



Historic Happenings

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THE 2012-2013 SEASON OF DOWN AT THE DEPOT

An evening speaker series at the
Casa Grande Valley Historical Society & Museum

Learn about local history, explore the museum, and enjoy
a delicious catered dinner all in one entertaining evening!

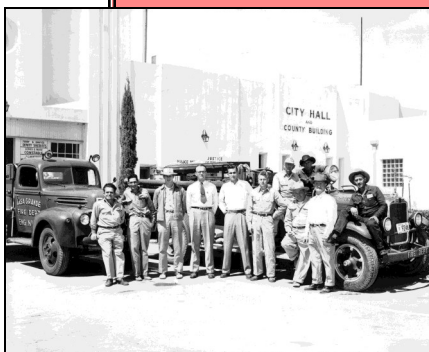
The History of the Casa Grande Fire Department
Retired firefighter Gene Lehman will present the history of the local
fire department through photographs and personal memories.
Following the presentation, attendees can view the City's
three original fire engines on display at the Museum.

Ticket includes a catered dinner and admission to the Museum, which will
be open for 30 minutes before and after the presentation. All proceeds go to
the Historical Society and help fund further educational programming.

Limited seating available—get your tickets early!
Call or stop by the Society office.

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Saturday, January 19, 2013

6:00 p.m.

In the Historical Society's
Heritage Hall

*Due to the historic nature of the hall, it is
NOT A.D.A. compliant

Tickets

General Admission: \$25

Society Members: \$15





President's Message

On behalf of the Museum's Board of Directors I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season. This was once again a very busy summer at the Museum; many maintenance and storage issues were addressed. The Heritage Hall renovations are complete and the Hall is ready for use. If you are interested in renting the facility, please

stop by the office for details.

The second annual Hot Wings for History was a great success. Thanks to all who made the day so eventful. The Down at the Depot speaker series just completed its second event of the year in Heritage Hall. Be sure and mark your calendars for the next event coming in January.

The hiring committee for a new Museum Administrator has narrowed their search to five prospective candidates. They will be working diligently to finalize the interview process by the end of November. Ashley Moser did a great job during her nearly 2 years in the position. She has set forth the foundation upon which a new administrator will be able to build. We all wish Ashley and Kevin the best as the arrival of their son is just around the corner.

As the Board moves forward with the exploration of a capital campaign, we are looking forward to meeting with a consultant to formulate a Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP will be used to select a company that will be responsible for the capital campaign, the funds from which will be used for extensive Museum renovations.

If you're looking for a fun way to kick off the holiday season, plan to attend the annual Electric Light Parade on Saturday, December 1st, always an enjoyable local event. The Society's own Engine #1 will be decked out in its holiday finery for the parade and will then return to the Museum's Garrett Room following the parade. Please stop by the museum to check out the refreshed and reimagined Public Safety exhibit. Many volunteers have spent a great deal of time improving the exhibit.

I would like to thank the current museum greeters, Leota Hopper, Karen Nelson, Ed Pretzer, Joyce Pretzer, Carol Roth, and Ruth Yanez, who have volunteered countless hours during the current and past seasons. We also have a number of new greeters: Donna Branum, Gordon Beck, Murray Singbush, and Susan Zahniser. Welcome aboard! Without their selfless donation of time and talent we would not be able to keep the doors open. A special thanks to all who donate their time behind the scenes in the museum office as well.

MEMBERSHIPS

August - October 2012

CORPORATE

Gold

Great Western Bank

Silver

Grant D. Walton Orthodontics

INDIVIDUAL

Sustaining

Mike & Ellie Andrade

Tony & Sue Eberle

Family

Marcus & Sara Bell

Dr. Philip Ivey

Matthew Levario

Jim & Regis Sommers

Individual

Kempton Ashburn

Margarette Bianco

Donna Branum

Kathy Burd

Rodger Goff

Louis Hillman

Brian Kramer

Robert Mitchell

Larry Pfeiffer

Carol Roth

La Verne Rowe

Karen Nelson

Gloria Smith

Be sure and mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Night at the Museum on April 13th, 2013. Planning is already underway and we look forward to another wonderful event. Have a safe and happy Holiday season, and a Merry Christmas!

