



PATHFINDERS PRESS



Newsletter of Arizona Pathfinders, Inc.
A Volunteer Support Organization for the Southern Division of the Arizona Historical Society, founded 1976

January 2017

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FLYING HIGH IN EARLY TUCSON

At the Pathfinders' evening potluck on December 8th Bill Kalt presented a lively and dramatic tour through Tucson's participation in and contributions to the early years of aviation.

Using illustrations – old photographs, newspaper articles and maps – he introduced us to many brave and some certifiably crazy personalities – aviators, inventors and promoters – who propelled the progress of motored flight. History came alive through his tales of inventions, competitions on the ground to prepare landing fields as well as in the air for cash prizes, overflights to establish air mail routes, all liberally punctuated with crashes and near misses.

A highlight was the various maps he used to pinpoint locations in Tucson we are all familiar with – “this airstrip was just across the street from where Amphigh School is today.” The first municipal airfield in the country was at Irvington and South Sixth Avenue.

Bill is the author of another foray into Tucson's early history, *Tucson Was a Railroad Town*, and tonight's program was a tantalizing sample of what awaits in his forthcoming book *High in Desert Skies*, due out early in 2017.

–Charity Everitt

A UNIQUE CHANCE TO SEE WHAT ARIZONA HISTORY MUSEUM DOESN'T DISPLAY

Join Arizona Pathfinders in a Back of the House Tour, February 11th at 9:15AM

This will be a Docent-led tour at the Arizona History Museum 949 E 2nd Street, Tucson, AZ. Items of particular interest include: Firearms – Pottery and Baskets – Saddles and Furniture – Cele Peterson's Clothing Collection.

Space is limited. Cost is \$25 per person; advance registration is required. E-mail azpathfindersahs@gmail.com for a flyer that includes a registration form.

ARIZONA PATHFINDERS BROWN BAG JANOLYN LO VECCHIO, SPEAKER JANUARY 19, 2017



CLARA SCHELL: PIONEER OPTOMETRIST, SUFFRAGIST AND COMMUNITY LEADER

Join us in the Auditorium of the Arizona History Museum 949 East 2nd Street, Tucson AZ on January 19th, 2017 at 6:00PM.

Clara Schell was the first woman optometrist in the Territory of Arizona and practiced optometry with her husband H.A. Schell in Tucson. The firm of Schell & Schell quickly grew and by the early 1920's expanded to include a lens grinding plant.

A community leader, Clara was a suffragist and gave the first woman's suffrage speech at the Old Congress Theater. She also helped organize Arizona's chapter of the Humane Society, served as its secretary for 17 years, and organized similar chapters in Clifton, Nogales, and Bisbee.

In addition to serving as president of the Lady Maccabees, Clara was president of the Tucson
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Janolyn Lo Vecchio

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Business and Professional Women's Club and lobbied state legislators regarding the Arizona minimum wage law for women but not men. She died in Tucson in 1955 after practicing optometry for 44 years.

Almost a native Arizonan, Janolyn Lo Vecchio is a University of Arizona retiree who writes and speaks on Arizona women's history. She has presented papers at state and national history conferences (Western History Association) as well as history talks to community groups throughout Arizona.

She is a former Arizona Humanities Council speaker and the recipient of the James Elliott Award for her article on Arizona women's jury service and the Barry Goldwater award for her paper on Jessie Bevan. Some of her publications include Volumes Two and Three of *Women Who Made A Difference*, a collection of 400 biographies of pioneer Arizona businesswomen, a biography of Dr. Leonard Peltier, a founding faculty member of the College of Medicine, and several journal articles.

This is a Brown Bag meeting so bring your own meal. Pathfinders' Board will provide dessert and coffee. The meeting is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome.

There is free parking one block west of the museum in the Arizona Historical Society garage at the northeast corner of East 2nd Street and North Euclid Avenue. Use the East 2nd Street entrance.

