



ORO VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter of the Oro Valley Historical Society

Oct/Nov 2009

Web: www.ovhistory.org

Steam Pump Ranch Native American Heritage Garden



Joyce Rychener (on left) shares the joy of her hard labor yielding the first ear of corn picked by Pat Spoerl



The Historic Preservation Commission visited the Steam Pump Ranch in mid September with the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer William Collins. Town Council Liaison, Salette Latas, also participated. The first ear of corn was ready to be picked, beautiful and no worms.

Joyce gave a tour of the garden and explained the "Three Sisters Garden" concept of corn, beans, and squash complimenting each other.

President's Message - An Great Preservation Month



Fall is almost here and there are two upcoming events to mark on your calendar:

October 26th – Open House about Oro Valley Archaeological Sites and Historic Neighborhoods (see page 4).

November 19th – OVHS Program about Women's Fashions during Arizona's Territorial Period. And, yes, this is for men also (see page 3).

In addition, this newsletter contains news about Steam Pump Ranch and the Native American Heritage garden. We hope this garden is the first in what will become a long tradition of heritage gardens at the Ranch. Enjoy!

Pat Spoerl

Public Tours of Steam Pump Ranch.

The Historical Society is authorized by the Town of Oro Valley to provide a site tour of Steam Pump Ranch on one day per month. If you or a group are interested please email us: info @ ovhistory . org (do not include the spaces) or call 297-7347. Specific dates have not yet been set depending upon community interest. Tours would last approximately 1 hour and be conducted in the mornings during the fall months.

Historic Photos and Documents

The Historical Society is working with the Historic Preservation Commission to scan and further inventory a collection of



photographs and documents found in the chicken coops at Steam Pump Ranch.

The Town has provided for initial inventory and storage. We anticipate completing the first portion in November, but there will be additional volunteer opportunities to inventory and organize the materials recovered. Send an email to: info @ ovhistory . org (do not include the spaces) if you're interested in helping.

Oro Valley Historical Society

Officers:

President: Pat Spoerl (2011)

520 297-7347

Vice Pres: Jim Skalicky (2012)

Secretary: Roxy Johnson (2012)

Treasurer: Lyra Done (2012)

Directors:

Georgia Hollinger (2012)

Twink Monrad (2011)

Krista Neis (2012)

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: 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: \$10

Corporate/Institution: \$100

Life-Family: \$400

Women's Fashions - Arizona's Territorial Period

Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Oro Valley Library Meeting Room

Presented by: Sherri Burke



Join us when Sherri Burke, of Vanished Arizona, presents an overview of women's fashions during Arizona's Territorial period. This covers a time span from 1863 (think *Gone with the Wind*) to 1912 (think *Titanic*.) She will show how the silhouette of women's clothing changed over the years by showing drawings, photographs and reproduction clothing. If you've ever wondered what women wore UNDER their beautiful gowns, you'll get a chance to see a mannequin undressed.



Historic Happenings in Oro Valley

Certified Local Government

The Town of Oro Valley has been recognized as a “**Certified Local Government**”. Certification is approved by the National Park Service after review by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Requirements to become a Certified Local Government include:

- having a Historic Preservation Commission, established in 2005
- having a historic preservation ordinance, approved in 2007
- and maintaining a register of local historic resources, being accomplished through the Cultural Resources Inventory.

Oro Valley meets these requirements and will now be eligible for matching grant funds when they become available and for technical assistance from the SHPO.

Cultural Resources Inventory

The Town has awarded a contract to archaeological consultant William Self Associates, Inc. to prepare an inventory and assessment of archaeological and historic sites within the Town's planning area (defined in the General Plan). The project was funded in the FY2008-2009 budget and guidance for the project was developed by the Historic Preservation Commission.

This Inventory will provide the Town with consolidated information on our cultural heritage from prehistoric times to recent past neighborhood development and will make recommendations regarding highly significant places. The inventory will build upon information included in the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area. Site data will also be used in identifying sensitive areas as part of the Environmentally Sensitive Land Ordinance for the Town.

William Self Associates Project leaders John Ravesloot and Scott O'Mack have presented preliminary information to the Historic Preservation Commission. Arizona state survey records indicate that approximately 200 archaeological sites have been previously recorded in the Town's planning area.