MEMORIALS

August - October 2012

In Memory Of

Jane Norris

DONORS

James Don

Margery Jantz

Jimmie & Donna Kerr

Jim & Regis Sommers

In Memory Of

Hazel Bonebrake

DONOR

Margery Jantz



Leave a Lasting Legacy

Do you have treasured items that might find a new home in the Museum's collection? Would you like friends and loved ones to remember and honor the value you placed on the Society? 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 this organization. From artifact donations, to memorial contributions, to planned gifts, you can find a way—big or small—to leave an enduring legacy with the Historical Society. Please contact a Board or staff member if you would like to learn more about planned giving. We also have a new brochure available in the Society office on the topic so that you can explore all of the available options.

Down at the Depot Update

We are nearly midway through our second season of Down at the Depot, the evening speaker series developed and chaired by Board member Art Carlton. The first program, presented by Art himself, welcomed about 35 attendees into Heritage Hall for an in-depth look at railroad history as it pertains to Pinal County. The main course of the meal was Chicken à la King—a traditional meal served on the Southern Pacific line back in the heyday of the railroad. November's event saw the return of Gunny Jackson, "The Broken-Down Cowboy" to the Museum stage for a presentation on the infamous Apache Kid. About 30 attendees enjoyed cowboy fare of barbecued beef and baked beans while learning about the U.S. Army Scout who was wrongfully convicted of murder and spent much of his life on the run from the law.

Be sure to mark your calendar for January's presentation by retired firefighter and Society Board member Gene Lehman, who promises an entertaining and informative look at the Casa Grande Fire Department. We would still like to see new faces come and experience these local history lessons and delicious meals. Remember that as a member, you receive a generous discount on the ticket price, so consider bringing a friend to the next presentation. And tell your friends, if they purchase a Society membership at the door, they instantly receive the member discount! These presentations provide an enjoyable way to support the Society and, if you haven't been through the Museum in a while, also give you a chance to check out the improvements we've made in recent years.

SAVE THE DATE!

CGVHS Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 10, 2013

In the Historical Society's Heritage Hall

11:30 a.m.

**Please plan to attend to hear the
annual report, nominate new officers,
and meet the new
Museum Administrator.**



**POTLUCK—
please bring a dish to share.
Beverages, plates, and cutlery
will be provided.**

With Sincere Thanks

Once again, the Casa Grande Valley Historical Society and Museum gratefully extends their appreciation to Bill Bridwell and Golden Touch Realty & Developers. Following an open bid request for work on a revitalization of Heritage Hall, the Society accepted Bill's bid and the work began.

Little did we know that he would be generous to a fault, and not for the first time. In past years Bill has completed other projects around the Museum including repairs to the front patio and a complete renovation of the textile room in the basement. Last fall as work began, rather than accept payment, Bill volunteered the services of his crew at Golden Touch Realty & Developers to help renovate Heritage Hall, locally known as the iconic Presbyterian Church on Florence Boulevard.

His crew uncovered the old original stage and refinished it. Walls were removed and painted to match the rest of the interior of the building. Then, with a clear eye for symmetry, he had them rebuild the newly painted back wall and install a decorative arch that replicates the original arch in front of the stage, while also masking the unsightly HVAC ductwork that had been added over the years. In the process they discovered panels of religious artwork featuring beautiful gold gilt paint from the original church. Rather than cover this again, this beautiful detail now stands front and center beneath the new arch. A door was created to cover the electrical wiring and fuse box at the back of the stage. The stairs on each side of the stage were reconstructed, and all wood was stained to match the original Douglas Fir window frames and baseboards that were already in place throughout the rest of the Hall.

He regularly asked if the work was OK and did we have anything else he could do to make the final result better than we could have imagined. When a few small issues were pointed out, he was quick to have his crew remedy them. Over the months, the project became more involved and prolonged—as any renovation of a historic building tends to do. Nevertheless, Bill's crew remained flexible and accommodating for the duration. Labor and materials for this extensive project exceeded \$10,000, all of which were an in-kind donation to the Society.

