MUSEUM NUGGETS
MAY 2013

Please plan to join us on
**TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1:00 P.M.**
AT DOROTHY’S HALL
(CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
3900 N. CAVE CREEK ROAD)
FOR THE CAVE CREEK MUSEUM
ANNUAL MEETING
AND
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

This year featuring: *“Just Desserts”*

Many thanks to Christ Anglican Church for the use of Dorothy's Hall for our annual meeting. The church has been very generous over the years opening its doors to us every May.

The hall honors former docent Dorothy McGinnis, who we lost too early.

Welcome New Board Nominees

Meet our nominees to the Board of Directors, Howard Bannell and Larry Schneider.

Howard earned his undergraduate degree at Purdue and his doctorate at Indiana University. In 1966, he was commissioned as Ensign in U.S. Navy. During his distinguished career, he served in the 1991 Gulf War and Vietnam before retiring as Captain in 1993.

Howard and his wife Sue traded in the seas for the desert, moving to Carefree in 1993. He has been active in Church activities, worked with Habitat for Humanity, and been an enthusiastic volunteer at the Museum. Howard helped at Wings and Wheels events, Home Tours and has offered his considerable talents to assist with many Museum construction and maintenance challenges. He has also assisted with exhibits, providing items that enhance several displays, including the 1930s era Maytag. In recognition of his many contributions, Howard was awarded Volunteer of the Year in 2012.

Larry been a general contractor for more than 30 years, specializing in residential and light commercial remodeling with an emphasis on historic preservation, restoration and re-use of obsolete structures, mostly on the east coast. Additionally, for the past 15 years he also worked in systems support, both hardware and software, involving Microsoft and Novell applications.

He earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice, as well as an MBA in management and business communications from Bryant University in Rhode Island. His post graduate training certifications in Microsoft and Novell applications laid the foundation for his computer work.

Larry and his wife moved to Carefree in 2011 from East Greenwich, Rhode Island. Their last home, believed to be the second oldest in the state, is one of only a handful of remaining 17th century homes in the country.

We thank Howard, Larry and all our Board members for their time, enthusiasm and leadership.

Taking a Hit

Museum Director Evelyn Johnson holds pieces of destroyed cactus as she views crushed plants and deep tire tracks left by a hit and run driver sometime between the evening of April 4 and morning of April 5. An unknown vehicle apparently lost control, plowing the east end of the Botanical Garden before backing out, doubling the damage. Officials are investigating.
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

These past 24 months as President of the Cave Creek Museum is a blur!
The most significant and most noticeable has been the Stamp Mill. The goal was to get it up and running and we have succeeded. The Dream Team has done a fantastic job getting it up and running. You will see it in operation at the fall Miners Dinner. This Stamp Mill represents a very important part of the desert foothills area history. It is hard to believe that at one time, where homes now stand, machinery such as our stamp mill crushed ore taken out of the ground we walk on.

Mining was one phase of the history of the foothills. Prehistoric Native Americans carved a niche in this area. If you haven't visited our Archaeology Wing to see the path that was taken through our surrounding 'hills', visit before we close May 31.

Later, homesteaders came in to create some great ranches that saw cattle and sheep roaming the hills. Prospectors realized that these hills held precious metals and mining became quite an industry for a brief time. We even had dude ranches. The Pioneer Wing of the Museum gives you a more accurate description of this part of our history.

We also have a great DVD in the Museum Store that gives a picturesque overview of the history of the Desert Foothills.

Many of you already know the history of the area far better than I, but many of you do not. That is why it is so important to visit the museum and to bring your friends. Encourage everyone that you know to learn about us and to become members.

Membership is what keeps us going. It is what provides the dollars that help to maintain the history that we possess. Ask those you know to become members of the museum. It is not a great expense for one person to join, but when you have many members the dollars just automatically grow.

Continue your membership and encourage others to do the same.

Have a great summer, and again thank you for the opportunity to have served you.

Pam DiPietro
Museum President

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

Hohokam Shell Jewelry

Grace Schiconover, Chairperson of the Archaeology Wing for many years, loved beautiful things made by Native American hands, whether prehistoric, historic, or present day.

