



the Quarterly

Remembering the Southwest Valley

Vol. No. 6 Issue No. 4, October, November, December, 2009

The Balloon Girls



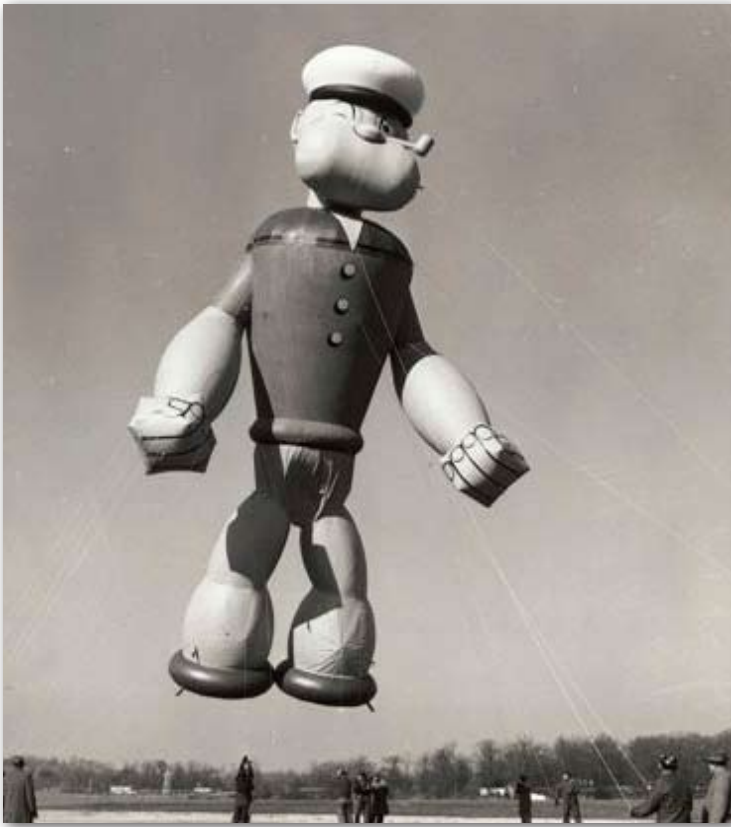
Evelyn Burk, Lupe Bedoya, Lucy Moreno and Thelma Crawford gained the title of “The Balloon Girls” from their work with the former Goodyear Aircraft Corporation located in Goodyear, AZ. The Aircraft Corporation employees were famous for making Goodyear Blimps. The same equipment and technical knowledge used to make blimps was easily converted into making the popular balloon characters that flew in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parades. Several famous character balloons were made here in Goodyear, starting with Popeye, the featured balloon in the 1957 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The Balloon Girls have fond memories of creating this 56ft. tall Popeye whose pipe held 80 lbs of imaginary tobacco. He reigned in five parades before he was honored with a retirement party in New York City’s Central Park. After Popeye came the Happy Dragon in 1960, Bullwinkle in 1961, Donald Duck in 1962, and Dino the Dinosaur in 1963. Their favorite was Donald Duck but the easiest balloon to make was Dino the Dinosaur as his body was almost one large solid piece. After 1963, this division of Goodyear was sold to a company in Rockport, Georgia.

Lupe remembers the many hours spent working on Popeye. He was made from a pattern or

continued on page 2

Salt  Agua Fria  Gila
Three Rivers Historical Society



templates and each separate piece had to be cut, sewn or glued then painted. After the pieces were glued they had to dry and shrink before he was assembled. Lucy could not wait to see Popeye finished and actually flying in the parade. Thelma remembers the fun of creating this famous character and was very excited to see him in the parade. She said it took many hours to attach all the sections. Evelyn ran the huge sewing machine which she affectionately calls the Union Special. The Balloon Girls helped to bring joy to the millions who watched the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades which have become an American treasure. They felt immense gratitude for their contribution to this famous American Thanksgiving tradition.

The parade was started by Macy's in 1924, at the request of their

employees who had experienced big parades in their home countries. Macy's originally used live animals in the parades and after learning the children were frightened by the animals, the large character balloons were introduced. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company was asked to make the balloons since they had successfully made blimps and dirigibles. The balloons were released after the first parades. They landed in far away places and there are many interesting stories of where they were found. Macy's began tethering the balloons so they could appear in five or more parades.

Goodyear Aerospace was sold to Loral Corporation which now has become Lockheed Martin. The hanger stands empty where the Balloon Girls worked. But, they remember the many long, hard-working hours they spent there creating these Masterpieces for Macy's Parades. The memories they have of



their participation are permanently instilled in their hearts and minds. Enjoyable memories will remain with every child and adult who saw them float down the street.

