

Newsletter

Oro Valley Historical Society

June 2023

Passing of Henry Zipf, Jr.

We are sad to note the passing of Henry Zipf, Jr., who was the current president of the Society and had previously served as a board member. Like his father, he was very active in Steam Pump Ranch historic preservation. He was a fifth generation Tucsonan and a direct descendant of George Pusch, the founder of Steam Pump Ranch. Henry will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and members of the Society. **A tree will be planted at the Ranch in Henry's honor on his birthday, June 15th at 8:30 am. Members of the Society are welcome to attend.**

Basis School Teams Up with the Steam Pump Heritage Gardens



About 35 Basis School students broken into teams at the end of May to create their own towns inside the Heritage Garden with actual buildings, canals, bridges, roads, lakes and other structures that make a town a town. The purpose of this event was to provide an opportunity for students to be outside and away from technology, to work as teams to create whatever their imaginations could create, to learn about nature and the land they were working with, and to see how they could be inspired by each

other. Joyce Rychener (OVHS director) and Joel Woppert (Town of OV) worked with Isabel Marquez and Michelle Meyer at Basis on this week-long event.

News from the Town of Oro Valley

Matt Jankowski from the Parks and Recreation Department reports that construction on the bunkhouses and the barbecue are coming along schedule and should be completed by July 29. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:00 am on July 18. The town conducted Parents' Night Out and Family Camp Out on May 12 and 13. He noted that the Society could help with future camp outs with tours and historical story telling.

The future of the Procter-Leiber House is undecided as yet. Jankowski notes that this will be discussed with the new town manager.

Summer camps continue at the Ranch until the end of July. Paul Loomis is working with the Town Attorney, Tobin Sidles, on amendments to the license agreement between Oro Valley and OVHS.

Society News

Sue Chambasian notes that the \$1,000 grant from the Arizona Historical Society is due to be received in July. She is checking on how these funds can be used... The “A Place in Time” panels have been removed from the Great Room in the Pusch House for the summer... The Society hosted over 2,600 Saturday visitors at Steam Pump Ranch during the September 2022 to April 2023 period. Volunteers logged over 2,200 hours for the Society... The Wynne Brown event at the Oro Valley Country Club garnered a profit of \$4,252 and the Jim Click Raffle raised \$850 for the Society... Many thanks to retiring board member Teri Colmar. She served as secretary, vice president, and worked tirelessly for the organization... The Society needs help with maintaining our website and Facebook page. If you have any skills in this area and wish to help, contact Devon Sloan at devonsloan@comcast.net.



BASIS Students at Steam Pump Ranch

Speaker's Program

The Society plans to commemorate the upcoming 50th anniversary of the founding of Oro Valley with a series of presentations at the Oro Valley Library between December 2023 and April 2024. Several of these will be panel discussions with members of the Oro Valley community. If you can suggest anyone who might be a good participant in these panels and were adult residents in the town in the period 1974-1995, please contact Jim Williams at jaswilliams128@msn.com.

