



ORO VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We are back, and we welcome **your return** to historic Steam Pump Ranch!

After a beautiful summer in Oro Valley, with 19 days of rain (according to my backyard rain gauge), the Oro Valley Historical Society will open our exhibits in the Pusch House Museum at Steam Pump Ranch on Saturday, September 7 at 9 a.m. until noon. Our first exhibit features **The Santa Catalinas – Our Magnificent Mountains**. The docents recently had training, and we are so ready to graciously receive all visitors with information about those stupendous summits in our backyard. The exhibit will be on display every Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon through October 12.



In conjunction with that exhibit, the Society will host a speaker at the Oro Valley Public Library on Tuesday, September 10 at 2 p.m. **Mr. Pat Damiani**, currently a Santa Catalina Park Ranger, will speak to us about **Catalina State Park – Past, Present, and Future**. We are sure you will hear information you didn't know before! The public is invited, and the talk is complimentary (with donations gladly accepted).



On October 12, we will have on site for your inspection at Steam Pump Ranch the **Jim Click Raffle's First Place Prize** - the 2024 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 4xe Plug-in Hybrid (MSRP starting at \$61,180). We will be selling raffle tickets that day (as we do every Saturday this fall), and you could be the lucky winner! Tickets are only \$25 or 5 for \$100, and **ALL** proceeds from those ticket sales support the Oro Valley Historical Society due to the kindness of Jim Click. So, visit the Ranch on October 12 to buy a ticket, see the Museum, indulge in the goodies at the Heirloom Farmers' Market, and see what treasures the Second Saturday vendors have brought for you. OR go on our website to purchase tickets!

<https://www.ovhistory.org>

On October 19, we will present our second exhibit of the season - **A Salute to the Military - Recognizing Military Service**. It will highlight the role of the military and recognize those who have served from the region – both past and present. This exhibit will be at the Pusch House Museum and will be open to the public every Saturday October 19 – November 23 from 9 a.m. to noon. We are featuring this exhibit at this time to coordinate with the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Arizona Heroes Memorial scheduled for November 16 in Naranja Town Park. This memorial honors the service and sacrifice of active-duty military, veterans, first responders, and healthcare workers.

Another military feature for October will be at the Oro Valley Public Library on October 15 at 2 p.m. We will sponsor a lecture by **Venetia Hobson Lewis**, author of the award-winning novel "**Changing Woman A Novel of the Camp Grant Massacre**". This novel weaves the stories of the actual perpetrators with fictional characters to recreate their actions taken in 1871, both in relation to the massacre and their private lives. Again, the talk is complimentary, the public is invited. Books will be available for sale.

Future exhibits at the Pusch House Museum this season will be as follows -

December 7 - January 4: Decking the Halls with Many Traditions

January 11 - February 15: From Wild West to Statehood

February 22 - March 22: Oracle Road - Oro Valley's Historic Main Street

March 29 - April 26: Oro Valley: Mid-Century Development to Incorporation

The Pusch House Museum will be open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon except for November 30. Tours of the Museum are complimentary, and donations are always welcome!

Coming up soon!...

Watch for us at the **Oro Valley Fall Foodie and Art Festival** October 26 and 27 at Oro Valley Marketplace.

Also, watch for a new addition to our Pusch Family Room in the Museum – George Pusch's daughter Gertrude's silk wedding shawl – soon to be preserved, framed, and permanently displayed.

And what happened over the summer?

We owe a big thanks to **Barbara Marriott** and **Jim Williams** for their gracious donations of all of their research materials garnered over many years. Jim Williams, Historian and Past President of the Oro Valley Historical Society, has written two books about Oro Valley history. The most recent is "Oro Valley The First Fifty Years" published this year to coordinate with Oro Valley's 50th anniversary. It details the long journey it took for our community to become the thriving Town it is today. Barbara Marriott has written 17 books about Southwestern history, and you can only imagine the depth of the research she has entrusted to the Society. We are very grateful to both these historians for their help in keeping Oro Valley history alive. Books by both authors are available for sale at the Pusch House Museum with proceeds going to the Oro Valley Historical Society!

We also would like to thank **Ben Feicht** and **Sally Lee** for their donations of paintings to the Museum – Ben's donation is a painting of the Steam Pump building painted by Margaret Brown, a lifelong resident of Tucson. She originally owned the painting and later gifted it to her close friend, and Ben's grandmother, Dorothy Livingston, who was a longtime resident of Tucson, living just north of the University of Arizona from 1959 to 2015. Ben inherited the painting from his grandmother in December, 2022. Ben, an architect and exhibit designer for various museums and historical societies, donated the painting to aid in the restoration efforts of the Steam Pump Ranch by the Oro Valley Historical Society. Sally Lee's painting features the front of George Pusch's home on Steam Pump Ranch, which is the location of the Oro Valley Historical Society Museum. Sally belongs to the Southern Arizona Arts Guild and shows her work at the SAAG Gallery at La Encantada. Both paintings are in the Pusch House Museum on a permanent basis, so come see them on Saturdays at Steam Pump Ranch!

We are so grateful to **Nick Going** in the Communications Department of the Town of Oro Valley, who helped us edit oral histories of some of our incredible supporters and long-time residents of Oro Valley – **Barbara McIntyre** (great granddaughter of George Pusch), **Dick Eggerding** (the Muse of Oro Valley), **Dick Johnson** (interim Mayor of Oro Valley), and his wife, **Roxy Johnson**, whose parents were homesteaders here before Oro Valley was Oro Valley. A big thanks to Nick for enabling us to place those on our website. Check out the website, and take some time to enjoy. Their histories are incredible and very fun to listen to! <https://www.ovhistory.org>

Also, over the summer, **Bob Kellar**, **Sue Chambasian**, **Devon Sloan**, and wonderful student volunteer, **Connor Barczak** worked on cataloguing some of our 70 "Journals of Arizona History". This is an ongoing project designed to help make it easier for our docents to inform our Museum visitors with accurate historical research. A big thanks to the readers of our group!

We were honored to be recognized as an Outstanding Non-Profit by the Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce at their annual meeting in August. Although we didn't reach the number one spot, it felt good to be recognized! We are sure when you visit us in the Pusch House Museum at historic Steam Pump Ranch this season, you will see why we were on the list. We look forward to welcoming you to the historical heart of Oro Valley as we keep Oro Valley history alive—history loves company!