



# MUSEUM NUGGETS

**MAY 2013**

**PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US ON**

★★ **TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1:00 P.M.** ★★

**AT DOROTHY'S HALL**

(CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH  
35500 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.



## 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.

## WELCOME NEW BOARD NOMINEES

**M**ET OUR NOMINEES to the Board of Directors. Howard Beastall 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 for 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 17<sup>th</sup> century homes in the country.

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





# CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**T**hese 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 Archeology 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

**G**RACE SCHOONOVER, 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.

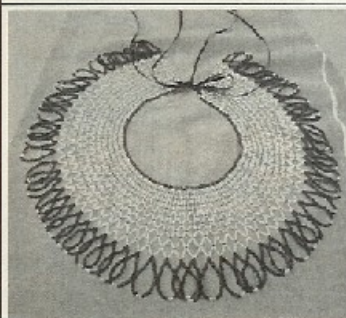


Grace Schoonover instructing to docents during a training session.

She also collected sea-shells 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.

In addition to cutting and grinding shells into bracelets and pendants, the Hohokam had an unusual way of etching 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 Maricopa 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 - Maricopa exhibit.



# CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS



## 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 that same hospital around that same 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 Otto and Bernadine Hoepfl (who had purchased it from Ethel Middleton Hirdler, the wife of the original homesteader, in 1945).

But those are the highlight reels. 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 male trait, 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 five-acre lots (this would have been three years before the Carefree town plans). He wrote, "It's a game and a gamble strictly 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 your 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 alcoholic binges 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've been and are."

His letters (in our Museum archives) unfortunately focused more on the real estate and little on town life. It all finally paid off in 1957 when Richard sold a good portion of the land, reaping \$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-1960s. Both Richard and Evie died in the 1970s. Mike Marron, the grandson, still lives in the old ranch house.

Patrick Grady  
Cave Creek Museum Historian

"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.

## 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](http://www.cavecreekmuseum.org).

★ MAY 2013 ★

[www.cavecreekmuseum.com](http://www.cavecreekmuseum.com)





## CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS

**H**E FIRED A FEW ROUNDS into the ceiling and the overly-boisterous crowd calmed. Not

only did the frightening 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 pugnacious "ornery Irishman" Harold, and his steady wife Ruth, purchased the rustic, iconic, western-saloon in 1950.

Cave Creek's only surviving pub in the late 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 Bartlett 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 1880s 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

### Docent's Corner

January of 1950, Harold 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 piano-playing, Arizona-native wife, kept the hot-headed Harold, and the business, under control. Ruth was educated. She was a

nurse; graduating from Cadet 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 *Peck at the Peak*, tells us that in the 1950s lions were part of a Sunday show to generate business. In the 1970s, 500-pound tigers became the feline-stars of the 50cent show. Carl Mulhauser, 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 Beers...Oh, My!"

Kraig Nelson, Docent



## DESERT HARVEST

AT DESERT AWARENESS PARK  
SATURDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> 9AM

Turn at the corner of Cave Creek and Vannoy Roads,  
between Earle's and the Cave Creek Building Supply



*Presents by the Desert Awareness Committee of FCF*  
*The desert is beautiful, but we must learn how to collect and prepare what it offers*  
*Come let us share our experience with you*  
*By donation appreciated*

Harvest & prepare  
Wildberry fruits

Gather & grind Mesquite  
Seams and taste mesquite  
cookies.

Have a glass of hot  
Mesquite Tea

Pick & enjoy Palo  
Verde juice



Left: Meet Judith Hatsell, a volunteer, who works diligently digitizing files.

Judith finds her work interrupted periodically by interesting snippets she discovers in the documents.

## CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

On Tuesday, May 7, at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library at 6:40 p.m., Scottsdale Civil War Round Table presents *The Confederacy's Most Unlikely Hero* presented by Gordon Rhea Free.

★ MAY 2013 ★



# CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS



Youngsters strike it rich with fun and learning at the April Children's Workshop "Mining's in Our History".



Above: Representing the Museum in the Fiesta Days Parade were, L to R: Marv Bowman, Stephanie Bradley, Brandon Summers, Diane Vuszily, Shirley Bowman, Hank Smith and Nellybelle II. Not pictured: Jane Heide!



## THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS:

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Left: Intern Brandon Summers and Collections team member Nicole Hanga assess exhibit design.

Right: Collections Chair Carol Caldwell stands proudly beside the completed exhibit.

Among the exhibits are a model of the Golden Reef Stamp Mill made and donated by volunteer Morris Jackson, toys, historic photos, old tools and nails, and fascinating archaeological artifacts.

The thoughtful display is sure to impress customers.



**N**EXT TIME YOU ARE IN Parkway Bank, stop and admire the new Museum exhibit there. In a well-coordinated effort, an energetic cadre of volunteers worked to move elements of the display to the bank in just one day.

Among the helpers were Paul Meredith, who earns accolades for bringing the trailer, moving blankets and the "know how" to take the case apart and move it from one location to another; Archaeology Committee volunteers Alan Troxel, Sue Mueller, and Nancy Zeno; Historic Collections Volunteers Nicole Hanga and Carol Caldwell; and Brandon Summers, our ASU Intern in Historic Collections.

## '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!

MAY 2013 ★

[www.cavecreekmuseum.com](http://www.cavecreekmuseum.com)





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## MUSEUM HAUNTINGS

**The Museum Ghost says:**

"Well, finally! The Museum closes and  
I can 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:

[twitter.com/cavecreekghost](https://twitter.com/cavecreekghost)



**Thanks to All Our  
Business Members**

★ MAY 2013 ★



# CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS



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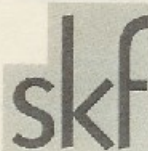
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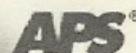
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Wisner  
for their donation  
to the  
Stamp Mill  
Restoration Project.**



ENJOY Free admissions 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  
local public libraries, including the **Desert Foothills  
Library**. Visit your favorite cultural attraction!

★ MAY 2013 ★

[www.cavecreekmuseum.com](http://www.cavecreekmuseum.com)



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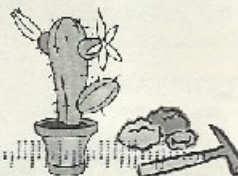
Seniors \$3

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Children under 12 Free

Donations Gratefully Accepted

Don't miss our **outdoor** exhibits:  
ranch tools,  
stamp mill  
mining crassie,  
historic church,  
and tubercular cabin



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## 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](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!

Pam DiPietro, President (foothillsfoodbank@gmail.com)	Mary Kearney, Vice President (maryk92@aol.com)	Ron Roberts, Treasurer (Ronr0923@gmail.com)	Gregg Clancy, Asst. Treasurer (phone: 480-488-2986)
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Al Zeman (alvinzeman@msn.com)			

Evelyn Johnson, Executive Director; Karen Friend, Administrative Tech Support; Nicole Honga, Administrative Assistant  
Stephanie Bradley, "Nugsgets" Newsletter Editor

*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.*











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