



Historic Happenings

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Spring 2013

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Thank You!

We want to take this opportunity to *thank you*, our members, who support us every day through your membership, donations, and friendship! With your gifts and support we work to preserve the history and heritage of the Casa Grande Valley.

Because of you, we share the great stories that include the founders and families that forged Casa Grande as we know it today. Museum exhibits and programs tell the story of the railroads, mines, merchants and mothers that built the city we call home. School groups and vacation tours enjoy afternoons on our patio. Our historic photos highlight Casa Grande history in *The Dispatch*. We couldn't do it without you.

Over the past year, more than 2,000 individual local, national and international visitors toured the museum. Visitors came from places near and far, including California, Minnesota, Michigan, South Dakota, Canada and Ireland! Visitors ranged from youth visiting with grandparents, to young couples sharing family time with their children, to retired travelers enjoying exhibits that recall fond memories.

We are grateful to you for helping us preserve the history and heritage of Casa Grande. We invite you to encourage your friends and family to become members too. Thank you for supporting the Casa Grande Valley Historical Society and Museum!

From the Staff and Volunteers

UPCOMING EVENTS

Night at the Museum: Saturday, April 13th, 2013

Spring Sale and Book Signing: Saturday, April 20th

Last Day of the Season: Wednesday, May 15th, 2013

Summer Saturdays: Now open the second Saturday of June, July & August.



President's Message

As we wind down the season I think back on all that we have accomplished this year and all the great things we have to look forward to. This year we opened our doors to more visitors than ever before, we hosted schools and group tours, we shared our history with visitors from around the world and from right here at home, we celebrated another successful *Hot Wings for History*, and we had many, many incredible volunteers join in to help us accomplish it all!

But, the season is not quite over and we have exciting events and programs coming up. I am looking forward to *Night at the Museum* on Saturday, April 13th. This will be an evening of friends, food, and music to support the museum with door prizes, a silent auction, live music, and live historic characters. I hope you will join us! The following Saturday, April 20th, we invite you to join us for a Spring Sale and offer you a unique opportunity to meet several southwest authors. We have also decided to open the museum for the second Saturday of every month this summer to offer families a fun and affordable break from the summer heat.

As President of the Historical Society, and as a long time resident of Casa Grande, I value our history and heritage. I volunteer with the Society and Museum to support the important work of preserving and sharing our heritage. I am grateful for the members, volunteers, board members, staff, and visitors who help make this possible. Next year we will celebrate the 50th Year Anniversary of the Historical Society. We will have a grand celebration then, but in the meantime let's celebrate Casa Grande as a beautiful place to visit, work and live!



New Museum Director!

We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce *Berlin Loa* as the new Museum Director. Berlin is originally from California but has been in Tucson for over ten years.

Like many who have worked in nonprofits and small business, she has experience in management, community outreach, and program development as well as facilities, marketing and special events. Her career experience includes working for a national non-profit organization where she was responsible for managing programs as well as fundraising and member development. She has also worked for small start-up companies as both a marketing manager and as an office and facilities manager. Her collections experience includes both museums and archives. She attended the University of Arizona where she earned degrees in Literature, Anthropology, and Library Science.

She is looking forward to creating opportunities for the Casa Grande community to share and take pride in our history and heritage through collaboration with the city, community, and private organizations.

MEMORIALS

November 2012

Jack Pretzer

Donors: Juanita Frantz

December 2012

Bob Gallo

Donors: Melvin &
Pauline Anderson

January 2013

Shirley Weik

Donors: Pat McClaren

February 2013

Christine Hansen Burton

Donors: DeeRinda Heinle,
Marge Jantz, Catherine
Walker, Linda & Bill Stead

A Lasting Legacy

Have you considered including the Historical Society in your estate plans?

Planned giving provides an opportunity for you to make a lasting impact on the future of Casa Grande. Friends and family will remember and honor you through your gift to the Historical Society.

You can support the society with a gift of artifact donations, memorial contributions, or planned gifts. Your gift, big or small, will leave an enduring legacy with the Historical Society.

Please contact us by phone or stop by today to learn more about planned giving.

