



ORO VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

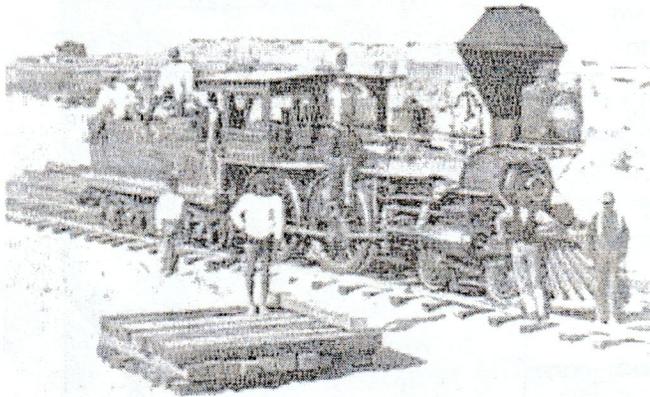
Newsletter of the Oro Valley Historical Society

May/June 2008

Web: www.ovhistory.org

Thursday, May 15, 2008 at 6:30pm
**“Arrival of the Railroad in Tucson
and Arizona”**

Presented by Gene Caywood, Tucson



The First locomotive to enter Arizona
***Railroads of Arizona, Vol. 1* by David Myrick**

Mr. Caywood will talk about the Arrival of the Railroad in Tucson and Arizona

Gene Caywood is the Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of Old Pueblo Trolley (OPT) in Tucson, Arizona. OPT is a volunteer, non-profit corporation that began with the goal of bringing electric streetcars back to Tucson's central city streets. They now have three divisions, the Street Railway Division operating heritage trolleys on a mile of track under overhead electric wire; the Motor Bus Division preserving and restoring about 20 transit buses used in various Arizona cities; and the Museum Division which operates the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum at the restored Southern Pacific railroad depot. The museum focuses on the railroad and its impact on Tucson.



Mr. Caywood was born and raised in Tucson where he attended Catalina High School and the University of Arizona. He is one of the founders of OPT and has spent the last 25 years leading OPT. He is a transit historian and author of several publications focusing on Tucson's transit and railroad history. He has been employed for many years in the transportation consulting field, and currently works for Parsons Brinckerhoff's Tucson office as a planner and designer of transit and roadway facilities.

The meeting location is at the Town of Oro Valley Library, their large Meeting room to your right as you enter the Library, 11,000 N. La Canada, Oro Valley.

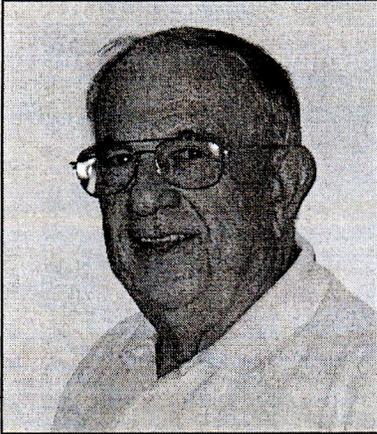
Upcoming OVHS Events

General Meeting - May 15, 2008
General Meeting - July 17, 2008
General Meeting - September 18, 2008
Speakers and topics to be announced

Our Web Site - Publications

Our web site has membership forms, flyers, society information, financial statements, calendars, brochures, DVD stories, newspaper clippings, photos and other information that can be viewed or printed. We are always looking for more contributions.

President's Message



This is the first Newsletter from the recently elected Board of Directors. We will continue to be communicative and transparent in conducting all of The Historical Society affairs. All of us are passionate about the Mission of the OVHS and are most eager to have you share that conviction. As you read through this newsletter please note the news and events column, and in particular, the Priorities for 2008. That brings me to the major thrust of this communique: VOLUNTEERS.

One of the personal satisfactions of giving of your talents and time to OVHS is the fact that there will be tangible results. Just being able to say that you are a part of saving a chapter of local history for generations to come is very satisfying and rewarding.

Since we are an all volunteer organization, one of our joys is to share in the vision and accomplishments of working together as a team. There are a lot of wonderful people living in our community and having the opportunity to work with your fellow like-minded citizens can be both educational and even fun!

Come join us on our journey as we grow, and as Joseph Campbell said "Follow your Bliss!". You can be part of our organization by coming to the Library on May 15 and hearing a wonderful speaker, Gene Caywood-- or call me at 575-0462. I would welcome the chance to speak to you about your potential role in the future of OVHS.

