

Cave Creek Museum, Inc.
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OPEN
October 2, 2019 through May 31, 2020
Wednesday – Sunday
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Open Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed Holidays
480-488-2764

ADMISSION
Adults \$7
Seniors \$5
Students \$5
Children under 12 Free

Don't miss our outdoor exhibits:
ranch tools,
stamp mill
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

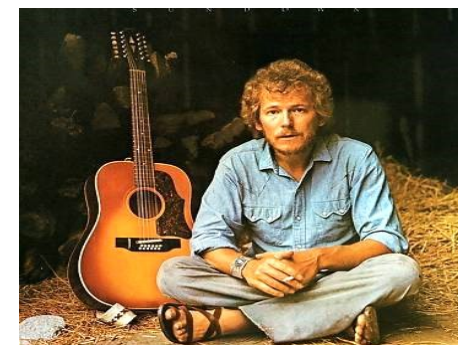
Karrie Porter Brace, Executive Director, Remington Pettus, Administrative Assistant; Thomas Brace, Nuggets Editor



NUGGETS

November 2019

Gordon Lightfoot: The Man Behind Carefree Highway



Traveling along the I-17 towards the outskirts of Phoenix, one may notice a peculiar exit named "Carefree Highway". This exit may seem like an ordinary exit, but to Gordon Lightfoot, it was an inspiration derived from his desert travels.

Gordon Lightfoot is a Canadian folk-rock musician who was a lover of all things music, nature, and the open road. He sought inspiration from his surroundings, such as the people he met and the different environments he visited while touring. Some of his most famous hits include "If You Could Read My Mind" (1970) and "Early Morning Rain" (1966), which all broke the Billboard top 40 hits. However, nothing is more memorable to the residents of Carefree than the catchy tune of "Carefree Highway".

While traveling from Flagstaff to Phoenix along the I-17, Mr. Lightfoot felt inspired by a section of AZ Route 74, the Carefree Highway. In the April 1975 volume of *Crawdaddy* Magazine, Gordon Lightfoot gleefully stated "'I thought it would make a good title for a song. I wrote it down, put it in my suitcase and it stayed there for 8 months.'" Thus, Carefree Highway was born in 1974 for his tenth album, "Sundown".

The album exploded onto the music charts, reaching the tenth spot on the Billboard top 40 hits. "Carefree Highway" memorializes the true nature of the Carefree Highway, and the lyrics encourage all those who listen to it to remember to "keep it Carefree" in life.

Our Next Stamp Mill Run SATURDAY

November 9th, 2019 at 1:30pm



Kiwanis Family Sundays

Sunday, November 10th, at the Cave Creek Museum
Veterans in Our Neighborhood
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Help us celebrate those who work to protect our country. Meet local Vets and hear their stories, then write thank-you letters to those who are still serving!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 9th- Stamp Mill Run, 1:30 pm

Nov 10th- Veterans in Our Neighborhood, 2-4 pm

Nov 12th- Miner's Dinner, 4-8:30 pm

Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

From Our Director...

Karrie Porter Brace, Executive Director

Fall in the desert Foothills seems to be everyone's favorite time of year. As our days get shorter and cooler, we see more friends returning to Cave Creek and Carefree. Our local November festivities begin with Wild West Days and roll into Thanksgiving.

We are certainly blessed and deeply thankful for the great cultural diversity and natural resources in this part of the northern Sonoran Desert. While—historically—many 19th century prospectors and ranchers were drawn out here in search of material gain, the true abundance of the Desert Foothills region is in the ancient beauty surrounding us—the Native peoples, the rugged landscape, and the wide open skies. All the best the Southwest offers.

This season, our 2019-2020 program year celebrates our more recent Southwest history. The Valley of the Sun truly manifested as THE Phoenix, flourishing after World War II and the Korean War with burgeoning populations of Americans heading West, much like pioneers during previous gold rushes. The Desert Foothills became an inviting paradise for a wide range of intriguing people from the late 1950's onward. Their stories continue to captivate us well into the present.

