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October 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021
Wednesdays and Thursdays
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm
Second Saturdays and Sundays of the month:
1:00 pm—4:30 pm
Closed Holidays
480-488-2764

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panning display, mining arrastre,
historic church, 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

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!

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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

Suzanne Johnson, Interim Executive Director, Remington Pettus, Museum Program Coordinator



NUGGETS

March 2021

March is Archaeology Month in Arizona

By: Kathy Pedrick, Cave Creek Museum Collections Chair and Archaeologist

Arizona has celebrated Archaeology Month in March each year since the 1980's. Archaeology Month celebrates the rich history in our state and offers opportunities for the public to learn, explore and discover.

The Covid-19 pandemic this year has altered many of the activities normally offered, but there is still much to enjoy.

Archaeology, both prehistoric and historic, is the study of human activity through the recovery and analysis of material culture. Considered a branch of Anthropology, archaeological study entails a multi-disciplinary approach, including the study of artifacts, architecture, botany, fauna, geology, and cultural landscapes. Archaeological techniques include survey of the landscape to identify site locations, excavation, and analysis of the data collected. Results are reported in both published and unpublished reports documenting the findings and conclusions. Prehistoric site types can include large and small villages, field camps, caves and rock shelters, rock art, and in the Hohokam area, canals to manage and move water to villages and agricultural fields. Historic archaeological sites may include occupation sites, town sites, transportation routes, and even outhouses!

The first written account of an archaeological site in Arizona was provided by Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino in 1694. He documented a visit to the Casa Grande ruins near Coolidge. These ruins eventually became the first Prehistoric and Cultural Reserve established in the United States in 1892 and were re-designated a national monument in 1918.

The Desert Foothills area is rich in archaeological sites, as is much of Arizona. You can begin your journey of discovery at the Cave Creek Museum. We have wonderful, informative displays researched and prepared by volunteers who were also members of the Arizona Archaeological Society. Exhibits include artifacts and information from excavations undertaken in the Cave Creek area. Arizona has many archaeological sites to visit!

- Hohokam sites on the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area
- Sears Kay Ruin on the Tonto National Forest.
- Desert Foothills Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society (azarchsoc.org)
- Become an Arizona Site Steward (Azstateparks.com).
- Pueblo Grande Museum Archaeological Park (Phoenix.gov)
- Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve (Shesc.asu.edu/dvpp)
- Tuzigoot Pueblo and Montezuma Castle in the Verde Valley area. (Nps.org).
- Tonto National Monument. (Nps.gov).

Take only photos. Leave only footsteps. Cultural artifacts and sites are protected by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Damage to sites and the removal of artifacts can destroy the valuable information they contain. Enjoy your visit and remember to leave the sites as you found them.



Pictured: Montezuma's Castle, Archaeological Conservancy

March 2021 Events

March 6th - Carefree Honors Gerry Jones 10:00 am
World-renowned architectural designer, Gerry Jones, will be honored with a plaque in Carefree's Sun Dial Circle in a commemorative ceremony.

March 13th - Stamp Mill Demonstration 1:30 pm



March 14th – Kiwanis Family Sundays: CCM Celebrates Archaeology Month! 2:00- 4:00 pm
Cave Creek Museum celebrates archaeology month. Learn about the unique archaeology of the Southwest and take home a coloring page to craft your own pottery.



Sources:
The National Park Service

Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

Historic Highlights: Iconic Architecture in Cave Creek

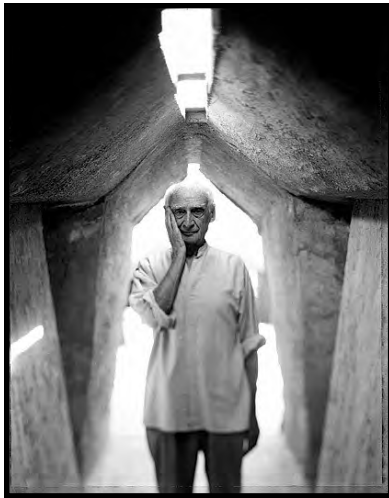
By: Kraig Nelson,
Cave Creek Museum Historian

