

ORO VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter of the Oro Valley Historical Society

May/June 2009

Web: www.ovhistory.org

Historic Steam Pump Ranch - Public Debut Enjoyed By All

In April, the Oro Valley Historical Society and the Town of Oro Valley sponsored a "Community Heritage Day" for the grand unveiling of the Historic Steam Pump Ranch. The public was invited to an Open House and were treated to several events including history sharing, ranching and Native American demonstrations, story telling, and many displays.



Pusch Ranch House - Mathilda and George

There was even an opportunity to have your photo taken with life size cutouts of George and Mathilda Pusch.

The Pusch ranch house was a popular gathering point to hear Alice Duckworth and others relate stories about the Pusch family and ranch life on the Steam Pump Ranch. Historic architecture was presented by Drew Gorski.

Information was given about George Pusch and his active role in politics, including serving on the Territorial Legislature, state constitutional convention, and Tucson City Council.

Although the ranch house was not open to the public, the windows gave an opportunity to peek in and see some of the features.

There were several Historical Society History Stations placed at various locations that included old photos, displays, and historic information.

There were story tellers, a strolling cowboy with guitar, a cowboy poet, story tellers, a point maker chipping rocks, artifact displays, a petting zoo, ranching demonstrations, horse shoeing demonstrations, a cake cutting celebration for Oro valley's 35th birthday, and food vendors.

Some of the recently discovered photos found in the chicken coops were also on display. Most of these are from the Proctor era (1933 - 1972).



Bill Ganz, Strolling Cowboy

President's Message - An Great Preservation Month



April was a great month for Oro Valley and for the Historical Society. For those of you who participated in any of the events and programs of the first Oro Valley Town Heritage Month I think you'll agree that it was a success. The Historical Society sponsored site tours of the Honey Bee Village Archaeological Preserve and the Romero Ruin. We held a series of lectures with topics

ranging from the Hohokam, to ranching, to railroading. We prepared heritage guides to inform residents and visitors about important historic places and people, and an educators guide for use by teachers and students. And, we participated with the Town in Community Heritage Day where Steam Pump Ranch was open to the public for the first time.

Such events always lead to questions about "what's next?" The Town is actively pursuing funding from a variety of sources to restore the most at-risk structures at Steam Pump Ranch. The Society will be starting the Native American garden in June, and we will be further documenting the photographs recovered from the chicken coops during the summer months. We'll alert you to any volunteer possibilities!

Pat Spoerl

New Heritage Guides

One of the most popular Oro Valley Historical Society handout at the Community Heritage Day event was the newly published "Heritage Guide" sheets. Pat Spoerl created six different guides to give brief facts and share historical information. We ran out of the guides several times during the event but will have more handouts in the future and plan to post them on our web site for viewing and printing. Each Guide is a double sided page. The Guides are:

- * Life at Honey Be Village 1000 Years Ago
- * The Spanish and Mexican Periods; After the Hohokam and Before American Ranchers
- * Steam Pump Ranch: An Overview
- * Steam Pump Ranch: The Pusch Era (1874-1933)
- * George Pusch and Arizona Statehood
- * The Making of a Town (by Marjorie Kriegh)

Oro Valley Historical Society

Officers:

President: Pat Spoerl (2011)
520 297-7347

Vice President: to be selected
Secretary: Roxy Johnson (2012)
Treasurer: Lyra Done (2012)

Directors:

Georgia Hollinger (2012)
Twink Monrad (2011)
Krista Neis (2012)
Fred Roof (2010)
Joyce Rychener (2010)
Jim Skalicky (2012)

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: Roxy Johnson
Education: Tom Moser,
Joyce Rychener
Oral Histories: need help...
Historic Gardens: Joyce Rychener
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

