ORO VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter of the Oro Valley Historical Society **Sept/Oct 2008**

Web: www.ovhistory.org

General Meeting - Open to ALL
Thursday, Sept 18, 2008 at 6:30pm
"History of the Arizona Daily Star Newspaper"
Presented by: Debbie Kornmiller

Arizona Daily Star

The Old Pueblo held fewer than 6,000 people and statehood was still 35 years away when Louis C. Hughes and Charles H. Tully published Tucson's first Daily Bulletin on March 1, 1877. It lasted 28 days. The fledgling paper was soon revived as the Arizona Tri-Weekly Star, closely followed by a new name: the Weekly Star.

On Jan. 12, 1879, the paper finally settled on a name that would last a while: The Arizona Daily Star. Stagecoach arrivals and details on the latest gunfight filled its pages.



Editor Hughes kept a Colt .45 nearby as a way to dissuade disgruntled readers. Close to 200 newspapers would come and go during Arizona's rough and raw Territorial days. Among the survivors: the Arizona Daily Star Southern Arizona's largest news-gathering operation.

While still serving local readers in the traditional print medium, its stories also reach out electronically to a worldwide readership. Its founders could have hardly imagined it. Though Tully left the business toward the end of its first year, Hughes carried on.

Written by: Bonnie Henry, Star columnist

The Star continued on changing hands many times over the years until the present. Come to Debbie's presentation to get all the details.



Debbie Kornmiller is the Arizona Daily Star's reader advocate - the voice of readers inside the newsroom. She joined the Star in 1981 after graduating from Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in journalism.

She spent her first 10 years with the Star on the copy desk writing about 20,000 headlines and the second 10 years as features editor. She began as reader advocate on Sept. 4, 2001. As reader advocate, Debbie hears from up to 100 people each and every week, listening to the concerns of readers and explaining the Star's news-gathering standards and practices.

She organizes roundtable discussions with readers and top editors on how the Star covers specific topics such as the Mideast, and the relationship between news and opinion, and reader focus groups on new and existing sections and coverage issues.

Debbie is working with the Tucson Festival of Books, which will host more than 350 authors March 14-15 for a weekend of literary delight, and is president of the Star's Sportsmen Fund Send-A-Kid-To-Camp program, raising money to provide scholarships for over 900 kids to spend a week at overnight camp.

The meeting location is at the Town of Oro Valley Library, their large Meeting room to your right as you enter the Library, 11,000 N. La Canada, Oro Valley.

Upcoming OVHS Events

General Meeting - Sept 18, 2008, 6:30 PM

See Above Details

General Meeting - Nov 13, 2008, 6:30 PM

"Tucson Presidio, Spanish Soldier's Life"

By: Rick Collins

Steam Pump Ranch Update



Things have been happening out at the Steam Pump Ranch this summer.

The Town of Oro Valley has initiated a major cleanup and maintenance effort.

Historical Preservation Commissioners Dan Zwiener and Pat Spoerl have monitored that work to identify potential historic items to keep for future inventory and use. The Parks and Recreation Department has improved the landscape with major tree trimming and removal of vines and weeds.



The second floor addition to the Procter-Leiber House partially collapsed during the monsoon season with the remainder removed by a contractor. You may notice the missing second story as you drive by on Oracle Road. The house now retains more of its original architectural look.

The Historical Society envisions participating as a major partner in the management and care of the Steam Pump Ranch. In keeping with our mission we anticipate providing historical programs and materials and volunteer staffing. The time expended by our volunteers will reduce expenses to the Town for on-site educational and interpretive programs.

Community Funding Grants

The Historical Society has received $6,000 from the Town of Oro Valley Community Funding Program for two projects. The first includes funding for an Oro Valley Heritage Month birthday month celebration next April (the Town's 35th birthday) including special lectures, exhibits, and educational information for area schools ($5,000).



The Board is holding a "brainstorming" session September 29th to develop the program for Heritage Month. If you have ideas or want to become involved please contact a Board member. The second grant will provide for additional video documentation of the artifact analyses for the Honey Bee Village Archaeological Site ($1,000).

