

Oro Valley Historical Society

Newsletter

August 2021

Buy a Raffle Ticket and Support OVHS

The Oro Valley Historical Society (OVHS) is once again participating in the Jim Click Millions for Tucson Raffle. Jim Click generously provides three fantastic prizes for the participating community not-for-profits. This year's Grand Prize is a 2021 Ford Bronco Sport, Second Prize is two round-trip first class airline tickets anywhere in the world and third prize is \$5,000 in cash. **EVERY** dollar that OVHS generates from ticket sales stays with our organization. Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. Last year we were able to sell \$1,350 worth of tickets. Our goal this year is to sell 200 tickets! We hope you'll help us reach that goal. Tickets will be sold until December 10. The drawing is on December 17. Tickets are available at the OVHS information booth at the Farmer's Market **beginning in September** or email Teri at tcolmar@comcast.net to arrange a purchase.



OVHS Board Meeting Notes

- The OVHS was notified by the Town of Oro Valley (TOV) Parks and Recreation Department that the renovation/restoration of the Garage Building will commence soon and continue through the fall.
- The above mentioned renovation/restoration will include fire suppression and security measures for the Pusch House Museum.
- OVHS and the TOV have met to re-establish our partnership and review our Memorandum of Understanding and License agreements. This will secure OVHS participation and presence at Steam Pump Ranch and in TOV activities.
- Founder of OVHS Pat Spoerl gave a presentation to the OVHS Board regarding the founding of OVHS and former partnerships within the OV community.

- The Board approved a revision of the Collections Policy as presented by Sue Chambasian.
- The Board approved funds for the purchase of posters used for Steam Pump Ranch display boards. The balance of Z Mansion fundraiser money was also used for the project.
- Alice Hutchison has agreed to become the OVHS Volunteer Coordinator. This is a volunteer position. Thank you, Alice!
- Roxy Johnson updated the membership and email rolls.
- Guidelines for fees for tours/donations were determined.
- Joyce reported that she has created a “Steam Pump Ranch Book Trail” within the Heritage Garden.
- Joyce reported that funds from a grant she received have been put to work. Raised containers for plantings and other supplies have the garden in great shape.

The Future Looks Bright!

While OVHS public activities have “gone fishin” for the summer, the fall holds great expectations. We are at work planning for next season. Look forward to these upcoming activities.

Library Displays



Now that the Oro Valley branch of the Pima County Library is open, the Oro Valley Historical Society has resumed displays. Next time you drop by, be sure to check out the display. It will give you a taste of the Pusch House Museum exhibit for that month. The library is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Naranja and La Canada.

Sue Chambasian, Tina Zogott and Devin Sloan developed the Independence Day display for July shown at left.

The Society’s heliographs display was located in the Oro Valley Library for five months prior to July.

Pusch House Museum Open in September

Pusch House Museum will be up and running with new exhibits on Saturday, September 11 and 25. The museum will continue to be open the second and fourth Saturdays in October, November, December, January, February, March and April. Hours are from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Check the Oro Valley Historical website www.ovhistory.org for updates.

Some of our upcoming exhibits will feature Native-American, Hispanic, and German heritage in our area, local Black History, Prominent Women in Oro Valley and Life on the Ranch. You may be surprised at how some of these heritages connect!

A suggested donation of \$5.00 helps cover the cost of exhibit displays. Private tours can be arranged by appointment for large groups and fees are based accordingly. Contact tcolmar@comcast.net. We hope to see you!

Outdoor Walking Tours in January

Our outdoor walking tours of Steam Pump Ranch will start up in January and continue through April. The docent guided tours will take place on the **first and third Saturdays of each month January through April at 9:00 a.m.** The tours leave the OVHS booth every fifteen minutes with the last tour leaving at 11:30 a.m. Tours are approximately 50 minutes long. No reservations are needed but are recommended for large groups. The suggested donation is \$5.00 pp. Private tours can also be arranged by appointment. Contact tcolmar@comcast.net for further information.

Speakers Bureau

Jim Williams is once again coordinating speakers on local history topics. Speakers, dates and location will be announced in the next newsletter. Resumption of the program will depend on whether the Oro Valley Library permits large group meetings. We have three speakers lined up for some time later in the fall, depending on availability of the meeting room. Stay tuned!

Spreading Oro Valley History

OVHS will resume articles on the Let Oro Valley Excel (LOVE) blog (<http://letorovalleyexcel.blogspot.com>) in September. We hope to communicate Oro Valley's rich history, stories, and personalities to our residents. You can also find the articles on our website (ovhistory.org) and Facebook page (Oro Valley Historical Society).

