

Spring
2015

Litchfield Legends

A publication of the Litchfield Park Historical Society and Museum

Jeff Alderman's *World of Miniatures*

New Exhibit
GRAND OPENING
Sunday, April 12th 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Everyone imagines a miniature world at some time during their life. Movies and literature and art are filled with examples from Gulliver's Travels to the Phoenix Art Museum's Thorne Rooms, along with personal collections of doll houses and race cars. We seem to be fascinated with viewing examples of this extraordinary change in scale from reality.

Master modeler Jeff Alderman has delighted in this world since he was a small boy. Opening on **Sunday, April 12th**, each of you will be able to see the magical world he has created. On view will be miniatures of things such as the **RMS Queen Mary**, one of the most famous ocean liners in history – second only to the Titanic. The Queen Mary was able to transport 2139 passengers with a crew of 1101. It also served as a troop carrier during WWII. It established a world record for carrying the most people ever aboard one vessel – 16,082 troops in December of 1942. That record still stands today. The Queen Mary is now a floating museum, hotel and conference center, anchored in Long Beach, California, where it has been since 1967. This model has been loaned to us by Judy Prestininzi of San Marcos, CA. Ms. Prestininzi portrayed a third class passenger in James Cameron's film "Titanic" as well as starring as Molly Brown in the semi-documentary Titanic sequel "Ghosts of the Abyss."

A second model of a ship that was prominent in WWII history is the **Imperial Japanese Navy Aircraft Carrier Akagi** (Japanese for *Red Castle*). Built between the years 1920 and 1925, the ship is best known for launching the December 7th, 1941 assault on American forces stationed at Pearl Harbor. The next day President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared war on Japan and America was led into WWII. This model was built at a 1/700th scale. It was featured on the Queen Mary in Long Beach from 2006 to 2009 as part of a WWII exhibit.



In This Issue:

- Jeff Alderman's
World of Miniatures
- President's Letter
- Photo Collection—
Miniatures
- Camp Show
- The Making of an
Exhibition
- Sponsors
- Gift Shop
- Membership Form

Cont. on page 3

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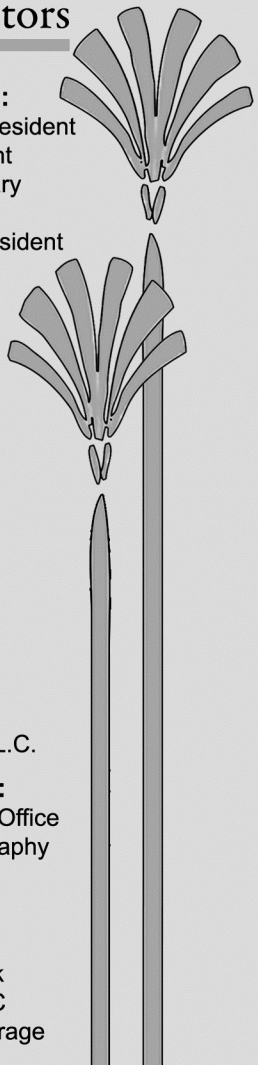
Paul J. Faith, Esq.,
Faith, Ledyard & Faith P.L.C.

Research Consultant:

Dr. Gloria Cuadraz, ASU Office
of Oral History & Ethnography

Special Thanks

The City of Litchfield Park
Tim Blake, LandCare LLC
Palm Gate RV & Self Storage



Letter from the President

History is the legacy we leave to those who follow us.

I can remember when I was a student and felt that there was no real reason to study history. After all, history was in the past. I was living in the present and looking forward to the future. History had no relevance. Then I grew up, had children, and now grandchildren, and have lived realistically half of what will be my life. Now it is all starting to make sense. History is not just reading about the efforts of our founding fathers, or the military accomplishments of heroic characters in times of war. It is about how we as a people have come to be who we are and where we are today. History is made up of the day-to-day decision making that never really seems to be historic at the time. It is the way we live our lives, the values we pass down to our children and grandchildren, and the process we use to do that. History is made up of the thousands of seemingly small choices that leave an imprint on who we are as a people. It has relevance. I want the generations that will follow us to understand these choices, why they were made, recognize their impact, and learn from the lessons we have learned, carrying them forward into the future.

