



ORO VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter of the Oro Valley Historical Society

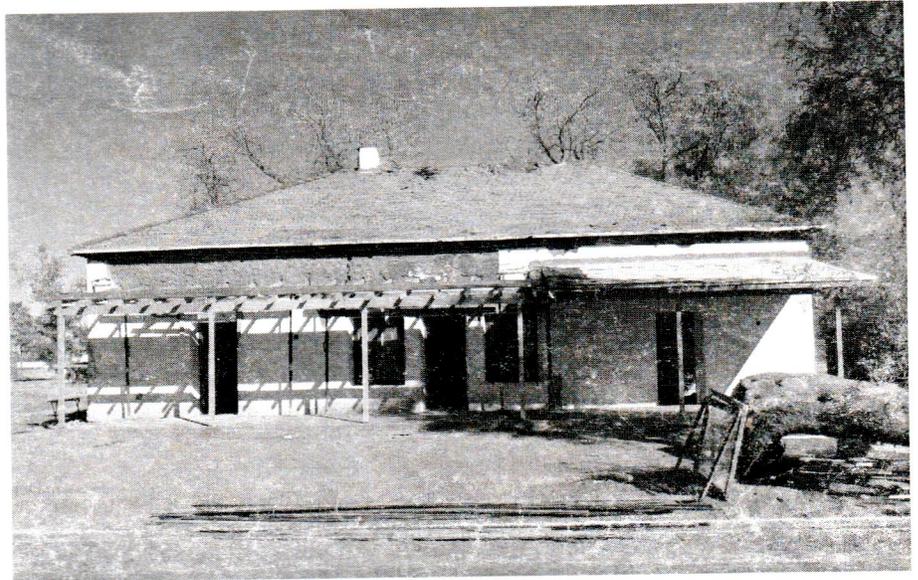
Jan/Feb/Mar 2011

Web: www.ovhistory.org

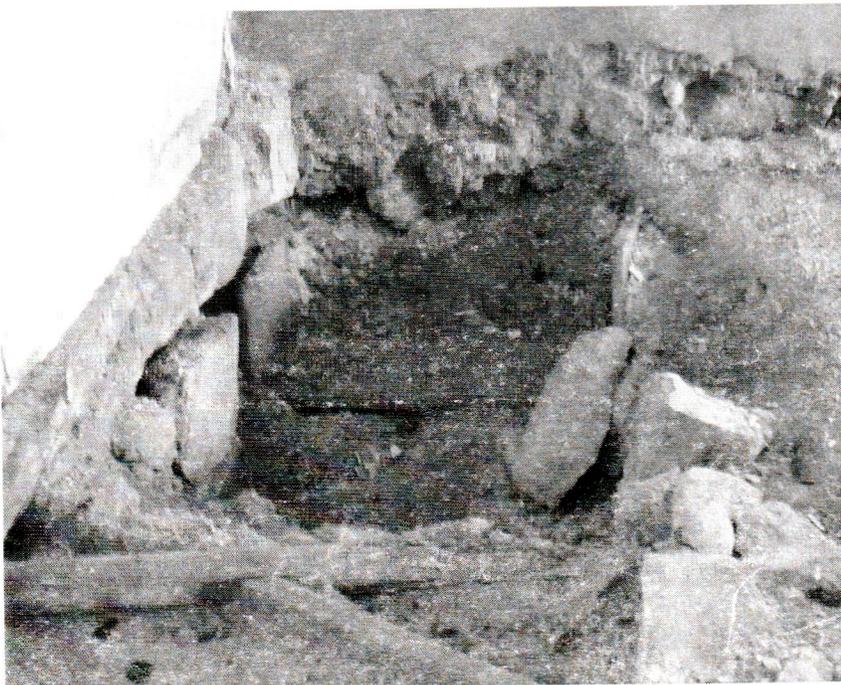
Update on Steam Pump Ranch Restoration

The Town of Oro Valley awarded a contract for restoration of the Pusch Ranch House and repair of the collapsed wall of the Procter House at Steam Pump Ranch in late September. The contract was awarded to Concord General Contractors, a Tucson firm with experience in historic restoration projects.

