



ORO VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter of the Oro Valley Historical Society

Jan/Feb 2009

Web: www.ovhistory.org

Our Historical Society Continues to Prosper!

The Oro Valley Historical Society has made significant progress in the past four years implementing our mission "To promote research, preservation, education and dissemination of history related to the greater Oro Valley area". We recognize that this was all possible due to our members and those serving on the Board. *We ask for your continued support by renewing your membership or a donation. A Membership/Donation envelope is enclosed for your convenience.* Here is a snapshot of the Society for your review:

Formation of the Society in 2005



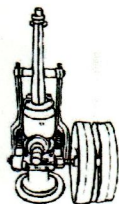
Incorporation as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Bylaws, Mission statement, and a Logo launched us in the right direction. Three officers and four directors were installed to move forward. Jim Kriegh had been networking and collecting many historical documents prior to the formation of the Society. Most of these are from Henry Zipf, grandson of George Pusch who established the Steam Pump Ranch.

Historical Richness



The greater Oro Valley area contains significant historic places that can be identified as "What Happened Under Your Feet". Hohokam villages existed here over a thousand years ago. Before then migratory hunters and gatherers undoubtedly traveled the area along the Canada del Oro. Tours are planned for the future at the few archaeological sites that still remain. People continued to travel through the area during the Spanish and Mexican settlement period. Once the United States acquired this land, miners, ranchers and settlers came. Ranching boomed in the 1880s with the Steam Pump Ranch being a significant operation. The Society is planning to develop historic gardens at the property. Future tours and events are also being planned by us.

Activities - Events - Partnerships



Accession activities to catalog hundreds of documents, photos and items using Past Perfect museum software is under way. We have initiated the oral interview process to capture significant events. We coordinate closely with the Town and The Historical Preservation Commission. Two library cases in the OV Library are maintained with historical items. Presentations are given about our Society and Steam Pump Ranch. We sponsor fund-raising events such as barbecues and hayrides at White Stallion Ranch, and book-signing events. This year we will focus on Town Heritage Month in April.

Communication - Meetings



An important aspect of our Mission is to disseminate information. Formal newsletters are now published every two months. Our web site makes information readily available for both Society news and historical information. EMail is also heavily used to communicate with other organizations, between directors and to our members. Informative historical topical meetings are open to all. About four to six general meetings or events each year includes an annual business meeting in March to elect directors (staggered three year terms).

Financial



The Society is a non-profit organization which generates all of its' own income from memberships, donations, fund raising, and grants. Our expenses include a small amount for administrative expenses such as archival materials and software with most for activities directly related to member benefits such as meetings, newsletters, displays and events. A 2008 financial summary will soon be on our web site.

President's Message - Membership Renewals



It's a new year and it's time again to renew your Historical Society membership. Renewing your membership is a simple way to support our ongoing efforts to preserve important historical places in Oro Valley and to make its history accessible to our community. We look forward to initiating guided tours of Steam Pump Ranch later this year and to supporting area schools through programs involving prehistoric foods and historic gardens. And, don't miss out on the fun of member activities and programs.

For those of you who are Lifetime members, we thank you again for your long-term support of the Historical Society. An envelope is enclosed for all others to renew. Remember, the Oro Valley Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and dues are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Your membership is essential for the Society to prosper and to continue our mission to promote research, preservation, education and dissemination of historical information related to the greater Oro Valley area.

Pat Spoerl

Upcoming OVHS Events

Annual Meeting - Thursday, March 19, 2009, 6:30 PM

* * * Oro Valley Heritage Month Presentations * * *

Thursday, March 19, 2009 - 6:30 PM

Hohokam Lifeways near the Canada del Oro
by Suzanne Fish, PhD

Saturday, March 28, 2009 - 9 AM to 11 AM

Romero Ruin Tour, Catalina State Park
by Forest Service archaeologists - RSVP req'd

Thursday, April 3, 2009 - 8 AM (tentative)

Honey Bee Village Archaeological Preserve Tour
by Henry Wallace, Desert Archaeology - RSVP req'd

Thursday, April 9, 2009 - 6:30 PM

Our Ranching Legacy
participants, Ben Williams, Barbara Marriott, Henry Zipf, others

Saturday, April 18th, 2009 - All Day

Steam Pump Ranch Open House
sponsored by the Town of Oro Valley
Guided Tours by Oro Valley Historical Society

General meetings are held at the Oro Valley Library
in the Meeting Room unless otherwise noted.

Oro Valley Historical Society

Officers:

President: Pat Spoerl (2011)
520 297-7347
Vice President: Joe Frannea (2009)
Secretary: Roxy Johnson (2009)
Treasurer: Lyra Done (2009)

Directors:

Georgia Hollinger (2009)
Twink Monrad (2011)
Fred Roof (2010)
Joyce Rychener (2010)

Note: Officers are selected by Directors
each year from the elected Directors.
The numbers in parenthesis are the year
the Directors term expires in March.