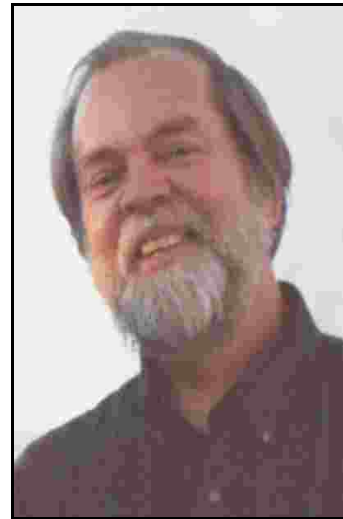
Railroad to Oro Valley: The Narrow Gauge

presented by Gene Caywood

THURSDAY - May 14, 2009 6:30

Oro Valley Library Meeting Room

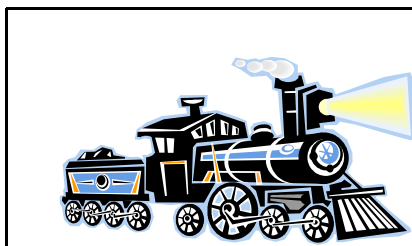
All are Welcome!



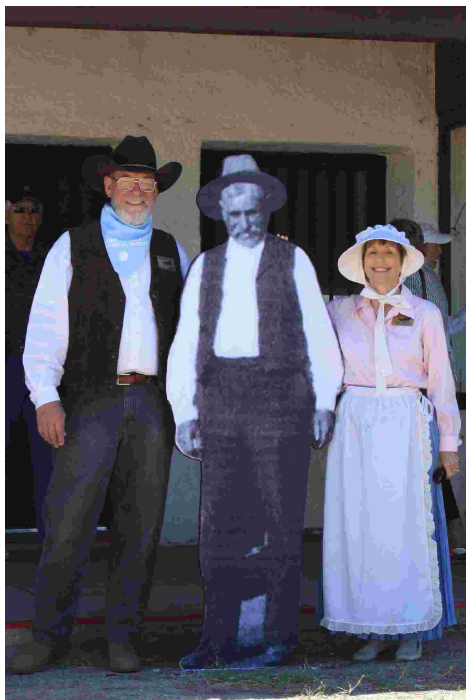
Mr. Caywood was born and raised in Tucson where he attended Catalina High School and the University of Arizona. He is one of the founders of Old Pueblo Trolley and has spent the last 25 years leading the organization. He is a transit historian and author of several publications focusing on Tucson's transit 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.

Old Pueblo Trolley is a nonprofit corporation that began with the goal of bringing electric streetcars back to Tucson's city streets. Its museum division operates the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum at the restored Southern Pacific railroad depot.

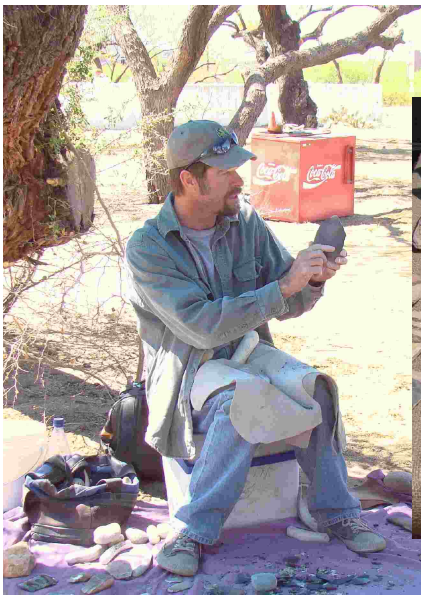
Mr. Caywood spoke to the Oro Valley Historical Society one year ago about the railroad's arrival in Tucson in 1880. He is back again to tell us about the narrow gauge railroad that almost made it to Oro Valley. Please join us for the program.



Some Community Heritage Day Photos



Photos by Ed Bartlett, Pat Spoerl, Patsy Frannea



Photos by Ed Bartlett



Roxy Johnson and her brother Dan Reidy taken with a poster board story about their Mother Catherine

Newsletters

We are currently publishing newsletters six times a year. Our newsletters are mailed to those members without email addresses (black and white copies) and made available to all others (color version) on our web site.

We mail a copy to all members when we have any enclosures, like this month.



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

See our website for a color version of this Newsletter
www.ovhistory.org