To date the non-historic features of the Pusch House have been removed (e.g. added porches and bathrooms) and the roof is being repaired and replaced. A surprise was the discovery of the original historic stairwell to the cellar when the concrete floor in the kitchen was removed.



Archaeologists from Desert Archaeology, Inc. exposed the walls of the stairwell and cleared the top wooden tread. Further excavation removed soil inside the stairwell and found that the risers had been cut off at the time the stairwell was filled, and that no additional treads were present.



Knowing the location and general configuration of the original staircase will enhance interpretation of the house and the interior changes made over time.

Because of restrictions on access during construction it is not known when OVHS may resume tours of the property.

This photo shows a portion of the stairwell uncovered in the kitchen of the Pusch House. Note the wood riser and tread.

Pat Spoerl

President's Message...

An Eye on the Future to Preserve the Past

As we begin the new year we reflect on the many very exciting things that happened in 2010. Phase I work has begun on restoring the Steam Pump Ranch. Records and photographs obtained from that time have been digitally recorded for posterity.

The Oro Valley Historical Society (OVHS) is now the Registered owner of one of the brands used by George Pusch at the Steam Pump Ranch (feature story in our last newsletter). An historic Garden, reflecting agricultural skills of the early Native Americans has received great publicity and praise thanks to Joyce Rychener.

Recently, a member of the German branch of the Pusch family was welcomed as a Life Member of the OVHS. Rightfully the focus currently is centered on Steam Pump Ranch, originally comprising thousands of acres of land, now reduced to 19 acres, saved from extinction by the purchase by the Town of Oro Valley, and supported by some far sighted town officials and volunteers.

As we move toward the State Centennial in early 2012. there will be many opportunities to participate in activities commemorating the statehood event, George Pusch was a key player in the events of the time. The OVHS more than ever will depend on the loyal support of its members and will be looking for membership help and participation in noting the historically significant events leading up to Arizona Statehood.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please come on board for what promises to be a fun, educational, and memorable year.

Finally, I cannot end before thanking each and every board member and volunteer for making 2010 a success. Pat Spoerl, one of the three founders of OVHS who has spent exhausting years building and nurturing the organization, has yielded the President's chair, but will continue to be active. Without Pat's enthusiasm, persistence and firm hand, OVHS would not be where it is today.

Jim Skalicky, Acting President

Historical Society To Elect Two New Board Members

Annual Board elections will be held in March. The OVHS nominations Committee consists of Twink Monrad, Joe Frannea, Krista Neis, Melody Weber and Dee Carter. They have nominated Pat Spoerl and Paul Loomis to fill the two vacancies. Any Member can also make nominations for these two openings. See the box to the right for a current list of all Board Members and officers.

Visit Our Display Cases In the Oro Valley Library

Twink Monrad and Bob Baughman will fill the display cases with Bob's turquoise collection and the OVHS Jim Kriegh meteorite collection very soon during the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show month of February. The two cases are located around the corner past the Program Meeting room, stay to your left as you enter the library and go way back.

Oro Valley Historical Society

Officers:

President: vacant
Vice Pres: Jim Skalicky (2012)
Secretary: Roxy Johnson (2012)
Treasurer: Lyra Done (2012)

Directors:

Bob Baughman (2012)
Barb Campbell (2013)
Twink Monrad (2011)
Krista Neis (2012)
Marilyn Pincus (2013)
Pat Spoerl (2011)

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: Bob Baughman
Fund Raising: need help
Archival: Roxy
Speakers: Roxy Johnson
Education: 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.

