



# Oro Valley Historical Society

OVHS Newsletter

Editor Jim Williams

April 2024

## Happy 50th Anniversary Oro Valley!



*Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area sign at SPR*

Due to efforts of Devon Sloan, Sue Chambasian, Denzil Walker and other members of OVHS, the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area sign was installed and unveiled at Steam Pump Ranch on February 29th. Members of OVHS, Mayor Winfield, Parks and Recreation Department representatives, and others were in attendance. Society members participated in the research for the sign. The sign themes include desert farming, ranching traditions, streams in the desert, and Native American lifeways. Congratulations to all involved!

### Speaker Program on Town Anniversary

OVHS has offered a variety of speakers this spring on topics related to the town's 50th anniversary. In February, Spencer Elliott, Kathi Cuvelier, and Dave Perry participated in a panel discussion on how the town has changed. On March 11th, Mayor Joe Winfield and former mayors Satish Hiremath and Paul



*Former Mayor Hiremath, Former Mayor Loomis, Mayor Winfield, & moderator J. Williams*

Loomis discussed the political history of the town. On April 8th, former police chief Fred Roof and attorney Sidney Felker reminisced about the very early years of the town. Thanks to all who participated in these events! The programs were recorded and will be placed on the OVHS website.

### Society News

The Board ordered and expects the arrival of an honorary bench to remember President Henry K. Zipf. It will be placed near the Pusch House and will help honor his service to the Society and family heritage related to the ranch. Sue Chambasian has completed a total inventory of all our archives and donations. Copies of this document are in the Pusch House office. With a grant from the Arizona Historical Society, we have purchased items to help keep our inventory safe and secure. The Society has also purchased a banner placed at the petroglyph display in the Pusch House. Donations were

received from Barbara Marriott (research materials), Sally Lee (painting of the Pusch House), and Jim Williams (copies of Arizona Historical Society publications).

### Oro Valley History Class in May

To celebrate the town's 50th anniversary, local historian Jim Williams will conduct a two-day class on the history of our town at the OV Library on May 13th and 20th. The programs will begin at 2:00 pm and are free and open to the public. You may attend one or both programs.

### Pusch Ranch House Displays

The Collections Committee and other volunteers worked diligently to provide excellent displays in the Pusch House over the past four months. The January display, *Early Settlers And Homesteaders*, featured pictures and items related to Arizona Statehood. February's display, *Black History and Arizona Statehood*, centered on Black History Month, and the March displays highlighted Women's *History Month*. For April, the volunteers developed a visual presentation on Oro Valley's anniversary.



*Society Members Participating in the Town Parade on April 6th*

### Information from the 2023 Annual Report

Volunteers contributed a total of 1,984 hours during the year. The Jim Click Raffle garnered \$1,725 for the Society... Supporters of OVHS contributed \$9,784... Community outreach included a KGUN 9 interview with Devon Sloan, Basis Students project at the Ranch, tours for several PEO groups, and cooperation on an oral history project with Ironwood Ridge High School. 29 individuals served as docents in the past year. Total visitors at Steam Pump Ranch – 2597.



*Fred Roof and Sidney Felker at the Library Presentation April 8th*



*Devon Sloan, Sue Chambasian, & Bob Kellar*

"Nice afternoon at James Kriegh Park OV 50th celebration. The Jim Kriegh connections with OV founding 50 years ago, OVHS, and his meteorite collection were a hit." *Pat Spoerl*