaeologists speculate that lining the woven baskets with clay led to pottery technology. The burgeoning agrarian society provided the stimulation for production of pest-resistant and water-tight containers which would facilitate storage. Many stored foods required reheating; and reheating required ceramic technology that withstood fire. When the Hohokam arrived in the Cave Creek Area, they brought pottery with them and the knowledge to make it.



The raw material for pottery creation was local clay. The clays were mixed with water and yielded a soft, breakable base. To strengthen and prevent the clay from breaking during the intense firing process, materials called temper, such as sand, mica, phyllite, or crushed pottery sherds

Docent's Corner

were added. The mesquite-fueled firing process generally took place above ground. If some of the fiery wood touched the pots, black splotches, called "fire clouds," were created.

The Hohokam formed pottery with the paddle-and-anvil method. The pots were worked simultaneously from the outside with wooden paddles and from the inside with small cobbles or "anvils." If painted, hair or yucca-fiber brushes were used. Sizes of vessels ranged from miniature to substantial twenty-five gallon jars we call "ollas."

Pottery incorporated a wide variety of shapes and functions including plates, bowls, pitchers, scoops, jars and effigy figures.



Phoenix archaeologists John P. Andrews and Todd W. Bostwick, Hohokam specialists, tell us Hohokam pottery was generally of three types: plain, red, and red-on-buff decorated wares. Decorated pottery utilized many images including geometric, human, mammal, reptile, fish, bird, snake, and flower designs.

Plainware pottery was produced by AD 1 and continued to be crafted for the balance of their Sonoran Desert occupation. Redware pottery was first made after AD 400 and the first painted pottery, red-on-gray, was manufactured around AD 650. By AD 750, the Hohokam were creating beautifully painted red-on-buff vessels which were expertly crafted.

During the period AD 950 to 1100 (called the Sedentary period) pottery was mass produced and was traded with other communities. Redware vessels were used as funerary accompaniments. The final era of the Hohokam, the Classic and Post-Classic Periods (which lasted to about AD 1450), saw the imitation and importation of polychrome pottery (black, white, and red) from the Salado cultures to the east, in the Tonto Basin.

The Museum's Archaeology Wing features a comprehensive presentation of pottery made by Hohokam and other southwest prehistoric cultures, along with fascinating related artifacts.

We invite you to explore this wonderful exhibit. After exploring the beautiful collection of prehistoric pottery, you and your guests will be...*fired-up!*

**Kraig Nelson,
Docent**

Thanks to Nancy Zeno and Sue Mueller for assistance with this article.

CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS



Evelyn Holbrook, Margaret Stewart, Ardis Meduna, Jan Jacobson, Georgia Beaty, Pete DiPietro, and Pam Di Pietro were the morning crew at the Collins Home.



Dick Stewart handles traffic.

A CADRE OF ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEERS ENJOYED PERFECT ARIZONA SPRING WEATHER AS THEY WELCOMED MORE THAN 600 VISITORS TO FOUR AREA HOMES FOR THE "HOMES THROUGH TIME" TOUR ON SUNDAY, MARCH 16. THANKS TO ALL WHOSE CHEERY SMILES AND WARM GREETINGS MADE THIS SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER AS POPULAR AS EVER!



Photo right: John and Geri Voss (standing) and Herb and Ann Engdahl greet visitors at the Bowman home.

Home Tour Highlights

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Wilhelm Automotive, 480-342-7100

(Spur Cross continued from page 1)

I regret that I have undoubtedly forgotten to mention many other people who made the evening extra special.

—Sue Mueller



Gathered at the Spur Cross Reunion were many who made a difference and preserved a way of life.





CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS



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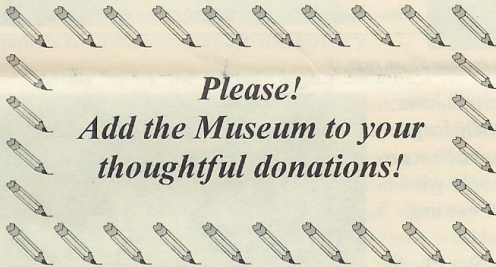
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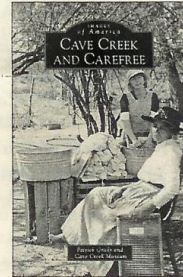
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and gift ideas—like the
new *Cave Creek -
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CoolClips.com

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the **Museum Store**

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open during Museum hours

MUSEUM HAUNTINGS

The Museum Ghost is baa-aack.

She says:

My friends and I got into the spirit dur-
ing the Home Tour....now off to
Harold's to scare up a spaghetti dinner!

Visit our ghost on twitter:

twitter.com/cavecreekghost



Thanks to All Our Business Members

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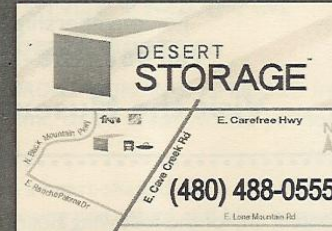
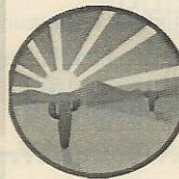
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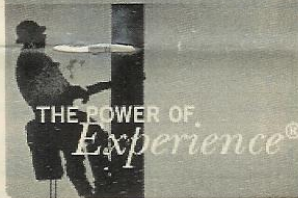


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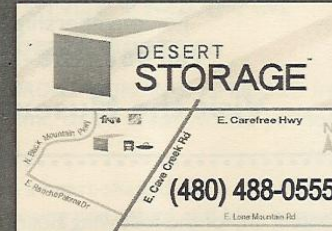
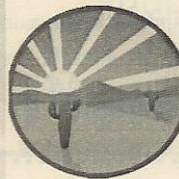


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