The story of Popeye and The Balloon Girls was made into a DVD by the Litchfield Park Historical Society. It has been featured on the local Cable Channel 11. It was filmed in the original hanger where the Popeye Balloon was built and features our local Balloon Girls.

Photos courtesy of Lockheed Martin

We hope that you enjoy reading **The Quarterly**

It is written and produced by Three Rivers Historical Society members and friends. It is more interesting and rewarding to research and report stories than it is to read them. You are invited to join in the fun. If you have not joined Three Rivers Historical Society, NOW is the time! The minimum annual dues will pay for printing and mailing *The Quarterly* to you.

Sometimes people think friends and neighbors would be interested in our local history and they add names to our mailing list. However, if *you* do not want to receive *The Quarterly* please phone to have your name removed.

Sally 623-386-1397, Lenore 623-536-1597, Jo Ann 623-932-1985.

The Pilot is a Prince

It was 1981. Don Bennett received a phone call with an unusual request. A Prince from Saudi Arabia needed to rent two houses in Litchfield Park for six months. The houses should be back to back, have at least four bedrooms and a pool. The Prince was coming to Luke AFB for training with the F-15. He and seven other pilots would receive flight training here, and go back to Saudi Arabia to be instructors.

Connie Smith was asked by Don to locate the houses. After a search, she asked Don if he would be willing to rent his own house. Dick and Judy Barton lived behind the Bennetts and it looked like the ideal arrangement. Don talked with Dick and an agreement was made to rent to the Prince and his wife, young twin daughters and their staff.

Continued on next page

Major renovations were requested. Don's home was completely remodeled and then furnished when young interior decorator, Katie Heim Dowell, took her very first decorating job. It had to be completed in a couple of weeks! Rosemary King Harbushka said, "Katie went to the best furniture store, Barrows, and to Tuversons at Biltmore Fashion Park to purchase china, crystal, sterling and linens. A crystal chandelier was placed in his and her closets. Fresh flowers were delivered every day." Jeri Goodman was hired to be housekeeper.

The fence in the back had a gate installed and a brick pathway provided a means for the staff to go back and forth...cooking in the Barton house and serving in the Bennett house. The Prince required special telephone service: a direct line to Saudi Arabia was necessary. The attic of the Barton home was full of wires within two days. Every room in both houses had a phone and only one person, Faye, was allowed to answer it.

Faye, the Prince's secretary, two security guards, and the attendants of the Princess stayed in the Bennett home. The chef and other staff stayed in the Barton home. The Barton home had remodeling also, which included a large commercial stove. A pantry that locked kept food secure. A lamb was prepared about once a week. Don did the shopping for the lambs, had them butchered and delivered.

Dick and Judy moved to Flagstaff where they had a second home. Don and Lavonne bought a condo nearby. Don had a lot of personal contact with the Prince. He and Lavonne frequently went to the Prince's home (which used to be their home) for dinner. Don took the Prince shopping at Walmart quite often. "He just loved to shop there," Don said. The Prince wanted to see the Grand Canyon so he rented two airplanes and took the Princess, twin daughters, Faye, security guards, other staff and Don as tour guide.

One day the Princess and her assistant took the golf cart and drove over to Bird Lane to lose the security guards who were trying to catch up to them. They were quite Western and they loved their freedom. Halloween was really special because the Prince provided the best candy money could buy. Every kid in the area made his way to that house.

Rosemary said, "In September my husband, Mike, and I hosted the Prince and Princess at a formal dinner in our home. From that time on we would receive food at our front door almost every morning. I tutored the children of the first pilot every afternoon. The Prince stayed until November, but the ladies went home earlier. When they arrived in Washington, D.C., they discovered they did not have their passports to go home! They required personal delivery of the passports, so Mike was selected to fly them out to D.C."

When the king of Saudi Arabia came for a quick visit, the entire Wigwam was rented for his entourage. Prior to the Prince leaving, he hosted a big party at the Wigwam to thank the community for their kindness and generosity.

Dick said, "The staff had video taped the entire house when they arrived so they could leave it in good condition. And they did. They did leave the large commercial stove which turned out to be a blessing to me because I am in the catering business." Don said, "The Prince left all the new, beautiful furniture in my house. It was a pleasure to know the Prince and Princess, and to have such a close relationship."