Committees:

Membership: Twink Monrad
Fund Raising: Georgia Hollinger
Archival: Joe Frannea
Speakers: Roxy Johnson
Education: Tom Moser,
Joyce Rychener
Oral Histories: need help...
Historic Gardens: Joyce Rychener
Editor: Joe Frannea
joe @ ovhistory.org

Donations:

Donations are always welcomed,
much appreciated and needed.
We are a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit
Corporation with donations
being tax deductible to the
extent of the law.

Memberships:

Family: \$25
Individual: \$15
Student: \$5
Corporate/Institution: \$75
Life-Family: \$200
Life-Corp./Institution: \$400

Web: www.ovhistory.org
Email: info@ovhistory.org

Oro Valley Heritage Month

Please Join Us - Mark your calendar now...

The Historical Society has received \$5,000 from the Town of Oro Valley Community Funding Program to help fund an Oro Valley Heritage Month during the birthday celebration next April (the Town's 35th birthday). We will have several very exciting events to celebrate Heritage month focusing on several time periods prior to the forming of the Town of Oro Valley.

* March 19th - Hohokam Lifeways...

Suzanne Fish, PhD, will talk about Hohokam Lifeways near the Canada de Oro which started about 800 AD. We will explore the ruins discovered in the greater Oro Valley area and other significant events. Thursday, OV Library, 6:30 PM.

* March 28th - Romero Ruin Tour

A walking (easy hike) tour of the Romero Ruin in Catalina State Park. It is co-sponsored with Coronado National Forest and will be led by Forest Service archaeologists. Tour starts on Saturday morning at 9 AM and lasts no longer than two hours. Reservations required.

* April 3rd - Honey Bee Village Tour

A tour of Honey Bee Village Archaeological Preserve led by Henry Wallace from Desert Archaeology. Tour starts on Friday morning at 8 AM (tentative) and lasts no longer than two hours. Reservations required.

* April 9th - Our Ranching Legacy

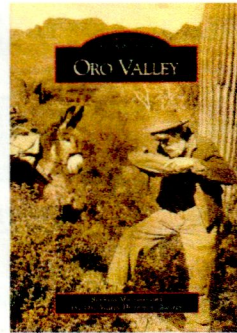
Ranching from the early 1800's through the 1900's will be discussed by a panel consisting of Ben Williams, Barbara Marriott, Henry Zipf, and a few others. They will focus on both the ranches in the greater Oro Valley area and ranching lifestyles. The Steam Pump Ranch will be one of the main topics. OV Library, 6:30 PM.

* April 18th - Steam Pump Ranch

An Open House all day sponsored by the Town of Oro Valley. Oro Valley Historical Society Members will give guided tours of significant sites at the ranch. Refreshments are planned by the Town. Details about Saturday events to be provided by the Town.

If you have ideas, possible display items, information about these periods, or want to become involved, please contact one of our Board members or send an email to: info@ovhistory.org.

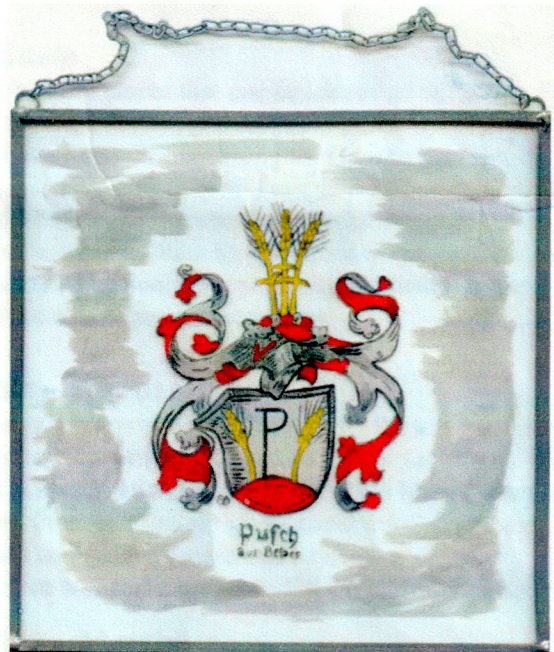
A Great New Book



"Images of America, Oro Valley" by Barbara Marriott and the Oro Valley Historical Society. It's available locally at the Western National Parks Association bookstore on Rancho Vistoso Drive and at area bookstores. Author Barbara is donating a portion of the proceeds to the Society.

Pusch Family Crest

We recently received an email from Oliver Pusch who lives in Echzell, Germany. Oliver is the grandson of Wilhelm Pusch who was the brother of George Pusch. George's hometown was Echzell, Germany. Oliver has provided us with some additional family information. One item sent to us is this photo of the family crest that his parents owned which is painted on a glass panel.



We have also just received an email from Cora Tschangizian who lives in Dusseldorf and corresponded on behalf of her mother, Brigitte Pusch. Her mother tells stories about her great grandfather's brother (George) who came to the United States in the late 1860's using his farming skills to start an ambitious career in ranching. We are looking forward to additional correspondence to learn more about the Pusch family.