Dick Eggerding



OVHS Board Meetings

Board meetings are generally held once a month and vary as to date and time. They are open to the public and are usually held at the Oro Valley Library. If interested in attending one of our Board meetings, please call Dick Eggerding, 575-0462. Our next Board meeting is May 21st at 3:30 pm, to be held at the Oro Valley Library.

Oro Valley Historical Society

Officers:

President: Dick Eggerding (2011)
520 575-0462

Vice President: Pat Spoerl (2011)

Secretary: Roxy Johnson (2009)

Treasurer: Lyra Done (2009)

Directors:

Joe Frannea (2009)

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: need help...

Education: Tom Moser

Oral Histories: need help...

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

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

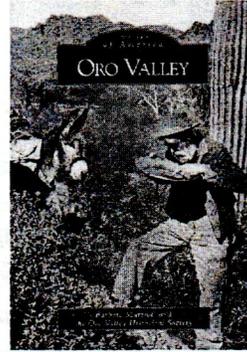
Ranching from the early 1800's through the 1900's will be discussed by a panel consisting of Ben Williams, Barbara Marriott, Henry Zipf, and a few others. They will focus on both the ranches in the greater Oro Valley area and ranching lifestyles. The Steam Pump Ranch will be one of the main topics. OV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

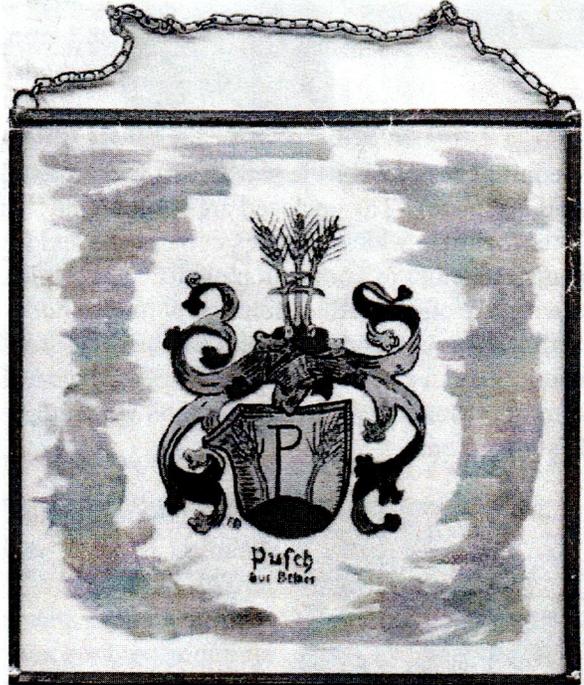
A Great New Book



"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.



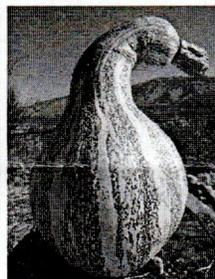
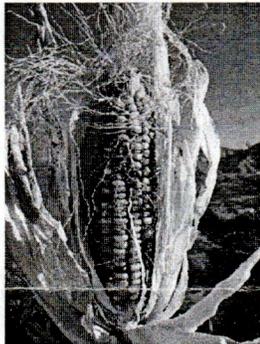
We have also just received an email from Cora Tschangizian who lives in Dusseldorf and corresponded on behalf of her mother, Brigitte Pusch. Her mother tells stories about her great grandfather's brother (George) who came to the United States in the late 1860's using his farming skills to start an ambitious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

Historic Gardens at the Steam Pump Ranch

by Joyce Rychener

Our plans for historic gardens at the Steam Pump Ranch have changed slightly in that we plan to start with the Native American Garden first instead of the Pioneer Garden. The change will keep us out of the way for restoration of the original ranch house which has been funded by a grant from the Arizona Heritage Fund.

The Native American Garden will be located on the north side of the property and will start with traditional corn, beans, and squash with native agaves nearby. I am researching designs, crops, and watering methods. We want to



connect the community and our schools to native and historic foods and farming methods.

The initial concept for the garden has two areas (sketch is on last page). The enclosed area will be the "Three Sisters" garden which includes corn, beans and squash planted together as companion plants. The garden will provide not only an educational opportunity but establish the connection to local sources and growing practices. Plans are for community gatherings in the form of seasonal festivals, native food workshops and demonstrations.



Photo by Vonn Watkins

Outside of the circular enclosed area will be rocky terraces with Agave *murpheyi* plants. This was an important food and fiber source for the Hohokam who farmed in the area. Direct evidence of Agave plants have been found on the Honey Bee Village site. This Agave is hearty to below 15 deg. F, fairly fast growing to about three and a half feet in diameter and

tall. It propagates by offsets (pups) and bulbils (small plants on the bloom stalk) but not by seeds.