Fry's Community Awards Program

OVHS is an ongoing participant in Fry's Community Rewards Program. Do you have a Fry's Reward program card? Fry's will donate a percentage of your purchases to OVHS. Here's how:

Go to Fry's Community Rewards website: <https://www.frysfood.com/topic/new-community-rewards-program> OR search Fry's Community rewards. Create a Fry's online V.I.P. account. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email and a Fry's Reward Card. Follow prompts to enroll and search Oro Valley Historical Society or ||200 to designate OVHS as the recipient. That's it! Now each time you shop, OVHS will automatically reap the benefits!

Thanks to Fry's for being a supporter of our community!

Outdoor Tours at Steam Pump Ranch

Our outdoor walking tours of Steam Pump Ranch will start up in January and continue through April. The docent guided tours will take place on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 9:00 a.m. The tours leave the OVHS booth every fifteen minutes with the last tour leaving at 11:30 a.m. Tours are approximately 50

minutes long. No reservations are needed but are recommended for large groups. Suggested donation is \$5.00 pp. Private tours can also be arranged by appointment. Contact tcolmar@comcast.net for further information.

YOU can Keep Oro Valley History Alive!

1. Your **membership** supports the ongoing programs of OVHS. This includes our displays, exhibits, and collections preservation. Not a member? It's easy to join or donate on our website: ovhistory.org. Your membership also waives suggested donations for OVHS tours and the museum. The Oro Valley Historical Society is a wholly volunteer, self-sustaining 501 (c) (3) and your membership is even tax-deductible! **You** can help keep Oro Valley history alive!
2. **Our volunteers are worth their weight in ORO!** As our tours and exhibits gain in popularity, we need all hands on deck! Do you have a few extra hours on your hands? We are seeking docents, hosts, tech support, and administration assistants. Training for docents will begin in September. Other training is on an ongoing basis at your availability. Contact Teri at (tcolmar@comcast.net)



3. Can you tell one person about the Oro Valley Historical Society and encourage them to become a member and/or get involved? Word of mouth is the best form of advertising. We're depending on you!

Stay Connected!

Keep current with all that's happening in the Oro Valley Historical Society. Visit our website: www.ovhistory.org or our Facebook page: *Oro Valley Historical Society* for the latest news and information. Check our website calendar for current event/tour/booth dates.

Visit our booth at Steam Pump Ranch on Saturdays September – April from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Thanks to Teri Colmar and Sue Chambasian for providing much of the information for this newsletter.

Memorial Day Remembrance

Members of the Oro Valley Historical Society and the community remembered those who perished in service to their country. On Memorial Day, the group met at the Town Hall flag station and laid a wreath to commemorate this sad but special day. The meaning of this holiday should never be lost, but hallowed, honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Local History: A Visit to Oro Valley in 1970

By Jim Williams

Imagine that you visited Tucson in 1970 and took a drive north on Oracle Road to look at homes. In 1970, Oracle Road had recently been expanded to six lanes to Ina Road. Beyond that intersection, Oracle Road shrank to two paved lanes. Very few services were available from this point to the Pinal County line. Of course, there was plenty of open land and building lots were relatively cheap, so you drove on

into the seeming wilderness to look for a place to reside. From here to the Pinal County line, the buildings were limited to several large ranch houses, a few homes on individual lots, and several small, incomplete subdivisions.

If you lived north of Ina Road in 1970, you had to be a bit of a pioneer. Many services that we take for granted today were simply not available in that somewhat remote area. Most stores that sold furniture and appliances were located in downtown Tucson or on either Grant Road, Speedway or East Broadway. The major department stores (Jacomes, Steinfelds, Penneys) were downtown. Most car dealers and auto repair shops were also located on East Broadway. Fortunately, a number of medical offices were established in Casas Adobes, along with several restaurants and other conveniences. Living in unincorporated Pima County meant that police protection was provided by the county sheriff's office based in Tucson. Cattle were still grazing on numerous tracts in the area, and it was not unusual to hear cattle mooing on open ground behind your development home. To live north of Tucson in 1970, one had to be resourceful, tolerant of inconveniences, and patient with delays in obtaining services.

After you drove through several housing developments to look at homes or lots, you would return to Tucson and your motel on the same Oracle Road, this because it was one of the few totally paved roads in the area. Little did you know that local residents in those subdivisions that you viewed were planning to establish a new municipality. Could they create a town, unify residents, and establish an identity in a largely undeveloped area? Only time would tell.

*Excerpt from an upcoming history of Oro Valley
from 1970 to the Present – to be published in 2023*