John & Artie Burk - Pioneer Family

It was the 1930's and people were leaving the "dust bowl" states in order to find work and feed their families. Share-croppers didn't own the land. They worked for the land owners and received a "share" of the crop when it was harvested and sold. During these hard times, many people left their meager homes to strike out for the West. The John Burk family was one of them, leaving Oklahoma in 1936.



They loaded up their Model B Ford truck and worked their way across Texas picking cotton along the way. They pitched a tent and cooked over a camp fire along the way. Finally they came to the West Valley and put their tent near the cotton fields which were ready for harvest. John quickly found a job working for several farmers picking cotton and fixing equipment.

Farm owners built shelters near the fields for their workers. Families sometimes shared cubicles in large tin or block buildings. The kids grew up, went to school, created their own amusement, and learned how to work!

John learned how to make adobe bricks by watching the Aragon family make them in Avondale. John said to himself, "I can do that." And he did. He made forms, mixed mud and discovered the way to construct houses. A new job had begun. John built an adobe house on Hill Drive and moved his family into it. The house is still standing and is occupied. There are several other abode homes in Avondale, built during those years, and they also are still lived in. The Ludlow home on Kinderman Drive is one of them. Members of these early pioneer families are living in the valley today.

John and Artie had six children. The oldest son, Cecil "Red," had joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and was sent to Prescott to live in a CCC camp.

Still in the Great Depression years, President Roosevelt came into office with promises of a New Deal. This action gave the nation's young men employment and an opportunity to save the nation's natural resources including reforestation of trees in the "Dust Bowl."

*By Lenore (Bensburg) Semmler.
Photo provided by John and Artie Burk*

Three Rivers Historical Society Board of Directors

Gloria King, President, (kingranchaz@aol.com)
Jo Ann Gongaware, 1st V.P., (jogong@msn.com)
Lenore Semmler, 2nd V.P., (kcsemmler@msn.com)
Sally Kiko, Secretary, (kskiko@cox.net)
Don Jones, Treasurer, (JONorJON@cox.net)
Ed Buonvecchio, Editor, (eddibon@yahoo.com)
John Leach, Past President
Peggy Jones
Frank Ross
Georgia Lord

Mark Pelletier – Web Master

threerivershistoricalsocietyaz.org

3 PM Membership Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month.

Meeting locations and guest speakers are announced via email or US mail.

Be sure we have your address on our mailing list.

Email us or Phone 623-932-4200

The Great Train Robbery

Let's travel back in time a few years, back to the late 1940s. Now, let's imagine that it is cotton harvest time—early fall. You remember, it's still hot out in the sun but you are dragging that long canvas bag, working your way down the rows of cotton, pulling the white cotton from the sticky bolls and stuffing it into the bag. When the bag is full you drag it to the end of the row to be weighed and emptied into the cotton trailer. At the end of the day the foreman pays you cash for your day's labor.

From the banking end of this scenario, during the weeks of the cotton harvest, you need to provide the foremen with a steady flow of lots of one dollar bills and lots of coins. A young man named Bill Lynn worked at Valley National Bank at that time and the foremen came to his teller window to get the cash. The bank had to order these 10-15 thousand one dollar bills from the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco. The Federal Reserve Bank shipped the money to the Valley Bank in Litchfield Park by train.

Now comes the sticky part. You see the train didn't have a scheduled stop at the Litchfield Train Station there on Highway 80 (MC85) at that time of day. So Bill Lynn's father--the Chief of Police for Goodyear—and a Deputy Sheriff would be there waiting to pick up the bags of money. They were thrown from the train as it passed by and the men were to grab the bags and take them to the bank. Well, one fateful morning one of the bags got hung up somehow and went underneath the train wheels. The bag split open and thousands of one dollar bills went flying all the way from the Litchfield Train Station along Highway 80 half way to Buckeye! Since the cash was from the Federal bank the FBI was called. Over the next week to ten days people kept returning cut-up dollar bills. It is estimated that out of a possible loss of ten thousand dollars all but about 1500 was recovered.

You see, the southwest valley has always had good, hard working people; people that step right up to help when they see a need.

By Sally (Stanton) Kiko: Based on an interview of Bill Lynn by Lt. Bill Newman of Goodyear Police Dept.

P.S. Should we schedule a group outing along the tracks to look for old dollar bills that may still surface?



The City of Goodyear

Fourth in our series of city logos.

The following information was provided by Lynn Mulhall, City Clerk.