Pictured: The Dome House



Approximately one tenth of a mile north of Stagecoach Village is one of the most architecturally unusual homes in Cave Creek or Carefree which was completed in 1950. The distinctive and famous home is called the "Dome House," incorporating a geodesic dome. The design was influenced by an individual who spent time at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture in Scottsdale. The custom-built residence was exalted in a prestigious publication called Architectural Forum. Are you able to guess who the architect was? Gerry Jones would be an excellent guess. Not only did Mr. Jones design the first home in Carefree and scores of homes later, he also wrote the design guidelines for Carefree as well. As of 2021, and in his nineties, he is still designing homes from his Black Mountain home and studio. And yes, Gerry Jones spent seventeen years as a teacher (Fellow) at Taliesin West. So, for those of you who guessed Gerry Jones, congratulations on such an astute guess. Unfortunately, you are incorrect. The architects include Paolo Soleri (known for Cosanti in Scottsdale and Arcosanti about seventy miles north of Phoenix) and Mark Mills (eventually a noted Carmel, California architect), both students of Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin West in Scottsdale. The home was designed, at the request of the owner, so one could lie in bed at night and enjoy the dark sky, replete with shimmering stars and meteors blasting through the heavens. The travels of the Moon and Planets provided seasoning to the nightly heavenly buffet. The glass dome encapsulates the only bedroom, with the bed in the center of the room, maximizing somnolent viewing. The compensation for Paolo Soleri and Mark Mills was minimal. They were able to keep the new tools used for construction which were purchased by the owner, about three hundred dollars (approximately \$3,300 in 2021 dollars), and all meals were provided because the architects lived on the property during construction. This compensation is surprisingly low considering both Soleri and Mills were well-educated. Mr. Mills, from Jerome, Arizona, spent four years with Mr. Wright at Taliesin West; however, he had earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Architectural Engineering from the University of Colorado prior to attending the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. Mr. Soleri only spent one year with Mr. Wright; however, he had earned his Doctorate in Architecture from Turin Polytechnic in Italy before coming to America in 1947 and studying with Mr. Wright.

The Dome House is well sequestered in that the street providing access accommodates other homes initially; eventually after traversing a desert arroyo, the distinctive glass dome appears. With discovery of this anomalous building one is immediately aware of something very special in the Cave Creek desert. This column will not divulge the address or precise directions to maintain privacy for the current gracious owners, Jeff and Liesl (last name withheld), who purchased this unique home in 2018 from Paolo Soleri's daughter, Daniela. So, who was the person who wanted to lie in bed and observe heavenly bodies? This iconoclastic person was a divorced socialite from Philadelphia. Her name was Nora (Lenora) Woods. Her sister was Carolyn Cox who with her husband, J. Raffles Cox, owned the Black Mountain Inn in the 1950s. Today, the Black Mountain Inn is known as Oregano's Pizza Bistro. Nora lived in the Dome House until 1984. Dr. Soleri married Nora's daughter also named Carolyn but was known to the world as Colly. She passed away in 1982 and Paolo passed in 2013 at the age of 93. Both are buried at Arcosanti. If you would like to see the Dome House, a model may be found in New York City in the permanent collections of the *Museum of Modern Art* and Cave Creek Museum.



Pictured: Paolo Soleri



Pictured: A couple observing the Dome House's most prominent feature, the dome to view the stars and heavenly bodies at night.

Image Sources:
Ed Mortimer. "Paolo Soleri's Arcosanti: The City in the Image of Man". *WordPress*, 2011.
Wendell Burnette and Karissa Rosenfield.
"The Dome in the Desert by Wendell Burnette".
Architect Daily, 1989.

Cave Creek Museum Nuggets



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Curious about how museums work? Want to learn about our exhibits, collections, programs and events?

The Cave Creek Museum is recruiting volunteers for all areas.

Please call (480) 488-2764

Or email: remington@cavecreekmuseum.org

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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/>



The Horny Toad is our March 2021 Community Partner!

Staff and board are thankful for the Horny Toad's wonderful support throughout the years and for their love of local history.

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Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

Cave Creek Mining District: Back in the Day

By Charlie Connell, Dream Team Leader and Stamp Mill Expert

Some Rackensack Mine History
Arizona Republic

Monday, April 24, 1933

Do You Remember, April 24, 1893?

Ed Cave, well-known to all old timers in Phoenix as "Old Rackensack," is again in Phoenix after an absence of over 12 years. While here he was a miner and a prospector in the Cave Creek area, being the discoverer of the once famous Rackensack mine and other important claims. For years he had been mining in Idaho.