Oro Valley Library Display

by Twink Monrad

On display in the Society's display cases at the OV Library is a collection of meteorites which belonged to the late Jim Kriegh, Oro Valley Town Historian. Jim's family donated this great collection to the Oro Valley Historical Society, we are fortunate to have it to be able to share it with others.

There are also some of my fossils from southwestern United States and minerals from southern Arizona and northern Mexico.

In 1995 Jim Kriegh, his friend John Blennert, and I belonged to the Desert Gold Diggers, a local club



Jim Kriegh pointing to a Gold Basin meteorite

whose members hunt for gold in Arizona. Dr. David Kring, a meteoriticist and planetary scientist from the University of Arizona, spoke at one of the club's meetings and encouraged those who used metal detectors to keep an eye and ear out for meteorites, generally small nondescript objects that look nothing like gold.

I was invited along on a trip to Gold Basin, in the northwestern corner of the state. We went with our camping equipment and, most important, a generator and power saw to cut any likely meteorite specimens that we might find. Several times a day we would bring back rocks which made noise and were magnetic. Jim sawed them open. Some were meteorites and some were not. We took our finds to Dr. Kring at UA. It seemed Jim had discovered a rare strewn field.

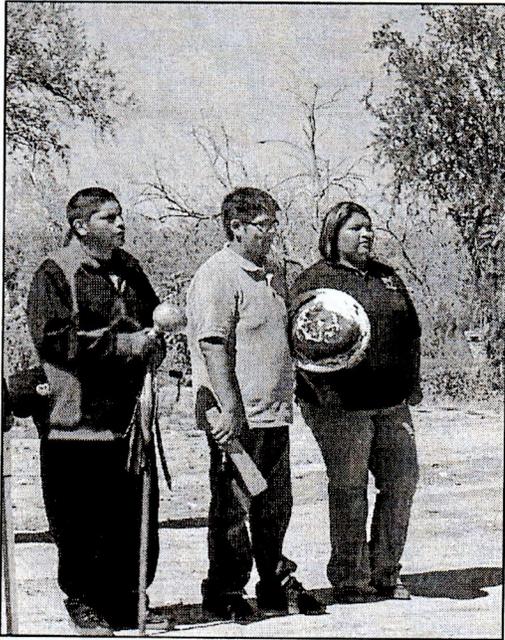
We found over 2,000 meteorites, and expanded the strewn field boundaries to five miles by 15 miles! It is not known how large the field really is. Meteorite composition tests show that these are L4 stone meteorites which fell approximately 15,000 years ago near the end of the Ice Age. We each found a couple of different meteorites in this field which represented different falls at different times in addition to the original Gold Basin meteorite.

This is a shortened version of the original story, see our web site for the complete article.

Honey Bee Village Archaeological Preserve: A Piece of the Past Preserved for our Future

The Honey Bee Village Preserve was dedicated by the Town of Oro Valley, Pima County, and the Tohono O'odham Nation on March 25th. Surrounding the Preserve Canada Vistas LLC is developing single family residences and a commercial area called Vistoso Town Center.

The Town Center will include a museum designed using Tohono O'odham plazas and gathering places as a model. It will serve as the gateway to the Preserve with interpretive exhibits and programs. The OVHS hopes to have space at the Center.



Members of the Tohono O'odham Youth conduct a blessing at the dedication of the Honey Bee Village Archaeologic Preserve. The site is considered an ancestral site of the Tohono O'odham and the Nation provided grant funding for a wall surrounding the Preserve.



Twink and Roxy keeping our exhibit at the Oro Valley Library display cases updated. Stop by each month to review interesting historical items.

Steam Pump Ranch Master Plan is Nearing Completion: OVHS May Play a Major Role in Future Programs and Exhibits.

Be a part of it!

There has much talk in recent months about plans for the Steam Pump Ranch property. In addition to these plans, partnerships and bond funds are needed to make restoration of this "historic heart" of Oro Valley a reality. The Historical Society envisions participating as a major partner in the management and care of the Ranch. We foresee responsibility for educational programs and guided tours as our primary role, and we anticipate developing and providing educational materials and programs for school children as well as adults. Funding would come from special events, donations, partnerships and grants.

The Final Draft Master Plan provides for the following at Steam Pump Ranch:

Pusch Ranch House. The 1870s house would be restored to its appearance in the late 1800s.

Steam Pump Building. Restoration of the building containing the original steam pump.