Speakers Bureau

The Historical Society has initiated a Speakers Bureau that will provide information and updates about Steam Pump Ranch (the "historic heart" of Oro Valley) to area civic organizations and businesses. Its purpose is threefold: to increase understanding of the important role that Steam Pump Ranch and its owners played in shaping life along Oracle Road; outline the planned scope of work to restore the Ranch's historic buildings and setting; and identify the financial costs and responsibilities to better consider ways we can all work together for future use of the Ranch.



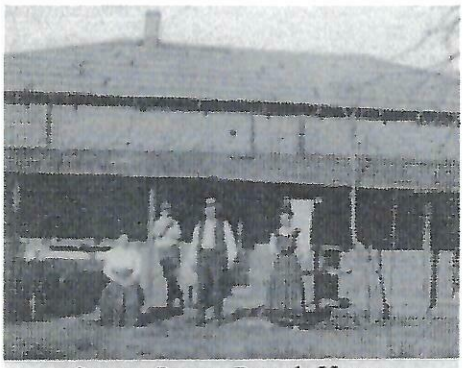
OVHS Secretary Roxy Johnson gave the first presentation to the Foothills Rotary Club in early September.

If you would like to help make presentations or have an organization interested in learning more about Steam Pump Ranch or the Oro Valley Historical Society, please contact Roxy at 797-9597.

STEAM PUMP RANCH
HISTORIC GARDENS

The Oro Valley Historical Society has initiated a project to re-create Historic Gardens at the Steam Pump Ranch. One will represent a late 1800's Pioneer Garden typical of German immigrants in the Arizona Territory. A future garden will be reminiscent of Native American gardens of the time.

Restoration of the Steam Pump Ranch buildings will take many years. We hope the Opening phase occurs in 2012 as part of the Centennial of Arizona statehood.



Steam Pump Ranch House

The Garden creation steps will include researching historically accurate plants, designing the gardens, clearing areas, installing watering systems, constructing fences, preparation of the soil, planting the seasonal gardens and the maintenance of them, organizing educational tours, and developing curriculum for interfacing to classrooms.

We believe this Garden Project will foster generational interactions with young people learning the benefits of growing food and learning local history. Others can share their gardening experiences as many were involved with Victory Gardens and kitchen gardens in their youth. Many disciplines will come into play such as water conservation, soil sciences, history, archaeology, and the fine arts.

Private donations are being solicited to fund and sustain the Historic Gardens Project. We have created levels for all to be able to participate.

FUTURE GARDENS

THREE SISTERS GARDEN

NATIVE AMERICAN GARDEN

PIMA AND WESTERN APACHE

PIONEER GARDEN

ARIZONA TERRITORIAL ERA



A re-creation of George and Matilda Pusch's Kitchen Garden (1880 to 1912) using foursquare raised garden beds, a pattern used by German immigrants. The garden area to be 30 feet by 60 feet with chicken wire fence, posts, native materials, water system including water harvesting and a gate.

Contribution Levels

☐ Pioneer Garden Underwriter

One Time Donation of $3,000 for the Construction of this Garden including soil, fencing, water system, gate, other materials.

☐ Winter Planting

Plant late Sept-Dec/harvest March-May.

Might include kale, cabbage, spinach, celery, rhubarb, potatoes, onions, garlic, carrots, radishes, beets, peas, rosemary, mint, barley, wheat, oats, rye, buckwheat, petunias, roses.

Donation of $75 for one season

☐ Spring Planting

Plant after frost mid March when mesquites leaf out. Might include lima beans, gourds, tomatoes, apples, grapes, sunflowers.

Donation of $75 for one season

☐ Summer Monsoon Planting

Plant with the rains July into early August. Might include maize, beans, melons, peppers, zinnia, marigold, cosmos, verdulaga.

Donation of $75 for one season

☐ Garden Patron - $200

☐ Friends of the Gardens - $25

Typical Foursquare Pioneer Garden



Sketch by Joyce Rychener

This sketch illustrates a typical foursquare garden
that was often used in the late 1800's.
The men usually built and tilled the garden area
but the women planted and cared for the garden.



In Memory of Jim Kriegh, Co-founder and First President of the Oro Valley Historical Society who passed away last October

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