Whether your curiosity tends toward the Ancient Southwest, the Traditional West, or the Midcentury Modern Metropolis, we embrace all these here at Cave Creek Museum this year. In addition to our remarkable Archaeological collections, we curate and share our town's quaint Historic character. You are all invited to meet with local Veterans on Sunday, November 10th, and then feast with our Dream Team for the Miners' Dinner on Tuesday evening, November 12th. If you haven't yet seen the *Legacy of Gerry Jones* exhibit, you might be surprised by his abiding respect for the environment and his global life experience!

Historic Highlights by Kraig Nelson

"Sears" of the Sears-Kay Ruin

John Marion Sears was a Phoenix homesteader and fifty-two-year Cave Creek cattle rancher born in 1843. When he died in 1937 at the age of 94, his estate was valued at around \$900,000 in 2019 dollars. His original Phoenix home was an 80-acre homestead established in the early 1890s. The homestead, in the heart of Phoenix now, fronted Center Street (changed to Central Avenue, historians differ on when) and extended from Indian School Road to Thomas Road. The Sears homestead was a vast bountiful garden with orchards of apples, pears, figs, peaches, and almonds (thanks to rebuilt Hohokam canals); dairy cows roamed the grounds. Mr. Sears lived there with his wife Mary, daughter Ella, and sons Perry and George.

The admired Sears' home was one of the early framed homes in Phoenix. Most early Phoenix homes were adobe because lumber was scarce and expensive. With a new Phoenix railroad connection in 1887 (the Southern Pacific Railroad), lumber became available and affordable. In 1969, the historic Sears' home was days away from demolition; fortunately, it was saved and moved to the *Pioneer Living History Museum* near I-17, south of Anthem. The "Victorian Mansion" can be toured today. In 1887, Mr. Sears established a cattle ranch with his son-in-law Harry Kay, east of today's Cave Creek Road (as it turns north to Seven Springs) and extending close to the Verde River.

The ranch included a defensive hilltop Hohokam site established around A.D. 1050 and was occupied until around A.D. 1200; it's called the *Sears-Kay Ruin*. Archaeologists believe about one hundred Hohokam lived on this hilltop site, which is located about eleven miles from the Museum, just off Cave Creek Road.



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ENJOY Culture Pass!

Enjoy free admissions to such venues as the Heard Museum, Phoenix Art Museum and, of course, the Cave Creek Museum! Passes, good for seven days for two people, are available at local public libraries, including the **Desert Foothills Library**.

To see a full listing of **FREE** attractions and more, visit:
www.theculturepass.org

Thanks to the sponsors, including the **Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and Macy's**, for promoting the program.



Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

Thank you for remembering the **Cave Creek Museum** with your end of year giving. We are a 501c3 not-for profit institution. You can designate the Cave Creek Museum with the **Fry's Community Giving Program** and on **Smile.Amazon.com!**



NOTICE FOR OUR MEMBERS

The Cave Creek Museum staff enjoys the opportunity to send **Nuggets** to our members! When we create our newsletter each month as a benefit for you, we also incur mailing costs and labor organizing, printing, folding and taping each copy.

We have a question for you, our members. Would you be willing to receive a digital copy (PDF) version and as a bonus, your digital copy would be in color.

Or, would you want to continue to receive **Nuggets** as a printed copy. We are exploring having the printed copy in full color, but at this time, we are unable to justify the added expense. Please send your responses to:

director@cavecreekmuseum.com

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/>

Become a Cave Creek Museum Member Today!

Cave Creek Museum's newsletter seeks fascinating history and fun facts from all over the Desert Foothills! You may have something to share, but wondered, "How could I get my item in the Nuggets monthly newsletter?"

We will consider your submissions for publication.

If you are interested in contributing articles to the Cave Creek Museum's newsletter, contact Editor **Thomas Brace** (tbrace@me.com) for details and deadlines. All are welcome to contribute, CCM reserves the right to edit.

Museum Admissions

Admission rates are:

\$7 for adults; \$5 for seniors and students; children under 5 free!



