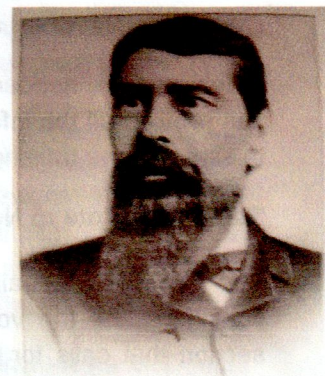


Oro Valley Historical Society

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

www.ovhistory.org



**Earliest Non-Native Settler of Oro Valley
Francisco Romero**

Society News

The collections committee is reviewing possible additions to artifacts from the Flint Carter Collection...Board member Joyce Rychener and the Heritage Garden at Steam Pump Ranch were featured in the current issue of Tucson Lifestyle Magazine. Congratulations! ... We have received a grant of \$ 915 from the Arizona Historical Society to purchase a storage cabinet for collection items...The Society is participating in Google for Non-Profits. This will help with maintaining membership records and will make email addresses available to board members... Paul Loomis and Roxy Johnson are working on revisions to our Licensing Agreement with the Town of Oro Valley. This document sets conditions for Society use of Steam Pump Ranch... Paul and other board members will meet with the Town to discuss fire suppression and the alarm system that may be needed at the Ranch House.

Upcoming Events

October 8

Dan Devine Speaks at Oro Valley Library

Local historian Dan Devine will discuss "Researching 19th Century Oro Valley History" at the Oro Valley Library on Wednesday, October 12 at 2:00 pm. This is sponsored by the Society and open to the public (free). Dan has recently wrote a book on the modern history of Tucson and it will be available for sale after the program. Please plan to attend and bring friends! This is the first of four OVHS speakers planned for the 2016-17 year.

Board Members Needed

We have had several board resignations in the past month. If you are interested in serving on the board, contact Paul Loomis at ploomis@msn.com. The OVHS board meets once a month, usually the fourth Thursday of the month, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Get involved and help the Society to continue to grow!

Could You Serve as a Docent?

Volunteers are needed to conduct tours at Steam Pump Ranch on second Saturdays and other dates. We can provide all the information that you need to inform our visitors. Contact Lois Nagy at lanagy@aol.com to sign up for a training session in November.

Town Plan Vote in November

The Town of Oro Valley has been revising its General Plan during the past year. This document will be considered by the voters in the November election. The General Plan includes a Cultural Resources section that calls for the preservation and interpretation of those resources. Copies of Your Voice, Our Future, the general plan, are available on the town's website and at the Town Center. We urge you to review this before November.

Second Saturdays Start October 8th

The Society will resume activities for second Saturdays at Steam Pump Ranch starting on October 8th. We will need volunteers to serve as (1) docents at the Ranch House, (2) recruiters of new members, and (3) sellers of bottled water. Experienced docents: contact Lois Nagy at lanagy@aol.com. Volunteers for (2) and (3), contact Jim Williams at jaswilliams128@msn.com.

Events at the Ranch

The Town of Oro Valley is sponsoring several events at Steam Pump Ranch in the coming weeks:

Bike Swap – Saturday, October 8

Monster Mash – Saturday, October 15

Harvest Heritage Festival - Saturday, November 12

Tales of Yesterday

Walter McDonald, Oro Valley Rancher

By Jim Williams

Walter McDonald was born in Ohio and helped establish a successful printing company near Cincinnati. He wintered in Tucson from the 1930s through the 1960s. McDonald purchased numerous tracts on land in the Tucson area, including a homestead in Oro Valley.

McDonald was born on March 1, 1888 in Cincinnati, Ohio. His parents, Andrew and Mary Eliza (Clark) McDonald, had established a small printing concern. In 1910, brothers George, Andrew and Walter were involved in the family business. By 1922, Walter served as secretary of McDonald Printing. He assumed the title of Vice President/Treasurer in the firm by 1932. In 1936, Walter continued to work in the family business and lived as a single man at the Alms Hotel in Cincinnati.

Walter came to Tucson as a winter visitor in the 1930s. A Pima County map of 1932 includes a McDonald Ranch on the east side, outside Tucson at that time. It was located near Tanque Verde Road. McDonald became fascinated with the area and proceeded to buy parcels of land on both the east side, near his home, and on the northwest side of Tucson in Oro Valley.

Walter McDonald obtained two homestead parcels in the Oro Valley area. On June 15, 1954, he purchased 640 acres as a cash entry in Township 11 South, 13 East, including all of Section 14. This is located in the area of Stone Canyon Golf Club in Rancho Vistoso. He also purchased, via cash entry, another homestead of forty acres in Section 22 of Township 11 South, 13 East. This is located north of Moore Road and west of Rancho Vistoso Boulevard.

He sold his extensive holdings in Oro Valley to Lloyd and Esther Golder in November 1957. This included land in Townships 11 South, 13 East, 11 South, 14 East, and 12 South, 14 East. The sale totaled 4960 acres and the price was \$ 1.25 million. This land became the basis for the Golder's "Rancho Vistoso" and the later planned development by the same name in the 1980s.

Keeping Oro Valley History Alive!