It is an exciting time to be engaged in this process at the LPHS, and one which most clearly reminds me that it will be through the collective efforts of the community that we will be able to make bold strides into our future. Daniel Burnham (1848-1912), American architect and designer of the Flatiron Building in New York City and Union Station in Washington, D.C., said, **“Make no little plans for they fail to excite the minds of man.”** We at the LPHS are making **BIG** plans, and will be sharing them with the community soon. We know that we will need your

support in so many ways, so I urgently ask you to consider the following ways in which you can be engaged:

Join the LPHS now! (a membership form is included in this newsletter)

If you are already a member, consider a financial gift to support our efforts

Consider including the LPHS in your will as a way to leave a legacy behind

Consider sharing your expertise by becoming one of our volunteers

There are many opportunities for you to become a vital part of the LPHS. We are at a critical juncture in our history. Talk to us today.

With great expectations ...

Lisa Brainard-Watson

President of the LPHS and MUSEUM

Omissions

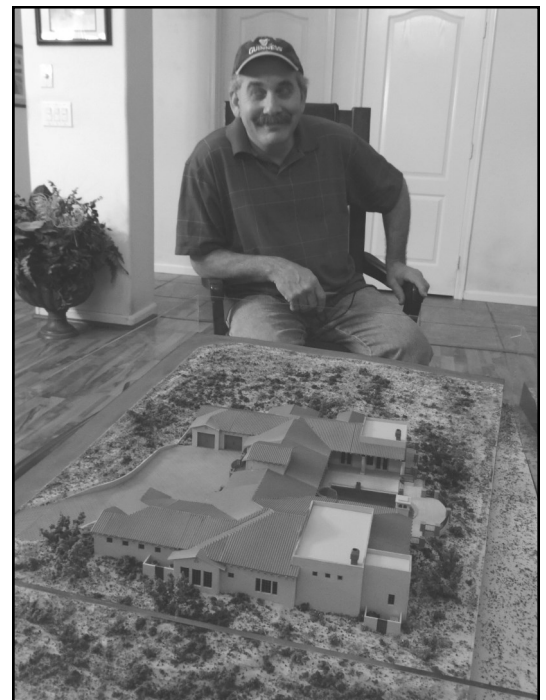
We sincerely apologize to our members for unintentionally omitting two names in our 2014 Annual Report. They are: General Counsel, **Paul J. Faith, Esq.**, of Faith, Ledyard & Faith P.L.C. and **Dr. Gloria Cuadraz**, ASU Office of Oral History & Ethnography. Both should have been listed beneath the names of our Board of Directors. We extend our apologies to both of them for this oversight.

The Board of Directors of the LPHS and MUSEUM

Continued from page 1: A third model of a ship that will be featured is the **USS Missouri** which served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War conflicts. The ship had a crew of 2700 men; and it was on its decks that WWII officially ended when the Japanese signed a formal surrender on September 2nd, 1945. Today the Missouri is anchored in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii as a floating museum, just across from the USS Arizona Memorial. This model was built at a 1/350th scale and has well over 500 parts. It was also part of the previously mentioned Long Beach WWII exhibit from 2006 to 2009.

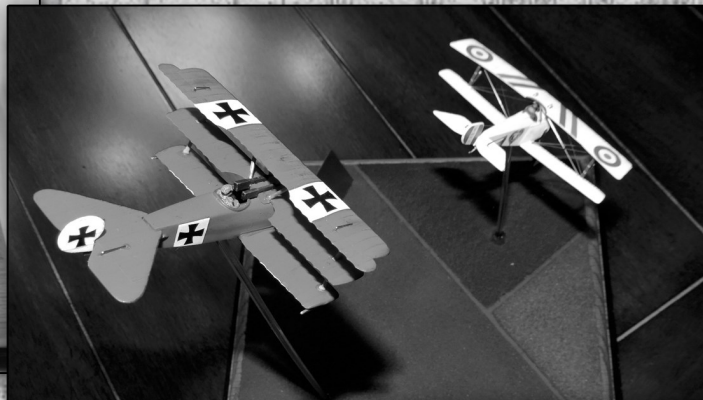
Several models of WWI planes will also be displayed in the exhibition. Among them are a **Fokker DVIIF**, a **Fokker Dr.1**, and a **Sopwith F.1 Camel**. These WWI planes were built a little over a decade after the Wright brothers flew their first plane. The **Fokker Dr.1** was a single-seat fighter plane flown in WWI by German flying ace, Manfred von Richthofen (known as the *Red Baron*). Von Richthofen shot down 80 aircraft and was killed while flying a combat mission in a Dr.1 on April 21, 1918.

