

Oro Valley Historical Society

P.O. Box 69754, Oro Valley AZ 85737

www.ovhistory.org

Contact: President Jim Horn

James.w.horn@gmail.com

Free Memberships for 2016-17

Tell your friends! The Society is offering free memberships for the 2016-17 year. Members will receive a membership card with discounts at many local businesses. Tell them to go to www.ovhistory.org to sign up!

Volunteers Are Needed!!!

The Oro Valley Historical Society is an all-volunteer organization. We need your help! Can you work in one of the following areas?

Contact Jo DiGennaro, the coordinator of our volunteers, at JOJOSAMDG@gmail.com.

Docents

- Provide tours at Steam Pump Ranch
- Train others to provide tours

Speakers

- Offer to speak on a local history topic to community groups
- Help facilitate at a OVHS speaking engagement

Heritage Garden

- Work on maintaining the Heritage Garden

Public Relations/Communications

- Write press releases for upcoming events
- Contact the press
- Maintain OVHS site on Twitter, other social media

Summer Education Program at Steam Pump Ranch

- Work with children in the program
 - Offer an activity in the program
-

Upcoming Events

August 25

Board Meeting – OV Library
3:00 pm- open to all members

October 8

Steam Pump Ranch tours
resume- morning

October 12

David Devine speaker at OV
Library - 2:00 pm
"Researching 19th c. OV
History"

Oro Valley Historical Society:

**Keeping Oro Valley History
Alive!**



**Steam Pump and Cover at
Steam Pump Ranch**

Collections

- Help organize and maintain Society collection materials
- Other collections work

Special Events and Fund-Raising

- Help plan and execute special events
- Make fund raising contacts with local businesses

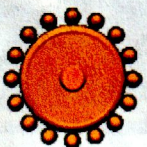
Membership

- Maintain and add to a membership list
- Seek businesses to provide incentives/discounts for our members
- Man a booth at the library, Community Center or Steam Pump Ranch to recruit members

Membership Card Available and Local Business Incentives/Discounts

We have attached a membership card at the bottom of this page. **Please print page 2, cut out and fill in your name.** You may use the membership card to 1) enter OVHS events for free or at reduced cost, and 2) obtain discounts at local businesses. The following businesses have graciously offered discounts for our members. Please show your card at the business. Thanks to Jo Di Gennaro for obtaining these incentives!!

- The Happy Saguaro -7974 N. Oracle Rd. - 10% off, excludes Garcia pottery and Vallarta ceramics
 - Sweet Repeats – 7936 N. Oracle Rd. – 10% off purchases
 - Silk Expressions -7918 N. Oracle Rd. - 15% off everything in store
 - Alphonso's Gourmet Olive Oil and Balsamics –7854 N. Oracle Rd. - 10% off
 - Anthony's Cigar Emporium -7866 N. Oracle Rd. - 10% off all purchases
 - Village Bake House –7882 N. Oracle Rd. - 10% off
 - * - Alpha Graphics – 7306 N. Oracle Rd. - 10% off color copies
 - My Gym – 7942 N. Oracle Rd – Enroll 1 child for 2 months, get onetime free family membership.
 - Touch of Class Salon – 15631 N. Oracle Rd, Catalina - 1 time free haircut or regular manicure for your first visit to the salon.
- Not good with any other offer.



- Oro Valley Historical Society

Membership Card

Name _____

Expires 04/2011

Speaker's Bureau Available

The Society will again offer speakers to community groups in the 2016-2017 year. Speakers cover a variety of topics on Oro Valley and Arizona history. For more information and/or to book a speaker for your community group, contact Jim Williams at jaswilliams128@msn.com.



**Above -George Pusch at the
Arizona Constitutional
Convention, 1911**

Tales of Yesterday....

Two Early Oro Valley Schools

By Jim Williams

Oro Valley had few schools before the housing boom occurred in the post-World War II era. In the 1930s, students could attend either one public school or an exclusive private school in our immediate area.

The Catalina School was located on the east side of Oracle Road, north of Steam Pump Ranch and the Canada del Oro Wash. The school offered instruction for all children from the area in grades one through eight. One female teacher was paid \$ 1350 per year to instruct all of the students. In the 1932-33 school year, Catalina School had thirty students, seventeen boys and thirteen girls. The library consisted of thirty-five books and the school building was valued at \$ 600. The total school budget for the Catalina School for that year was \$ 1511. In the 1935-36 school year, twenty students were enrolled and sixteen finished the year and were promoted to the next grade. The school report noted that four of the students were "Mexicans." Local residents Lue Skinner, an optometrist in Tucson, and Carl Johnson served on the school supervisory committee.

The Arizona Desert School for Boys sat at the other end of the economic spectrum. It was located at the east end of Magee Road, near the mouth of Pima Canyon. This school enrolled students from age eight through fifteen. Headmaster Matthew Baird was a graduate of Princeton University and attended Oxford University in Great Britain. Founded in 1927, the school offered an

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ORO VALLEY
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JOIN!**

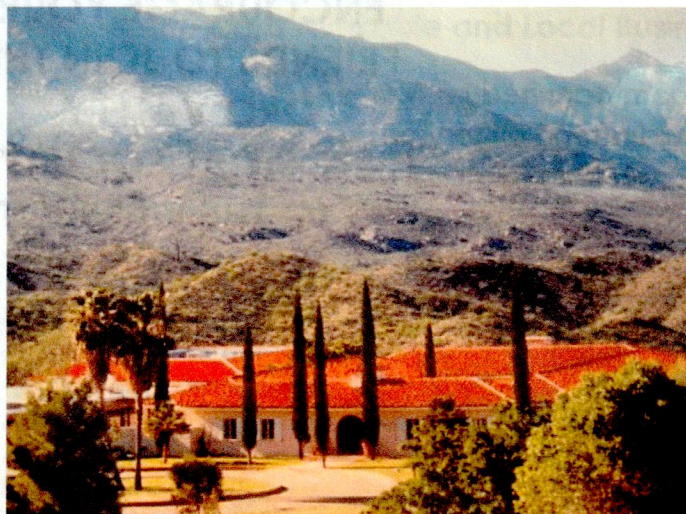


**Above -Steam Pump Ranch
Scene**

atmosphere of "vigor and happiness" (AZ Daily Star). In 1932, twenty-four students enrolled from exclusive places like Southampton, Long Island, Chestnut Hill, PA, Scarsdale, NY, and Beverly Hills, CA. Wealthy families sent their sons to this adobe complex in the desert for rigorous academic classes and to ride horses, play polo and camp out in the wild. The board of directors and student body included prominent Midwest and Eastern names like Peabody, Armour, Westinghouse, Gould, Havemeyer and Whitney. Each student's parents paid \$2500 tuition and were required to purchase a horse for an additional \$ 60. The school closed in 1953 and the buildings were later bulldozed.

It is interesting that one student's tuition at the Arizona Desert School for Boys would more than pay for the entire public Catalina School annual budget in the 1930s!

Do you have any memories of the Catalina School or the Arizona Desert School for Boys? Or, do you know someone who attended either school? If so, please contact Jim Williams at jaswilliams128@msn.com.



The Countess of Suffolk's home in Oracle, AZ

If you wish to discontinue receiving emailed information from OVHS, send a message to jaswilliams128@msn.com and the messages will stop.