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

January 1889

Steinegger & Surprise Claims 1883 to 1898

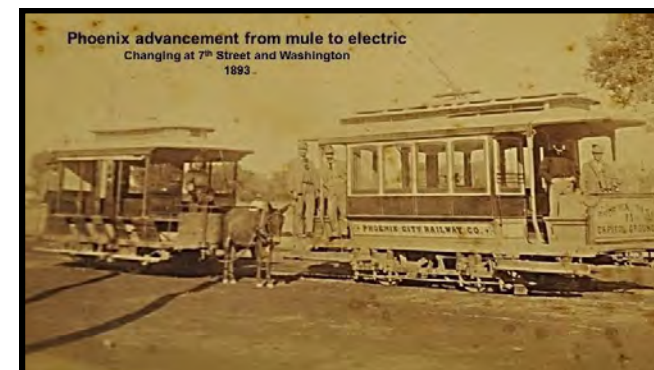
History The Steinegger and Surprise Claims were recorded on this property in 1883 consisting of two 20 acre claims with a 5 acre mill site on Camp Creek. The mine was successfully worked and a patent was granted in 1897 to Alexander Steinegger. Located in the local Rackensack mine.

The Steinegger family was one of the first to homestead in the Phoenix area. It was a one and one half day journey by wagon from their homestead that was on the corner of 16th street and Washington in downtown Phoenix to the mine on Camp Creek. The mine workings consisted of a 70 foot incline shaft, a 20 foot vertical shaft, a 120 foot tunnel with three open cuts at different ends of the veins and two wooden structures. A patent for the Steinegger and Surprise claim was granted in 1897, but the mine flooded with water, making it impossible to continue mining. Up until the time of flooding, the ore being brought out of the mine consisted of free milling gold ore with silver in a quartz copper matrix.



Pictured:
Copper Ore

The picture below shows the same style of wagon as noted in this article during the same time period. This picture can be found in the museum archives.



Sources:
The Arizona Republic

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and more!

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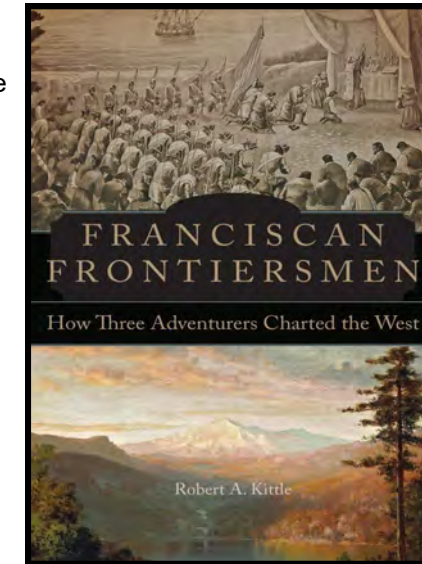
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DARLENE'S BOOK REVIEWS: THE FRANCISCAN FRONTIERSMAN

BY: DARLENE SOUTHERN, MUSEUM STORE MANAGER

This is a well-written, informative book regarding the contribution made by the Spanish priests who set sail across the Atlantic to "Christianize" the indigenous peoples of an unknown continent---North America. Pious and scholarly, these tonsured men are not what comes to mind when you envision "explorer" and yet they mapped and recorded Mexico, the American Southwest and the California coast while bringing God's Word and salvation to the native Indians. The author uses the three friars' diaries and correspondence as well as vast amounts of field research to provide in-depth detail. And yet the book is never overly academic and is an enjoyable read. Robert Kittle does an excellent job of objectively and fairly approaching a polarized subject and the nuances of the cultural exchange between Spaniards and Native peoples.



I have visited the old missions of San Xavier del Bac and Tumacácori twice. The first time was prior to reading Kittle's book---certainly I was impressed by San Xavier, strikingly intact and glowing white in the golden desert, still serving its community daily, and Tumacácori, a peaceful ruin.

After reading *Franciscan Frontiersman* we made another trip south, and this time I was much more emotionally affected, having read the words of Fathers Crespi, Garcés, and Font. You can't help but respond to the priests' struggle with their devotion to God and the Pope, their fears, loneliness, doubts and even frustration as they attempted to bring to the native people the teachings of the Gospel and the salvation of their souls. And yet these men of God also experienced times when they were uplifted by the kindness and faith of the Native Americans, awed by the natural beauty of the lands they explored.

I'd highly recommend *Franciscan Frontiersman: How Three Adventurers Chartered the West* to anyone who enjoys history and adventure, particularly of Arizona and the Southwest. Author Robert A. Kittle and his wife share their time between their homes in Carefree, Arizona and California. Mr. Kittle is a former White House correspondent for for U.S. News & Report magazine and long time editorial page editor of the San Diego Union-Tribune. He is an award-winning journalist with extensive experience in national, state and local affairs, regularly provided political analysis on PBS's "News Hour with Jim Lehrer".

Join the
Cave Creek Museum on
Thursday, March 25th, 2021
from 11:00 am—8:00 pm
by eating at our Community
Partner, The Horny Toad!
Bring a copy of the flyer
available at the Museum
or snap a picture of it around
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