Spring Sale & Book Signing
Saturday April 20th

Books, Gifts
Postcards
Jewelry, Light
Refreshments
And more!
12-4pm

Meet Southern Arizona Authors!
Lili DeBarbieri, Dawn Snell
More to be announced soon.

Casa Grande
Valley Historical
Society &
Museum

520-836-2223
www.cgvhs.org
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Help Wanted!

This season, volunteers donated over 1,400 support hours to the Museum. We depend on volunteers as greeters, artifact and archives caretakers, tour guides, education coordinators, and so much more.

Are you eager to interact with
your local community?

Do you have a knack for
planning events?

Enjoy working with children?

Do you have handyman or
technical skills?

Your Museum needs YOU!

Just a day or two of your time each month helps preserve history and provides a great place for families and friends to visit.

*Contact the Museum today to ask how you can
help preserve the history of Casa Grande!*

520-836-2223



Artifacts Pictured Above: a jack plane continues the job of roughing out a piece of wood (top); a smoothing plane is used to prepare a surface for finishing (left); a grooving plane cuts grooves along the edge of a board for joining (right); a rabbet plane, also known as a rebate or open-side plane, cuts shoulders or steps (front).

which is held in place with a wooden wedge and is adjusted by striking the plane with a hammer.

Donors: Cecil Talbott, Jim Little, Jane Ethington, Walter Garrett, and Don Trekell, Jr.

Artifact of the Month

A hand plane is a tool for shaping wood; however, most people probably do not know that the earliest existing examples were found in Pompeii. Pompeii was buried in ash and lava in AD 79. Planes and drawings of planes have been excavated from sites in medieval Europe and Asia. A pair of wooden planes was found on the 16th century ship, the Mary Rose, named after Henry VIII's favorite sister.

The museum is fortunate to have in its collection several types of wood planes dating from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. Most planes are either bench planes or block planes. Different types of bench planes are designed to perform different tasks. A wood plane, such as those in the display, is made entirely of wood except for the blade,

WHAT IS THAT?!

The Museum is home to thousands of historic items that represent the history and heritage of Casa Grande. We work diligently to identify and preserve the tools, household items, photographs and many other artifacts for the public to enjoy.

Sometimes we need a little help! Can you help us identify this tool? We'd like to know what it is, what it is used for, and any other tidbits you might offer.

To share your thoughts on this mystery item, visit us, call 520-836-2223 or email info@cgvhs.org.



**Can you help us identify this tool?
Is it a pick, a hook, a hooker?**

Supporting Our Community



In February we hosted the Desert Willow Elementary School Family Book Club. After reading the book of the month, children, teachers, and families were invited to explore the museum after hours for a scavenger hunt and refreshments.

Members of the Book Club read *One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of WWII* by Lita Judge. This family-friendly, award winning book relays the story of American families who provided much needed aid to post-war European families.

Principal Jennifer Murrieta and Merrillyn Ridgeway, Museum Education Coordinator, worked together to design an interactive program for the book club. Families and teachers shared a wonderful evening exploring the museum. Activities included teams locating items in the museum related to the lifestyles of American families during the war and discussing the values of compassion and generosity. The program was featured in a photograph by Oscar Perez in the *Casa Grande Dispatch* on February 23, 2013.

Mrs. Murrieta has worked with teachers and parents to expand the learning opportunities for children through partnerships with local organizations. We are proud to be included in this effort to bring the community together in support of our children! We look forward to many more opportunities to support the youth and families of Casa Grande.

To arrange for group visits, tours, or educational programs for youth or adults, please contact us today. 520-836-2223 or info@cgvhs.org



Down at the Depot

Another successful presentation in this series, featuring The Baron of Arizona, was held on March 6th. Members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal while “the Baron” relayed his scandalous tales of deceit!

A special thanks is due to our dedicated volunteers Art Carlton, Jim Sommers, and Ole Solberg, AKA the Baron.

Don't miss our next season of *Down at the Depot*! We hope you will join us for a new variety of speakers and programs in the fall. Visit us today to pick up a calendar of events and tour the museum. Or visit our website for events and program updates at www.cgvhs.org.