Population	1990	6,258
	2009	62,554
Area	1990	sq m 120
	2009	sq mi 190
Sales Tax	1990	2% \$ not available
	2008	2% \$ 39,405,201
	2009	2.5% \$ not available



The earliest logo was a simple graphic for the Town of Goodyear. The letters were designed to look like tire treads.



The cornucopia was the first Seal of the town and was designed and crafted by Mayor Charles H. Salem. It was approved by the City Council in October 1975.

The City's newsletter, *The Cornucopia*, described the logo in this manner. The background is the Aztec calendar, which had a great influence on our southwestern culture. The date (1946) refers to the year our town was incorporated. The Estrella Mountains, palm trees, and farmland make reference to our area. In the center of the seal is the well-known Cornucopia, which is emblematic of abundance and infers to a Good Year.

Continued on next page

My Father Bud & Mother Stella Beck



Rainbow Logo. This colorful logo depicts the palm trees on Litchfield Road, the Estrella Mountains, and the compatible coexistence of agricultural and urban development.



The new logo in 2001, keeps pace with a changing city. The Estrella Mountains in the background represent the beauty and history of the area. Rising above the mountains are gold sunrays representing the City's bright and vibrant future. In the foreground is a "rooftop" outline of residential and commercial buildings representing the diversity of the community. The base is the City name, Goodyear. This logo was designed by Jason Keith. Bill Arnold was mayor.

In 2007, the Phoenix-Goodyear Airport received The 2007 Airport of The Year award from the Arizona Department of Transportation.

In 2007, *Forbes Magazine* ranked Goodyear as the fourth fastest growing city.

In June 2008, Goodyear was named All-America City.

In June 2008, Goodyear was named one of the five "Most Livable Cities" in America, with a population of less than 100,000 residents.

Property north of I-10 was owned by Goodyear Farms, as well as a lot of land south to MC85. Most farm land was owned by Goodyear Farms, but we don't know how much. It's probably safer to say, "Much of Goodyear is built on land previously owned by Goodyear Farms."

Grandpa Camp, Mom's Dad, had been a medical doctor in the Chicago area, but he wanted to be a painter. He was a good artist. His family was against this change so he divorced his wife and moved west. Married again and a daughter, Stella, my Mom, was born in Colorado.

My Dad, Darrell "Bud" Beck was an itinerant farm laborer. He worked where he could find jobs, traveling all over the Southwest. When Dad was 21 years old, he met my Mom, Stella Camp, who was 18 years old. She was picking cotton on the Belluzzi Ranch when she first saw Dad. She said he was the best looking man! They were married on June 18, 1935, and they settled down to make a life of their own.

My Dad started working for Al Belluzzi sometime in 1934 or 1935 as a farmhand. He became foreman on the Belluzzi Ranch and worked there for years to save money for a down payment on land of his own. This was his and Mom's dream for their six children, 4 girls; Starr, Jo Ann, Darlene, Kathie and 2 boys; Billy and Darrell. They lived in a tent when I was born. Many families did. Some tents were sort of permanent with a foundation, but most were portable to move around with the jobs.

In 1948, with the help of a loan from the Arizona Land Company, they were able to buy 160 acres of land located on Lower Buckeye Road and Reems Road, now called Estrella Parkway. They also purchased a 40-acre property with a house on Sarival Road, between Yuma Road and Van Buren. This house was big enough to house all the kids, pets and occasional visitors.

After getting all the requisite infrastructure completed, they planted cotton, alfalfa and various other crops on 200 acres. In 1954, to the delight of his kids, they purchased a house in what we now call, Historic Goodyear. All the fun was going on in "the city." We kids wanted to be in on it. Dad farmed his land, plus some he leased over the years, until he retired in 1970.

Three of the girls live in Goodyear, Starr, Jo Ann and Kathie. Darlene lives in Kansas. Billy passed away in 1989 and Darrell lives in Seattle.

Article & photos provided by Starr (Beck) Burks



Restoration Gift

Three Rivers Historical Society received a designated gift to be used toward preservation of the 1948 Ford Fire Truck. This donation is in memory of Lloyd Purcell who was a volunteer fireman in the 1950s & 1960s. He was a mechanic and did repairs and maintenance on this particular Ford truck.

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Ullman found this truck in another city and saved it from the scrap heap. This was a stroke of good fortune in several ways. It belongs back in the community that it served so many years ago with all volunteer firemen...and because it is in pretty good condition and has low mileage, considering its age. The City of Goodyear purchased it.



Elias C. Arnold/The Arizona Republic

Goodyear's original fire truck, a 1948 Ford. The city purchased the vehicle in 1948 for what was then an all-volunteer force.