A significant assortment of racecars, motorcycles, and engines will also be on view. Among them are the **1977 Lotus Type 78** (driven by Mario Andretti), a **2010 Chevrolet Camaro SS**, a **1980 Yamaha YZR500**, and a **Le Rhone 9C Rotary Engine**. An added feature will be a signed photograph of Jeff with Mario Andretti. An additional highlight will be the **Neuschwanstein Castle** located in Bavaria, Germany. It is the recognized inspiration for the Sleeping Beauty Castle at California's Disneyland. The actual castle has over 200 rooms, the largest of which is the *Hall of Singers* which is 2937 square feet. The architectural model of the **Hossenlopp Residence in Scottsdale, Arizona**, will also be on view. Fabrications such as these are done from municipal and architectural plans, as well as topographical (*topo*) maps. These must be done for approval before expensive homes such as this one can be built. During the construction of this model, Alderman found design flaws that had to be corrected by the architect before the house could be built.



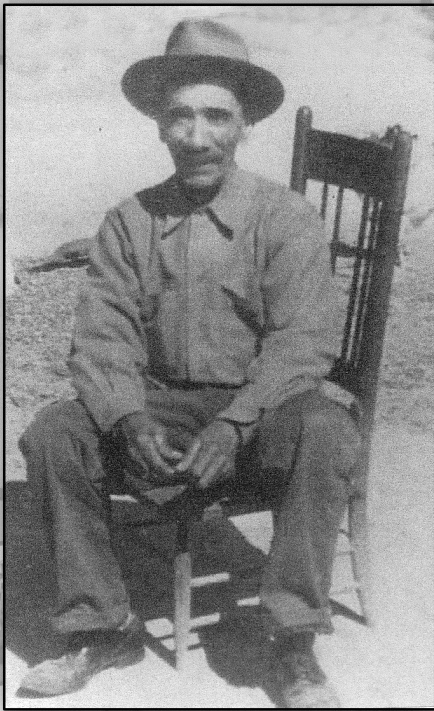
Jeff began his interest in model building as a young boy of seven – looking for things to do. After completing his first one, he was hooked for life; and he would do odd jobs to earn enough money to go to the hobby store to buy another model. Now as a professional, he is able to create virtually anything people ask him to create in miniature. If you haven't already seen the museum's **1940s Miniature of Rancho La Loma**, make sure you take a look at it. Jeff created the model by looking at a handful of photographs the LPHS had in its files and a *topo* map. The museum has a book with photos portraying all of the steps Alderman went through to complete the finished model.

Come and view this exciting exhibition! Over 30 models will be on display. Meet Jeff on opening day – and don't forget your children and grandchildren. They will delight in this *wonderful world of miniatures!*



Los Campos de Litchfield Park

*This popular exhibit continues through
October 9th. Come view the story of the
five main communities for workers at
Goodyear Farms.*



The Making of an Exhibition

Those of you who come to our museum on a regular basis are aware of the fact that we change exhibitions frequently. Since we opened our doors in October of 2012, we have mounted twelve (12) different exhibits. They have focused on a variety of topics from quilts to medicine. Many of you have probably wondered just exactly how an exhibit happens.

We begin with a list of possible topics. Right now, that list is two pages long. The Board and our docents then evaluate that list – individually rating them in an order in which they believe our audience might be interested. After that list is prioritized, we evaluate how much research needs to be done in order to exhibit that topic as completely as we can. For example, research for the exhibition that will be displayed in the fall of this year – **“Blimps, Dirigibles, and Other Things that Float in the Air”** – was begun early in 2014 by John Donahue. John read books, talked to various people, and looked through our photo collection in order to develop a story line. Fellow docent, Susan Adams, joined him last fall in this endeavor. Both Susan and John are teachers, and are very familiar with research and how to present information to others in a meaningful way. Each exhibit must have several levels of information for our viewers because some visitors are very knowledgeable about a topic, while others are new to the content.

Once a story line is developed, photos and artifacts are selected, and a title chosen, everything must be readied for exhibition – including a title board. Photographs must be copied and labels written. The lettering for the title board and category headings is professionally cut from vinyl. Then everything is ready to be mounted on colored fade-proof cardstock which is ordered from a national supplier. We use acid-free tabs to do this. Then each photo is labeled on the back with identifying information using a pen with white ink.