Carefree - Goats and Water

In 1955, the founders of Carefree, Tom Darlington and Kenyon Turner Palmer (K.T. Palmer), were a focused team purchasing land, fulfilling their 1946 dream of creating a new, desert-sensitive town. Three sites were considered before the current site was selected for future Carefree. Mr. Palmer, a lawyer, owned over 2,000 acres near Pinnacle Peak mountain after originally homesteading 640 acres on the western slope. This was the first choice. The second choice was located at the southeast corner of Pinnacle Peak Road and Scottsdale Road. This area became a well-known western tourist attraction known as "Rawhide."

Today, Rawhide is gone (relocated), and a new shopping center is thriving. Finally, the team had purchased land, now a shopping center, The Summit, with Safeway and Target as current anchor-tenants. All three locations had one prohibitive obstacle: inaccessible water. The technology in the early 1950s simply couldn't find or drill enough water for a future 3,500-person projected community. Finally, a water-rich goat ranch was found. Today, the Carefree business district was the heart of that goat ranch. The goat ranch encompassed beautiful 1.45-million-year-old rock formations, the eastern side of stately Black Mountain, and a precious aquifer (underground body of water). The price was right, \$44,000 for 400 acres; that's \$110 an acre. After WWII, Ruth Clark and her son Drexel, settled ("squatted") on what was abandoned land. By 1952, Ruth and Drexel received legal ownership as they raised milk-producing goats. In 1955, the Clarks sold 400 acres to the Carefree Development Company. In 1959, a new town with the name Carefree commenced custom-homes sales.



VOLUNTEERS ★ ALWAYS WELCOME



Love Cave Creek Museum?
Love history, geology,
archaeology, or art?

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: info@cavecreekmuseum.com



Tech4Life is our Featured Community Partner during
the month of **November 2019!**

Let's all thank Tech4Life for promoting and
supporting the Cave Creek Museum!

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Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

In Memoriam

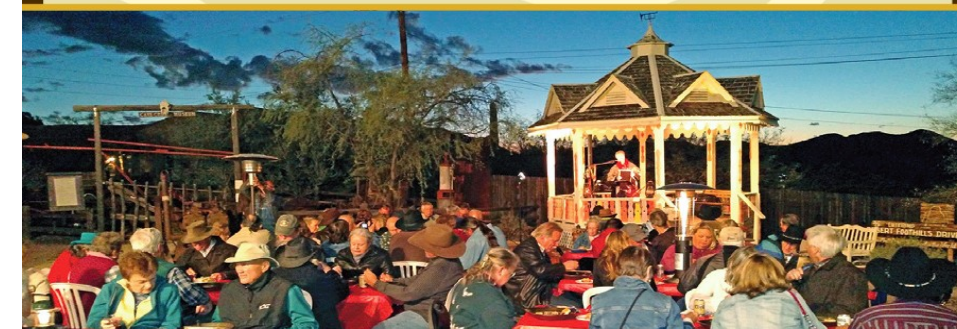
Maria Eannacone
(1925 - 2019)

Maria Eannacone loved to entertain visitors at Cave Creek Museum with her kind words and positive attitude, leaving an impact on anyone and everyone she met. Maria's had a vast knowledge of old jewelry, clothing, and cooking that were extremely resourceful. She loved to share her learning experiences at Cave Creek Museum to other docents and visitors.

Mrs. Eannacone was a valued member of the Exhibits committee with Betty Neill and Maggie Simpson for many years, creating memorable displays of Cave Creek History through her wise, creative approach. She is survived by her daughter, Joanne Eannacone, a Cave Creek Museum Lifetime member. Maria Eannacone will forever be a member of Cave Creek Museum's community for her hard work, dedication, and wonderful involvement.

The 2019 Miners' Dinner honors the hard work, dedication, and effort by the Dream Team, who have spent the last dozen years in researching, retrieving, and rebuilding the Golden Reef Stamp Mill and Tramway. All proceeds from the Miners' Dinner support ongoing efforts in preserving and exhibiting the historic equipment related to the Cave Creek Mining District Legacy.

Tuesday, November 12
11TH ANNUAL
MINER'S DINNER



4pm-8:30pm • \$55 per person

Enjoy a Chuckwagon Dinner by
The Buffalo Chip, see the Stamp Mill run
and blacksmith demos.
Enjoy live music by Rockin' Blue Geckos
facebook.com/rockinbluegeckos/