More information and a flyer is available by e-mailing azpathfindersahs@gmail.com.

HIDDEN TUCSON II TOUR

Join Arizona Pathfinders April 8 for another exciting Hidden Tucson tour.

We will start visiting Medicine Man Gallery where Jerry Freund will give us a private tour.

We will visit what was the "Desert San," what is now TMC, view their collection of paintings and hear the story behind them. Jerry Freund will be our guide here as well.

We will conclude with a docent-led tour of Tohono Chul and will have lunch there.

Save the date! A flyer will follow shortly.

ARIZONA PATHFINDERS TALK ON JEFF MILTON, SILENT AUCTION AND POT LUCK DINNER MARCH 14, 2017 6:00PM

Arizona History Museum

949 East 2nd Street, Tucson AZ

Enjoy an entertaining and educational evening with a presentation by Alan Kruse, member of Arizona Pathfinders board of directors.

Jeff Milton: A Good Man with a Gun

Milton's life in law enforcement reads like a movie.

After spending three years as a Texas Ranger, he patrolled the Mexican border between El Paso and Yuma capturing smugglers bringing in mescal and Chinese immigrants. He had an altercation with John Wesley Hardin and lived to tell about it. In 1900 he fought five members of the Alvord gang who attempted to rob his train at Fairbank. After an exciting life, he died in Tucson in 1947

This meeting will include an exciting Silent Auction, and Arizona Pathfinders brief Annual Meeting.

The date has been changed to a Tuesday to avoid conflict with a basketball game. Save the date!

HISTORY, PAST AND FUTURE, IN THE TOWN BETWEEN THE TRACKS

The featured speaker at the Pathfinder Brown Bag evening event held October 24th was J.J. Lamb, coordinator of historic preservation in Vail, Arizona.

She talked first about the effort the town is taking to preserve what little is left of the original town: just the 1908 store and post office, rebuilt after it burned in 1908, and the shrine of St. Rita in the Desert, dedicated in 1935. She then gave an illustrated overview of the history of the crossroads that became Vail Siding and then Vail Station as it expanded to serve the railroad and the surrounding ranchers.

It was exciting to hear how they are involving the school children of all ages in the effort to uncover and restore not only the Anglo layer of history in this landscape but the preceding Hispanic and Native American occupation of the area as well.

For more information about these efforts check their website at www.vailpreservationsociety.org.

PATHFINDER PALM SPRINGS TOUR, OCTOBER 2016

Twenty-one Pathfinders took a wonderful trip to Palm Springs from October 24th to the 28th with our excellent driver Mike Galligan in a very comfortable coach. We left the Arizona Historical Society seven minutes early, and we proved to be the most punctual group at every opportunity. Most of us knew each other, but were happy to get to know those new folks.

The tour committee, John and Mary Flynn, Tommy Friedmann and led by Bob Stuart planned everything so well. We had interesting places to experience and most of our meals planned in advance and carried out well.

They presented us with a very useful folder with maps of the area and routes, the itinerary day by day, and supporting information about the sights we would see that day. Bob included a history of the Cahuilla people, Palm Springs and fascinating



Joshua Tree Excursion

informative geological information. We watched a video about Joshua Tree National

Park's history. He even included good jokes interspersed with the good information.



Best Western Las Brisas

We had great accommodations at the Best Western Las Brisas in downtown Palm Springs and were fortunate enough to

have the same rooms for all four nights because all venues were close by.

The day after our arrival we were joined by guide Cindy who gave us a tour of the wind turbine farms and explained how they provide us with electricity. During her time with us she took us on the tour of the homes of the famous and told us stories of the old Hollywood connection days.



Wind Farm

She explained that in the early 20th century there had been a first class hotel in Palm Springs that was *continued on page 4*

DUES ARE DUE!

Arizona Pathfinders board has voted to modify the structure of dues. Now you have the chance to become a lifetime member and contribute to our support of the Arizona History Museum.