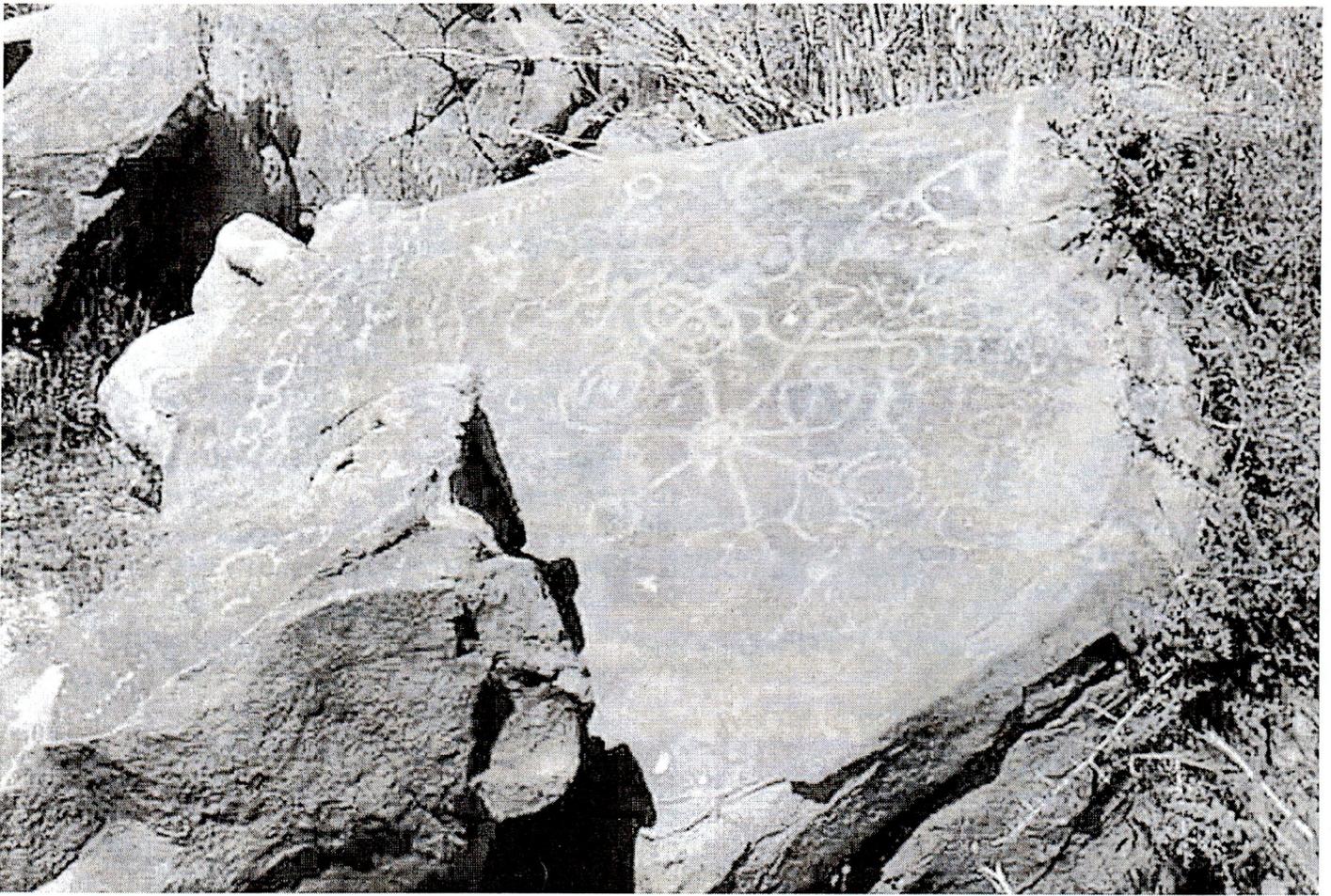
Procter/Leiber House. The residence would include exhibits from the Jack Procter ranching times of the 1930s and 1940s, Historical Society exhibit space, and office/archive room.

A **Bunk House** would be restored as a Cowboy house museum and **garage and workers building** would contain exhibits about Native American history and natural history.

A Pre-Opening Phase planned for 2008-2009 would include limited public access through docent-led tours. The OVHS would like to have a role in providing these tours.

For additional information, you can read the Final Draft Master Plan at: www.orovalleyaz.gov.

The Town Council is scheduled to review the Plan on May 21st at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers.



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 69754 - Oro Valley, AZ 85737