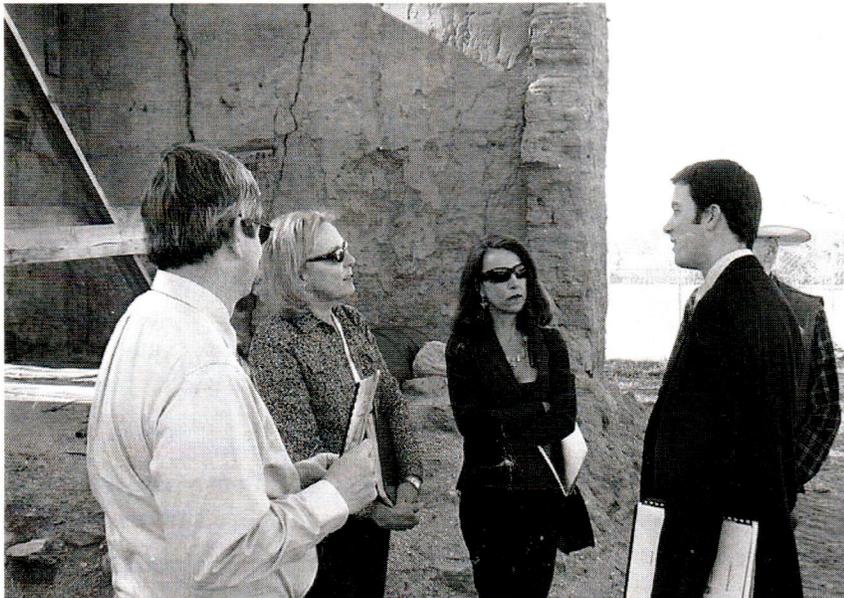
Memberships:

Family: \$25
Individual: \$15
Student: \$10
Corporate/Institution: \$100

Life-Family: \$400

Tragedy in Tucson

I was honored to meet Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords in Washington D.C. last March as a member of the Oro Valley delegation pursuing federal funding for Town projects including restoration of the historic Steam Pump Ranch owned by the Town. Gabby submitted the Town's funding proposal for \$1million. She supports restoration work at the Ranch as part of her ongoing effort to preserve the cultural heritage of southern Arizona. I am confident she will be able to continue her emphasis on preserving special historic places.



Giffords' director of community outreach, Gabe Zimmerman, visited Steam Pump Ranch on more than one occasion to help secure funding for restoration of its buildings. His interest and enthusiasm in preserving history will long be remembered. I hope there will be an opportunity to create a remembrance of him at the site. Former Oro Valley Mayor Paul Loomis, Pat Spoerl, Salette Latas, and Gabe Zimmerman meeting at the historic adobe Pump House.

Pat Spoerl

A Trip To Germany

One of the many rewards of getting involved with history, is the connection one makes that enter into every day life. This opportunity presented itself recently when the Steam Pump Ranch and my planned trip to Germany came together. Oliver Pusch, a German relative of George Pusch had contacted the Oro Valley Historical Society a few years ago regarding his interest in the information we were developing about the US branch of the family. He has also provided much information to the OVHS.

I had spare time and a rental car, so was eager to meet with Oliver and his family. Pat Spoerl assembled a family tree diagram and a summary of what was being planned by the City of Oro Valley for the Steam Pump Ranch. On the appointed day, I found my way to the village of Echzell, Germany and met with Oliver and his family.



Jim (center) visiting some of George Pusch's Relatives living in Germany

Between my limited German, and Oliver's wife's fluent English, we had a great afternoon over coffee and remarkable German pastries. We had a great discussion of the Pusch Family Tree, and what was going on in Arizona as well. I departed with promises to keep all informed as to the progress at Steam Pump.

Jim Skalicky

OUR MISSION

○ To promote research, preservation, education, and dissemination of historical information related to the greater Oro Valley area.

OUR PURPOSE

- Assist the Town of Oro Valley in protecting and preserving places of historical importance.
- Provide educational opportunities in our schools to encourage student awareness and interest in history.
- Sponsor informative programs to increase interest and knowledge of the Greater Oro Valley area history.

Printed copies of this newsletter and our OVHS brochure are available at the Oro Valley Library in the brochure rack located just inside the library to your right.

OVHS

Newsletters

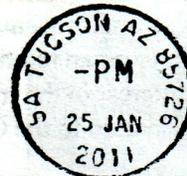
Our goal is to publish newsletters four times a year. We did miss an end of the year issue in 2010.

Our newsletters are mailed to those members without email addresses (black and white copies) and made available to everyone (color version) on our web site. We mail a copy to all members when we have any material that needs mailed such as renewal envelopes, election ballots or a special event notice.



ORO VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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It's MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Time!
Please Consider Renewing - Your Membership
Status is Listed After Your Name Above

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