We must also thank Huston Custom Contracting, Pranzo Carpentry, Quest Electric, the local trades who rebuilt the stage windows, refinished the original hardwood floors, and updated the electrical fixtures around the stage. And of course, this entire year-long project would never have happened without the dedication of Boy Scout Aaron Plumb who gathered 75 of his fellow scouts, family, and friends to begin the renovation process last August. Despite the extensive changes to the Hall, it still retains the original historic features that make it special and remains on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The Hall is now an impressive showplace in which to hold small community and museum events. The Society has purchased tables and chairs to accommodate up to 64 people that can be configured for a variety of different events. We hope you stop by to see his handiwork and enjoy the next event held in this wonderful old building. The Hall is also available for rental to the community; please contact the Society office if you would like more information.

Thank you, Mr. Bridwell and your courteous and hard-working crew—and to everyone involved in this project—for your dedication and support of the Historical Society and Museum.

The beautifully renovated Heritage Hall has already been used for Museum events; guests enjoy the dinner and presentation at the November Down at the Depot speaker series (left) and 3rd graders from Saguaro school complete Artifact Box activities during their field trip to the Museum in November (above).



A Hot Day for Hot Wings



The second annual Hot Wings for History cook-off was a great success. The event welcomed more attendees in its second year than last year, all of

whom enjoyed beautiful sunny (and warm!) weather as they sampled hot wings from the nine participating booths. The cook-off once again welcomed many families and first-time visitors to the Museum. About 205 attendees of all ages came out to show their support of the Society. Thanks to Golden Eagle Distributors, the event's premier sponsor, guests were able to cool down with a frosty beverage to balance out the hot wings and hot weather. And while strolling the Museum building and grounds, attendees could also shop the unique wares of local arts and craft vendors, and top off their day with a sweet treat from the Society bake sale.

After setting up and beginning to cook in the wee hours of the morning, the cooks submitted their wings for judging in two categories: the Judges' Choice Award and the People's Choice Award. Shayla Gunn and Bill Schwinn from the City of CG Parks & Recreation Department took 1st place in the judges' tasting, and Clint Shearer and his team "The Wingling Brothers" were the people's choice for the tastiest wings. The winners received a one-year membership to the Society along with a coveted "Golden Chicken" trophy. We must also thank all of our cooks, sponsors, and volunteers who contributed to the success of this fun-filled fundraiser. If you weren't able to attend, please plan to do so next year; you'll be sure to have a great time!

Attendees could shop local craft vendors and the Society Bake Sale while enjoying their wings.



2nd Annual Hot Wings for History Cook-off Fundraiser

A BIG thank-you to our Hot Wing Cooks:

Mark Bauer / Blackwatch Restaurant Services

Art Carlton—"Down at the Depot"

Shayla Gunn & Bill Schwind / City of CG Parks & Rec.

Don Johnson & Brian Kramer /
Casa Grande Valley Newspapers

Matt Herman—"Frat Boy Wings"

Steve Miller—"Miller for Wings"

Kevin Moser & Jose Mariona—"Borderline Hot"

Clint Shearer & Bill Scott—"Wingling Brothers"

Brian & David Villareal—"Never Trust a Skinny Cook"

And to the event committee & volunteers
who helped make this event a success!

And to our val- ued sponsors:



Distribution Center



Blackwatch
Restaurant
Services



Doggie Duds
& Suds Pet
Grooming



The cooks gather
to hear the
announcement of
the judges' and
people's choice
awards.



ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

According to archaeological evidence, the first man-made glass was in Eastern Mesopotamia and Egypt around 3500 BC. Through the centuries the manufacturing of glass ebbed and flowed throughout the region. But, in the 1st century BC, Syrian craftsmen invented the blowpipe and glass production in many forms flourished throughout the Roman Empire, which at the time, included most of what we now know as Europe. The technique led craftsmen to invent more utilitarian uses for glass such as beads, and also allowed them to devise elaborate works of art in the form of glassware and perhaps most importantly, the stained glass still seen in the cathedrals of the world.

Fine glass or crystal, as seen in the items shown this month, is the result of the introduction of lead oxide to the mix of silica sand before it was heated to 3,600 degrees Fahrenheit. This simple addition produced a brilliant, sparkling appearance and a softness that allowed glass cutters to more easily design and adorn glassware. The sound it made when glasses were raised and clinked in a toast made a sound as pleasing to the ear as to the eye, a tradition that lives today, especially during the holiday season.