Through Cave Creek Museum exhibits and programs, she shared her knowledge.

She also collected seashells from the Pacific Coast in Mexico, shells that were often the same ones used by the ancient Hohokam people to make jewelry. An amazing number of shell and jewelry fragments are found in Hohokam ruins. Their trade network extended for hundreds of miles across the desert.

Grace Schiconover instructing to docents during a training session.

In addition to cutting and grinding shells into bracelets and pendants, the Hohokam had an unusual way of cutting designs on shells using acids such as saguaro fruit juice. Grace taught people how to do this, and made some designs herself.

Grace passed away in December. In her memory, the Artifact of the Month in May 2013 features the remains of prehistoric bracelets and an example of modern etched shell made by prehistoric methods, plus a few pieces of her Rocky Point shell collection. They remind us of the touch of beauty Grace left in everything she did.

Left: This Manicopa beaded collar, on display in the Archaeology Wing, is a small version of the elaborate beaded capes that sometimes extend past the shoulders. The piece is part of the Salt River Pima - Manicopa exhibit.
COW TRACK RANCH

UP TRANQUIL TRAIL in Carefree and off to the northeast a bit lies the former ranch house of Richard and Evie Engel - the old Cow Track Ranch.

Richard, from Dayton, Ohio, went to college and was trained as a commercial artist, but World War II deferred those plans. Evie was a nurse. After the war, she worked at the Veterans Hospital at Papago Park. Richard, who was in the same hospital around that time period, fell in love with Evie while convalescing. They married in 1948. They came up to the area in 1949; and in 1950, likely with the assistance of his mother, the two bought all of Section 25, or 640 acres from Ora and Bernadine Huetype (who had purchased it from Ethel Middleton Hirdler, the wife of the original homesteader, in 1945).

But those are the highlights. What is really captivating is Richard's spirit and will and Evie's love and caring ways. You see, Richard Engel suffered through mental illness and drinking problems most of his life. During the 1950s, Richard wrote his mother several times a week, a very rare mail trail, revealing some of his struggles and determination.

At one point, Richard wrote that "I saw a fortune waiting in this dry desert land." They had a couple of horses at the ranch and two guest houses, perhaps even a few cattle. Richard clearly loved the beauty of the ranch land. It appears that monthly checks from his mother (a result of his father's estate) enabled Richard and Evie to make it through lean times. At other times, he was known to take a painting to the Cave Creek Corral and exchange it for drinks.

By 1955, letters indicate he was working on plans to develop the property into a five-acre lot (this would have been three years before the Carefree town plans). He wrote, "It's a gamble and a gamble only for a dreamer with confidence." Apparently, others back in Ohio were not so sure, for Richard wrote to his mother that "I swore to myself then I'd prove my faith in me."

It was a struggle to get those plans off the ground with little capital for investment. Even during this time period, he continued to experience alcoholism and was seeing a doctor on a regular basis. Evie was the loving caregiver throughout. Richard would write that "I don't know of another couple that has been as happy as we have been and are."

His letters (in our Museum archives) unfortunately focused more on the real estate and little on ranch life. It all finally paid off in 1957 when Richard sold a good portion of the land, raking in $115,000 in profit. And that year he would write that he was staying away from drinking. By 1958, they sold most of the land, retaining 7 acres, and moved to Montana. When that ranch venture did not prove successful, they eventually moved back to their house on the former Cow Track ranch in the mid-1980s. Both Richard and Evie died in the 1970s. Mike Martin, the grandson, still lives in the old ranch house.

Patrick Grady
Cave Creek Museum Historian

UPCOMING Events

★ May 14: Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation
★ May 31: Museum Closes for the Season

For information, call (480) 488-2764, or visit www.cavecreekmuseum.org

"Spring" into the Cave Creek Museum Store
...for a special treat for yourself or dear one...

Remember! Members receive a ten percent discount on regularly priced items in the Museum Store.

May 2013
www.cavecreekmuseum.com
H ERE'S A FEW ROUNDS into the ceiling and the overly-bosisterous crowd calmed. Not only did the fragment report of the firearm get the crowd's attention, he was standing on the bar, in his bar, the oldest continual business in Cave Creek. Harold's Corral Bar. The stocky, strong, and prognosticating "ornery Irishman" Harold, and his steady wife Ruth, purchased the rusted, iconic, western-saloon in 1950.