Dues cover a calendar year. Please remember to keep us current of changes to your email and street addresses so we can keep you current of our activities.

ARIZONA PATHFINDERS, INC.

azpathfindersahs@gmail.com

ANNUAL DUES (JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31)

PIONEER:..... \$10,000 and above
 BENEFACTOR:..... \$1,000 to \$9,999
 PATRON:..... \$500 to \$999
 (Pioneer, Benefactor and Patron are Arizona Pathfinders lifetime memberships.)

SPONSOR:..... \$100 to \$499
 DISTINGUISHED MEMBER:..... \$26 to \$99
 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP:..... \$15
 COUPLES:..... \$25

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Please fill out and mail with your check made out to **Arizona Pathfinders, Inc. to:**

Arizona Pathfinders, Inc., c/o Arizona Historical Society, 949 East 2nd Street, Tucson AZ 85719

We ask that you notify Pathfinders when your address, telephone number or e-mail address changes. Thanks. **Note:** Pathfinders does not share, sell or otherwise misuse your personal information. It is only used outside Pathfinders' business for an Arizona Historical Society (AHS) event.

frequently visited by the stars of the time. Original contracts between Hollywood stars were directly with the studios and had a clause requiring the actor to be “on call within 100 miles of Hollywood.” Palm Springs was located a convenient 98 miles from Hollywood in a pleasant setting. We had lunch on our own in downtown and then boarded the coach for our docent led tour of the Palm Springs Art Museum.

Our meals were all top notch, first lunch in Quartzsite at the Stagecoach Restaurant and Motel, then dinners at Rio Azul, LuLu, Jackalope Ranch, and Elmers (where we arrived earlier than expected but they accommodated us well).

The third day we took the aerial tram up to the San Jacinto State Park (CA) and were amazed at the views. The tram itself is unique due to the revolving



View from Tram

floor so all have a 360 degree view. We ate lunch at the mountain station where some of us took short hikes, watched two films about the making of the tram and about the history of the area.

We all experienced spectacular views from many locations. We could see the wind turbine farms, the Salton Sea and the Coachella Valley and follow the San Andreas Fault. The temperature was close to the valley so many shed the layers we took because it was to be cooler by 30 degrees. The descent was as spectacular as the ascent.

After the tram experience we visited Cabot’s Museum in Hot Springs where he built a quirky pueblo on his homestead and found the first hot springs in the area. We then went to the Shields

Date Garden to find that 80% of the dates bought in America come from the Coachella Valley. The short film about date cultivation explained that they must be manually pollinated and much care given during growth to produce the dates.

We were joined by a delightful guide, Kelly Crawford, who shared his love for Joshua Tree National Park. It is a big park so we started in the north at the West Visitor’s Entrance and toured Hidden Valley of great stone boulders where cattle rustlers could hide their



Joshua Tree Group

herds undetected.

The rock formations are unique. The Joshua Tree only grows in this northern part of the park due to their need for the Mojave Desert and altitude conditions. We saw another view of the Coachella Valley from this more eastern vantage point where the fault and Salton Sea were also visible. We dropped Kelly off before our lunch at the 29 Palms Restaurant, another interesting place.

We got back on the coach for a ride through the Park traveling south through changes in topography leaving Joshua Trees behind and passing huge cholla patches and ocotillo more familiar to our Sonoran desert. We stopped in the Cottonwood Visitor’s Center to wrap up our Joshua Tree National Park experience. Off to dinner, and some of us participated in the Thursday night street fair Palm Springs puts on weekly.

We got off on time for our return to Tucson on Friday. We took the southern route passing the Salton Sea but were too far away to see it nor catch the aroma of a stagnant body of water. We ate lunch on the way back at Lutes Casino Café in Yuma. We arrived back around 5PM and said our good-byes and thanks for a great trip.

—Beck Ney