Dr. Roland F. Schoen

Dr. Roland Schoen practiced medicine in Casa Grande from 1955 until his death in 1973. Doc Schoen was not only a very fine and caring physician but also active in community service and as a part-time journalist. He wrote a regular column for the *Casa Grande Dispatch* about his weekend explorations in the desert that he had come to love. To quote Betty Rose, a close friend of Dr. Schoen's daughter, "These articles contained carefully researched facts, impressions of their discoveries, hand-drawn maps and human stories, if one existed."

"Many patients could not afford to pay my father for the office calls or house calls, so they often paid with produce from their gardens or farms...Another time my father was paid with live chickens." Peggy Schoen Bennett (daughter)

Dr. Schoen's stories are preserved in the archives of the Casa Grande Historical Society. We hope to share his stories in future newsletters.



Summer Break

Traditionally, the museum closes its doors for the long hot summer as we work behind the scenes to build new exhibits and perform maintenance on our buildings. Not this year.

This summer we are joining you for summer break! We will open our doors on the second Saturday of June, July and August. We'll be open

12:00 noon to 4:00pm on June 8th, July 14th, and August 10th to offer Casa Grande a fun and affordable break from the summer heat.

Join us for cool and casual afternoons in the gallery as you explore the museum with your friends and family. Then, be sure to visit the patio for cold summer treats and hands on crafts for kids and adults. Summer Saturdays promise to be the best summer "staycation" in Casa Grande!

We will also offer group tours and fieldtrips during the week by appointment. Contact us to schedule your summer camp, child care group, or summer school program fieldtrip!



Now on Facebook!

If you share time, photos and updates with your family and friends on Facebook, now you can share us too!

www.fb.com/cgvhs

Be sure to click "like". Then "share" our postings with your family and friends. This is a great way to keep your Facebook friends updated on what's happening right here in Casa Grande!

The Old Stone Church



The iconic stone church now known as Heritage Hall, was designed by Los Angeles Architect Robert Orr for the First Presbyterian Church of Casa Grande in 1926. Michael Sullivan, a local stonemason, was selected as contractor for the construction of the new building.

In an unusual variation of the Mission Revival Style, the rectangular church is constructed of uncoursed desert fieldstone with the Sanctuary on the main floor and space for Sunday School classes in the basement. The building features a curvilinear parapet on the south façade, red Spanish tile gable roofs, and a projecting entry on the southwest corner. The floors, wall and roof structures are wood. The original interior finish was plaster with hand-painted stencils decorating the ceiling.

In 1977 the Historical Society purchased the church building. Under the leadership of Barbara Schoen and The Women's Club, more than 300 volunteers worked together to raise the first \$50,000 towards the purchase. After months of fundraising, refurbishing, and designing, the society opened the church and accompanying building as the museum. Later that year, the Old Stone Church was placed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The Stone Church is the last and largest fieldstone building to be built by Mr. Sullivan who died the year after completing the church. During his career in Casa Grande, Michael Sullivan built several other stone buildings including the Woman's Club across the street from the museum and the Matthew B. Juan memorial in Sacaton.

Reverend Curry Love was the pastor of the congregation from 1925-1939. The first service was held in the new building in January of 1928 and services were held here until 1971. A new Presbyterian Church was built in the late 1960s on Cottonwood Lane to accommodate the growing community.

Please stop by to visit and explore this beautiful example of local architecture.

Is there a Casa Grande story you'd like to share? Or a story you'd like to hear? Submit your requests by phone, email, or Facebook. Stories will be featured in future newsletters.

Contact us:

•520-836-2223
•info@cgvhs.org

On the Web at:

•www.fb.com/cgvhs
•www.cgvhs.org



**CASA GRANDE VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& MUSEUM**

110 W. Florence Blvd.
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

www.cgvhs.org
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4th Annual

Night at the Museum

Saturday, April 13, 2013

7:00 p.m.



Contact the museum to reserve your tickets today!

520-836-2223 info@cgvhs.org

***Live Music, Exhibits, Door
Prizes, Hors d'oeuvres,
Historic Characters, No-Host
Bar, Silent Auction,
and More!***