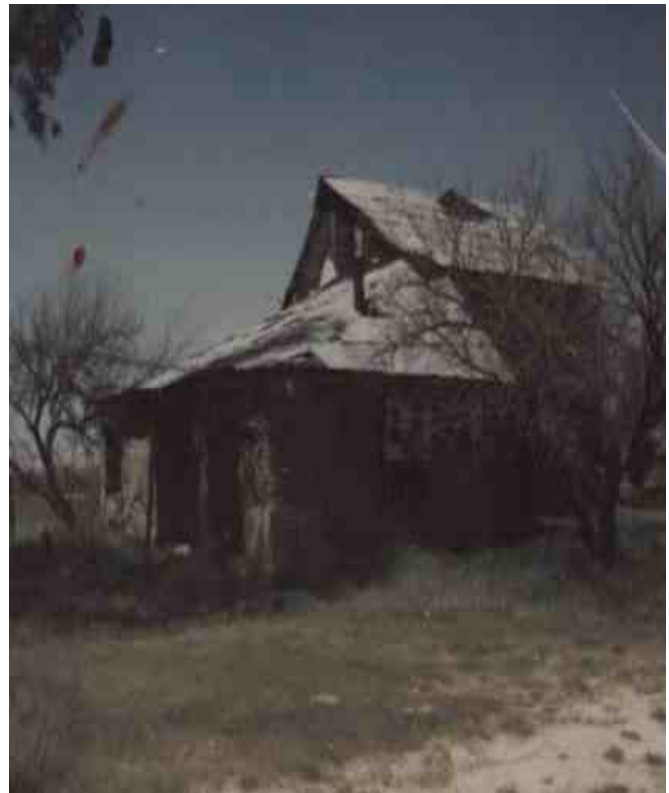
A public open house is scheduled for Monday October 26th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM in the Town Council Chambers. The purpose is twofold: 1) to give residents an opportunity to provide information they may have about area prehistory and history and, 2) to learn what is currently documented in state and county survey records for archaeological and historic sites and for Town neighborhood development.

A Significant and Historic Building

A few of the Polaroid photos provided by the Leiber Family of the Steam Pump Ranch Pump House Building, probably taken in the 1970's (another photo is also shown on the last page).



The West end of the adobe structure, looking east. The well and pump jack were located in the room just inside the door. The steam engine was outside the adobe structure on the right. There is a large window in the south side of the building to accommodate a large flat drive belt which connected the steam engine rotary output to the pump jack input drive wheel. See the last page for a sketch of the pump jack.



The East end of the structure (looking south) with the blacksmith shop being the single story structure. Notice the smoke-stack pipe coming through the metal roof.

NATIVE FOODS GARDEN

STEAM PUMP RANCH

September 21, 2009



STEAM PUMP RANCH NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE GARDEN

STEAM PUMP RANCH

The Oro Valley Historical Society, in a partnership with the Town of Oro Valley, has donated a demonstration Native American Garden on the site of the historic ranch. The first in a series of educational prehistoric and historic gardens, the Monsoon 2009 Garden is now in its initial phase. Through a generous gift from Bill Adler, Oro Valley citizen, the materials for the startup of the garden have been purchased. The fence is up, the beds have been tilled, and the seeds are growing! This is a "Three Sisters Garden", which is a pattern of which most Native

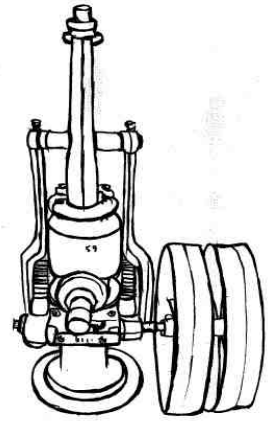
American tribes had some variation. The combination of the three agricultural mainstay crops, corn, beans and squash, is a companion planting technique that sustained Native peoples for thousands of years, and that is still the foundation for Native Food Gardens. The corn was planted first; then when the corn was six inches high or so, the beans were planted next to the corn so that they had a structure upon which to grow. The squash was planted at the same time as the beans: it would sprawl and keep the ground shaded and moist for the corn and beans...acting as a natural mulch. The beans would fix

nitrogen in the soil for the corn, which needed plenty of nutrients. The corn we planted is the 60-day Tohono O'odham corn. The beans are tepary, which are the most drought-adapted beans in the world, and the squash is the Tohono O'odham squash. All seeds are from Native Seed Search, in Tucson, Arizona.

Floodwater farming and Hohokam style irrigation canals are being utilized in an effort to conserve water...although supplementary watering has been necessary in this dryer than average monsoon.



Steam Pump Ranch Pump House and Blacksmith Shop on the far end.



Sketch by Joyce Rychener of the pump jack stored at the Arizona Historical Society. Power transered to the wheels from the steam engine is converted to up and down motion to operate the rod string to the pump.



**ORO VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

See our website for a color version of this Newsletter.
Please let us know if we can email the Newsletter to you
and save printing and postage costs.
info @ ovhistory . org