



ORO VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Happy Summer Everyone!

Although the Pusch House Museum at historic Steam Pump Ranch is closed for the summer, the Oro Valley Historical Society has been working on ideas for our new season starting in September when docents and snowbirds will be back in town. Here's what we have been up to since our April newsletter.

Let's start in May, when our past President and current historian, Jim Williams, provided Oro Valley with a speakers' tour of Oro Valley's history, speaking at churches, Sun City gatherings, Western National Parks store, and the Oro Valley Public Library about Oro Valley's history and promoting his new book [Oro Valley, The First Fifty Years](#). Presentations were well attended, and Jim had answers to any and all questions posed to him following his discussions.

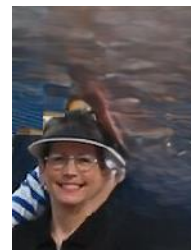


If you missed any of these events, you can see videos of the talks on the Oro Valley Historical Society's website at www.ovhistory.org.

Jim has graciously donated proceeds of his book to the Oro Valley Historical Society for educational purposes. With that money, the Society has purchased a permanent sign to be installed later this summer in front of the Steam Pump building at Steam Pump Ranch. When installed, visitors to the Ranch can be informed as to the history of this local attraction whenever they are visiting the Ranch whether docents are available or not. Thank you, Jim!

Also in May, representatives from the Town and the Society had the opportunity to meet with representatives from Home Depot who had contacted the Society offering philanthropic assistance for projects to be completed at Steam Pump Ranch. The Director of the Heritage Garden, Joyce Rychener, is currently working with them to replace fencing at the garden and provide a tool shed for equipment. We are thrilled for the opportunity to partner with Home Depot, as the land where they sit was actually part of the CDO Ranch!

June has been a busy month for the Society. One of our lifetime members, Roxy Johnson, made a presentation to residents of Country Club of La Cholla about her family's homesteading life in the 1920's and 1930's in Oro Valley. Residents enjoyed the presentation, and we hope some of the residents will be able to take a tour of Steam Pump Ranch this fall.



On June 12, in conjunction with the Town's Park and Recreation Department, docents of the Society introduced campers to the Ranch during the scheduled History Week programs at the ranch during their summer program. The Town team did a great job of giving some background information about the Ranch, and the campers enjoyed seeing the exhibits in an actual home built before even their parents were a twinkle in anyone's eye!

On June 15, supporters of the Oro Valley Historical Society gathered at the Ranch to dedicate a bench in honor of our past President, lifetime member, supporter, and friend, Henry K. Zipf who died in May, 2023 at the age of 67. This memorial was made possible with donations received by the Society in honor of Henry. Board member, Sue Chambasian, did the research involved in purchasing the bench, and Bob Kellar, also a Board member, worked with the Town to manage the installation. As you can see from the pictures, the bench looks at Henry's beloved Catalina Mountains and faces his great grandparents' home – the Pusch House at Steam Pump Ranch.



Back row – Twink Monrad, Teri Colmar, Anne Keeler, Connor Barczak, Bob Kellar, Paul Loomis

Front row – Sue Chambasian, Denzil Walker, Town Council Member, Mo Greene

And what's coming up?

The Oro Valley Historical Society is working on obtaining two grants from the Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Arizona Historical Society for permanent signage at Steam Pump Ranch and to protect and preserve Gertrude Pusch's silk shawl.

In addition, we are working with the Communications Department at the Town of Oro Valley to complete oral histories from some of our long term supporters.

And, we are participating in the Jim Click raffle again this year. We will have THE actual jeep Mr. Click is providing for that raffle at the Pusch House on the second Saturday in October. So, not to worry if you aren't in town right now. You can get your tickets at the Pusch House starting in September, and you'll have plenty of time to support the Oro Valley Historical Society with your donation. Best of luck to you!

Here's to a great summer for you. Keep cool. Drink lots of water. And remember, the Oro Valley Historical Society is a charitable organization working to keep Oro Valley History alive. We are fueled by supporters, docents, and your donations. If you wonder where you should be donating, we would welcome your generosity, and if you have the time, we would welcome your participation. History loves company!

www.ovhistory.org