



# ORO VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

September, 2023



**Current Board Members at July Meeting: From left, back row: Paul Loomis (Treasurer), Denzil Walker (President), Bob Kellar (Elected to the Board in July), Sherri Graves. Front: Twink Monrad, Devon Sloan (Secretary), Sue Chambasian. Absent: Joyce Rychener.**



### **New Season at Steam Pump Ranch!**

The Board of the Oro Valley Historical Society is excited to announce our season starts again at Steam Pump Ranch on Saturday, September 9 from 9 a.m. to noon! The Pusch House will be open each Saturday until mid-April with changing exhibits each month. In September we will honor our **Hispanic heritage** as part of National Hispanic Heritage Month. We hope you will join us and learn who, what, and how the Hispanic settlers shaped our community. The exhibits are free, and donations are gladly accepted to help us keep Oro Valley history alive!

### **Future exhibits will include -**

October – in keeping with Oktoberfest festivities, we will feature **Germanic influence in our area** (think Pusch family!)

November – we will honor **Native American Heritage Month**. Native Americans were here long before us!

December – a month of **celebrations of different cultures** and customs that surround this festive time of year

January – come see who were some of the **first settlers to the Valley of Gold**

February –we will commemorate **National Black History Month** along with Arizona's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday

March – **Women's History Month** will be highlighted, noting some of our very own Oro Valley homesteaders

April – it's a birthday – **Oro Valley turns 50** this month!

To make sure all those celebrations meet our guests' expectations, we welcome your participation as a docent. Tina Zogott has agreed to schedule our Saturday morning volunteers monthly this season. She will request docents for the Pusch House Museum, ambassadors at our OVHS booth, and helpers to set up and take down our booth. So, check your calendars, and please sign up to join us in continuing to promote our Society and sharing the history of the greater Oro Valley area.

### **Board Meeting in July**

At the July board meeting, Bob Kellar was elected to serve out the term of the late Henry Zipf. Paul Loomis reviewed a license agreement with the Town of Oro Valley for Society use of Steam Pump Ranch. It was approved by the Board. The Board voted to purchase a carrying case for Jim Kriegh's meteorite collection. The Town reported that it is working on repairs to the Farmers' Market kiosks that were damaged.

### **Speaker Program for 2024**

Steam Pump Ranch is not the only place that Oro Valley history will be explored in 2024. The Society's past president, Jim Williams, will be hosting monthly talks at the Oro Valley Library in celebration of Oro Valley's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. The programs will focus on the history of the town from incorporation to today. The topics and schedule are as follows:

January - Jim Williams will discuss **50 Years of Oro Valley**

February – Community leaders will participate in a panel discussion on **Community Change in Oro Valley**

March – Three mayors will discuss **Political Change in Oro Valley** in a panel discussion format.

April - Several people involved in the incorporation will discuss **Oro Valley's Early Years**.

The programs will be held at the Oro Valley Library. They are free and open to the public.

## **Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area Project**

The Town of Oro Valley and the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area have asked for our Society's help to create a heritage sign at Steam Pump Ranch. Jim Williams, Devon Sloan, Denzil Walker, and Sue Chambasian submitted the following narratives to be edited by the Santa Cruz Heritage directors.

Native American Lifeways  
Spanish and Mexican Frontier  
Ranching Tradition at Steam Pump Ranch in the late 1880's and the 1930's  
Heritage Garden- Desert Farming  
Steam Pump – Streams in the Desert

Those themes are some of the 11 themes of the Heritage Area which fit closest to what our area provides, highlighting significant aspects of the natural and cultural history of our region. Placement of the sign is being considered and we hope to produce and install the heritage sign later this Fall.

### **Thank You!**

Many thanks are in order!! First of all, we are grateful for the vision, the support, the leadership (and the great stories!) our former President, Henry Zipf, provided us during his time as a member of the Historical Society. He was a lifetime member of the Society, and the great grandson of George and Mathilda Pusch. We are also grateful for those people who donated to the society in his honor after his death in May. The Board is considering ways that we can honor him at Steam Pump Ranch, and if you have suggestions, please let us know.

And we thank Twink Monrad for her continuous and long-time support of the society as noted by her son Ben and his wife Amanda's donation of \$1,000 in honor of the Monrad family to our Society. Twink suggested a portion of the gift go towards purchasing a storage and display case for Jim Kriegh's previously donated Meteorite Collection (2007). Additional monies will go towards enhancing our collections necessary supplies.

Big thanks to Teri Colmar who submitted our Arizona Historical Society 2023-2024 Small Grant application which provides funds to organizations in amounts less than \$1,000. Her submission came to \$991.00 (good job, Teri!) which we will use for Collections preservation supplies and exhibit display enhancements. The Arizona Historical Society will notify us very soon when and if our application has been approved.

And appreciation to Intelligent Office, located at 1846 East Innovation Park Drive in Oro Valley who donated funds for our continued operation. They provide virtual office space, mailing address, phone service, and meeting space all in one location for those of you working from home who need a business location.

### **New Committees Need Volunteers**

The Oro Valley Historical Society needs a social media (think Facebook) guru and a fundraising committee. If you have any desire to help the society and these two committees are of interest, please let anyone on the Board know.



### **Gertrude's Steam Trunk**

Sue Chambasian reports that the restoration of Gertrude Pusch's steamer trunk has been on the Collections Committee's wish list for several years. Luckily this spring, one of our members, Joe Frannea, volunteered to take on the project. He searched for antique screws and latches (to reattach the top to the bottom), leather, and strapping. Joe cleaned the deteriorated varnish and applied wood preservative. As a result of his work, intricate designs surfaced on the wood! The trunk is now completely restored. Thanks Joe!

### **Jim Click Millions for Tucson Raffle**

Please don't forget that the Oro Valley Historical Society participates in the annual Jim Click Millions for Tucson's Charitable Organizations' raffle ticket fundraiser. See what you could win just by donating in honor of the society!

1st Place - 2023 SUV Ford Bronco Raptor

2nd Place - 2 First Class, round trip airline tickets to anywhere in the world

3rd Place - \$5,000 cash prize

Raffle tickets are now available through our Oro Valley Historical Society website (<https://ovhistory.org>) or on Saturday mornings at our booth at the Farmers' Market or in the Pusch House Museum now through Dec. 9th. Support your Society and possibly be a winner!

### **OVHS Now a Donation-Based Organization**

And a final reminder that the Society has changed from a membership based to a donation-based organization. As a donation-based organization, your contributions support our exhibits, programs, research, collections, and the dissemination of history related to the greater Oro Valley area. We appreciate any and all donations, gifts and grants to continue our efforts in keeping Oro Valley History Alive!