Cave Creek's only surviving pub in the last 1940s had its beginnings in the mid-1930s. Johnny Walker started construction in 1935 on a one-room wooden structure on about three acres. He called it the "Cave Creek Corral." The Corral, with its single out-house, opened for business in 1936 for the Barringer Dam workers and later the Horseshoe Dam workers. Three, eight-hour, daily shifts provided a thirsty clientele for the new pub. At least six other bars opened for the exhausted construction workers...only one survived. The Verde River dams were completed by 1943. Johnny Walker purchased the original 1880 mahogany bar from the Crystal Palace Saloon in Tombstone, Arizona. (The Crystal Palace began as the Golden Eagle Brewery in 1879 and was one of Tombstone's oldest bars. The second level of the Golden Eagle building housed the office of U.S. Deputy Marshall, Virgil Earp.)

In 1943, Jake and Nina Stephenson purchased the Corral Bar; and, in 1946 Smoky Gaston owned the Corral. In January of 1950, Haroldi and Ruth Gavagan were married after eloping to Yuma. By March of 1950, "Harold's Cave Creek Corral" was established using Harold's small inheritance.

Harold, a Long Beach, California native, was a paratrooper during World War Two. After the War he painted cars for General Motors. Ruth, his pianoplaying, Arizona-native wife, kept the high-stepping Harold, and the business, under control. Ruth was educated. She was a nurse, graduating from Cedars Nurse Corps at Good Samaritan Nursing School. When she died in 2007, at the age of 79, she was described as a quiet, lovely lady with patience and fortitude. Harold passed in 1993. The Gavagans owned the venerable establishment from 1950 to 1987. Harold was a showman and clever operator. In 1998, Don Schoenau, writer for Pook at the Rock, tells us that in the 1950s lions were part of a Sunday show to generate business. In the 1970s, 500-pound tigers became the fill-in-stars of the Sunday show. Carl Muhleasser, a Barnum and Bailey animal trainer, lived in a bunk house on the property, along with the "retired" circus cats.

It must have been quite a celebratory time at Cave Creek's cherished saloon and restaurant in the 50s, 60s, and 70s...in fact, I can almost hear some of the thoroughly entertained patrons now: "Lions...Tigers...and Bears...Oh, My!"

Kraig Nelson, Docent

**DESSERT HARVEST**

*AT DESSERT AWARENESS PARK*  
*SATURDAY, MAY 11th 10 AM*  

TASTE the variety of entry and homemade baked goods by the Valley's best bakers!

**Civil War Round Table**

On Tuesday, May 7, at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library at 6:45 p.m., Scottsdale Civil War Round Table presents The Confederate's Most Unlikely Hero presented by Gordon Rhea Free.
Youngsters strike it rich with fun and learning at the April Children's Workshop "Mining's in Our History!"

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www.cavecreekmuseum.com

What's Shakin’?

We need empty salt containers for next year's children's programming. Please refill your shakers and bring your empty cylindrical containers to the Museum! Thanks!
CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS

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Museums Hauntings
The Museum Ghost says:
Well, finally! The Museum closes
and I have some peace and quiet from
all those visitors. But wait, darn it, the
summer volunteers will be taking over.
When can I rest in peace?
Visit our ghost on twitter:
www.twitter.com/everydayghost

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Books • Jewelry • Gifts
open during Museum hours

May 2013
The Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

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Please consider the Cave Creek Museum when creating memorials, funds for loved ones or in estate planning.

Sincere Thanks to Thomas and Joyce Wisner for their donation to the Stamp Mill Restoration Project.

*May 2018*
www.cavecreekmuseum.com

Enjoy free admission to such venues as the Heard Museum, Phoenix Art Museum and, of course, our own Cave Creek Museum! Passes, good for seven days for two people, are available at all local public libraries, including the Desert Foothills Library. Visit your favorite cultural attraction!
Make History! Join 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 the artifacts of the prehistory, history, culture and legacy of the Cave Creek/Carefree foothills area through education, research, and interpretative exhibits.