Approximately two weeks before a new exhibit is opened to the public, the old one is removed and stored. Then several of our able volunteers begin the process of hanging the show and arranging the artifacts that are to be shown with it. Small Velcro tabs are stuck to the back of the signage and photos; and each item is placed on our ProPanel display boards. Because we use Velcro, the items can be moved easily until a satisfactory arrangement has been achieved. Then the labels are finalized and the photos are numbered.



Meanwhile, an article is written and photos are taken for use in our newsletter. Information is sent to various news outlets hoping to get coverage for our public opening. Each of our openings is held on a Sunday afternoon so that people who work during the week can attend.

All of these steps take many hours of thoughtful work so that each exhibit is as factually accurate and as complete as we are able to make it. Our museum is fortunate to have approximately eight volunteers who have worked on exhibitions over the past two and a half years. It is truly a labor of love – and we hope that each of you has enjoyed viewing these twelve exhibits, and has come away with a greater appreciation of the history of our part of the world.

AHS Affiliation/Certification

We are pleased to announce our second year of Affiliation/Certification from the AHS (Arizona Historical Society). Each year our museum must submit information about our previous year's activities to the Board of the AHS for re-certification approval.

We are also pleased to announce that the LPHS received a small grant of \$1000 from the AHS last December. This money is to be used to help defray expenses for a new computer system for our museum. We were delighted to receive this financial help from the AHS.

The Board of Directors of the LPHS and MUSEUM

NEW at the MUSEUM Gift Shop

In April we will be adding some exciting new items to our current selection of books, note cards, and small gift items. Available for purchase will be authentic, hand-crafted objects from the American Southwest and Mexico. Below we have provided a short description:

Native American Jewelry:

Necklace, earrings in sterling silver with beads, turquoise, and shell created by the Navajo. Note: All pieces have been authenticated.



Miniature Kachinas/Katsinas from

Arizona: Kachinas are believed to be spirits or personifications of things in the real world. The central theme is the presence of life in all objects that fill the universe. Each sculpture is unique and depicts a different spirit.

Oaxacan Wood Carvings (Folk Art) from Mexico:

These wood carvings are sometimes called Alebrijes and are an art form that originated in the small villages in Oaxaca, Mexico. Using simple tools and incredible creativity, wood carvers create whimsical animals and mythological creatures that are made out of Copal, a tree that grows in the mountains of Oaxaca. Traditionally, the men do the carving and the women do the beautiful painting. Each family has developed their own distinct style; and each animal is unique.

Stop by and see the new additions to our museum's

Gift Gallery of the Southwest



Sponsors

\$500 Level



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Sun Health

14154 Denny Boulevard
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340
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Museum Hours

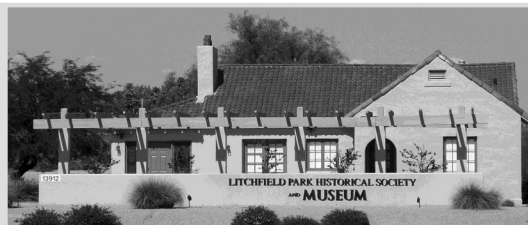
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
And by appointment - call 623-535-4414

Address: 13912 W. Camelback Rd.
Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340

email: office@LPHSmuseum.org

Do you have empty aluminum cans?

The LPHS will recycle them for you.
Leave them at the garage door of
610 N. Old Litchfield Road, Litchfield
Park. The money will help the LPHS
pay its utility bills.



Join Us. It is through your dues and donations that we are able to continue our efforts
to preserve the history of Litchfield Park. *Become a member today.*

LPHS 2015 Membership/Special Donation Form

January 1 – December 31, 2015 membership year

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Annual Membership Dues ☐ Single Adult \$20 ☐ Family \$30 ☐ Business/Professional \$60
 ☐ Contributor \$125 ☐ Lifetime \$600

I would like to make an additional Special Donation of: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other _____

Thank you! Please make your check payable to: **Litchfield Park Historical Society,**
PO Box 1936, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340

Would you be interested in volunteering to work on a committee or help in the museum? ☐ Yes

The Litchfield Park Historical Society is an official IRS 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation, and membership dues and other donations are tax deductible for persons who itemize.