A special thank-you to volunteer Deb Miller, who continues to complete the unique Artifact of the Month display each month.



WHAT IS THAT?!

A new feature of our newsletter will be to highlight a donated object for which we have no name and that will likely elicit a variety of ideas as to its use. For our first offering we are asking our readers to identify the item in this photograph. We have had a few guesses as to its use, but no one has been able to attach a name to this device, therefore, we have been unable to verify any of the suggestions. HELP!!

Call 836-2223 with your answer.



Don't forget—
Society members
receive a 10% discount
on all Museum Shop
purchases over \$10!



The holiday shopping season is here...
don't forget to stop by the Museum Shop
for all of your gift-giving needs!

We're all stocked up with unique
items for everyone on your list.

Come and check out the wide variety of artisan-
crafted jewelry, Indian baskets, Society hats and
T-shirts, souvenirs, children's gifts,
and books on an array of Arizona subjects.



The 3rd graders from Saguaro School check out a classroom very different from their own.

Opening Our Doors to the Youth in Our Community

Education coordinator Merrilyn Ridgeway has been kept busy during the first part of this Museum season. As soon as school started again at the end of summer, phone calls and e-mails began rolling in for school and scout tours. We are pleased to report that we've had more children through the Museum in the first two months of this season than in all of last season.

Beginning in mid-September, Merrilyn led a home-schooled group through the gallery where the kids completed age-appropriate scavenger hunts. It is wonderful that these students and their parents were able to incorporate local history into their curriculum. Next, in late October, Merrilyn welcomed a Cub Scout troop into the Museum. In an effort to earn their

local history badge, these young boys explored our Artifact Boxes and were challenged to identify unusual objects displayed throughout the gallery. Upon identifying these artifacts, they answered other critical thinking questions like, "What would this have been used for?" "Who would have used it?" and "What might someone use in place of this object today?" After putting their detective skills to work, the boys all enjoyed an ice cream treat to wrap up the evening.

In mid-November Merrilyn (and several parent volunteers!) led all 125 third-graders from Saguaro School through the gallery in two large groups. These students were also studying local history but with an additional focus on describing and writing about a "first experience," in this case, their first trip to the Historical Society Museum. The third-graders also completed a timeline and practiced the concept of chronological order as it related to both local history and their own personal story. Just a few days later came a combined group of Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts. Ranging in age from about 5 to 11 years old, these young girls were working toward their "Celebrating Community" badge at the Museum. Both groups focused on the concept of "Same and Different" in age-appropriate ways. The Daisies' parents snapped photos of the girls with various artifacts throughout the gallery that illustrated whether an object was the same or different from the modern equivalent of today. Then, the Brownies created a collage of these photos along with their own examples of same and different throughout the Museum.

The staff is so grateful to Merrilyn for her tireless efforts in developing focused curriculum and activities for this wide variety of ages and interests. She must also call on her skills as a former teacher and current grandma as she demonstrates the patience required when working with our youngest visitors! If you have young children or grandchildren, are a teacher, scout leader, or home-schooling parent, do keep the Museum in mind as a fun (and free!) way to spend an hour or an afternoon. Groups of eight or more can usually be accommodated outside of normal Museum hours, staff permitting. Just remember to give us adequate notice so that we can work with you to prepare an age and interest-appropriate tour for your young group. And don't forget that we welcome older kids and young adults to inquire about volunteer opportunities at the Museum, both as greeters and behind the scenes. Call the Museum office (520-836-2223) for more details.

Saguaro students complete timelines as they tour the Crossroads Room at the Museum.





**CASA GRANDE VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& MUSEUM**

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

**4TH ANNUAL
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2013
7:00 - 10:00 P.M.**

110 W. FLORENCE BLVD.



**STROLL THROUGH THE MUSEUM WHILE
ENJOYING LIVE MUSIC, HORS D'OEUVRES BUFFET,
SILENT AUCTION AND PRIZES**

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AND SHOW YOUR
SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIETY AS WE HONOR THE
PIONEER FAMILIES OF CASA GRANDE**

LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS IN THE SPRING NEWSLETTER!