Arizona Cotton Cotillion Rich in West Side History

Beautiful young women, handsome young men and dancing don't always come to mind when the Arizona cotton industry is mentioned but for many years the industry celebrated its own with its annual Arizona Cotton Cotillion. Several of those cotillions were held at the West side's Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park, as was the final event in 2001.

From 1963-2001 members of the Phoenix Cotton Women (originally Phoenix Cotton Wives) hosted their annual Arizona cotton cotillion where proud fathers presented debutantes and young men from cotton families escorted Maid of Cotton candidates. At the end of the dinner/dance, the new Arizona Maid of Cotton was announced.

Cotton debutantes were required to be of high school age and from cotton families, whether producers, ginnermen, marketing, or agricultural related industries. The flowing gowns and high heels were worn with great flair as their very proud fathers, grandfathers or other male members of their families presented the girls one at a time. As the girl's name was announced her accomplishments and cotton lineage was read and her male escort presented her in fine fashion.

A few of the many west side young women presented included Laura and Ronda Rayner, Tyanna Brown, Andrea Amator, Tammy, Talisha, Raquel and Melissa Youngker, Stacie Lueck, Melissa Woolf, and Kris Rayner to name just a few from the mid 1980s.

Debutantes Laura Rayner, of Litchfield Park, and Raquel Youngker, of Buckeye, both ran and were chosen as Arizona Maid of Cotton, Rayner in 1988 and Youngker for 1989-90.

The college-age young women chosen as an Arizona Maid of Cotton represented the Arizona cotton industry for one year as the industry's spokesperson, speaking at industry and non-industry events, modeling in statewide fashion shows promoting Arizona clothing and giving Agriculture in the Classroom presentations to the state's schoolchildren.

Maid of Cotton escorts represented the west side as well. Serving as escorts in the mid-1980s was Charlie Narramore, Reuben Narramore, Victor Napolitano and Ronnie Parker, all of Buckeye.

In 1991 debutantes included Jennifer Eastman, Ashe Fredrickson and Dina McCoy from the west side. Escorts included Brannon Brown, Neil Bushong, Bill Doster, Robert Faver, Ken Narramore, Cody Parker, Steven Schulz and Jon Warcomski.

West Valley Phoenix Cotton Women members were well represented in the leadership for both the organization and the cotillion. Just a few of the ladies serving included Shirley Youngker, Virginia Youngker, and Susan Youngker, along with Sissie Black, Kathy Turner, Marguerite Narramore, Dugie Heiden, Alice Rogers, Jolane Rogers, Marilyn Pierce, Betty Accomazzo, Joan Jarnagin, Sheri Stephens, Sherry Gladden, Nicki Gladden, Maria Woolf, Carole Nonomura, and Heather Rayner.

Staging the Arizona Cotton Cotillion was a year in the planning. Each spring the Phoenix Cotton membership would select their officers, including their Cotillion chairwoman. She in turn would select her committee, with individual members in charge of advertising statewide for Maid of Cotton applicants, and contacting possible debutante and escort candidates to name just

a few of the positions required. On average 10 to 20 young women would be debutantes.

The event was a two-day affair, with a dinner on Friday with the Phoenix Cotton Women leadership, judges and Maid of Cotton candidates. At Saturday's lunch the Maid of Cotton candidates spoke about some aspect of the cotton industry. Individual interviews with the judges followed. The evening featured the presentations of the debutantes, the escorts being recognized and the candidates speaking to the Cotillion guests. At the end of the evening the new Maid was announced, followed by dancing.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening usually was a media celebrity in the Phoenix area.

From way down yonder in the land of cotton came nine young ladies who were vying for the title of Arizona Maid of Cotton Saturday night as the 22nd Cotton Cotillion got under way at the Radisson Resort in Scottsdale. When it was all over, Joan Collette Palinkas, 22, a senior at NAU majoring in commercial art, captured the 1985-86 title.

Maid of Cotton

The evening began with cocktails and progressed to a dinner of Caesar salad, steak and stuffed shrimp. After the lemon torte dessert, it was time for presentation of nine candidates. One proud dad was Ronald Rayner of Litchfield Park.



Anna Marie Beyer, left, president of Cotton Wives, talks with Ronald Rayner, who was presenting his two debutante daughters, Ronda 16, center left, and Laura 18, Saturday at the Cotton Cotillion. Photo reprinted from The Republic

Schools of the Past

Liberty Colored School This school's date of origin is uncertain, but it was in operation during the 1930's. The location was on Dean Road, south of the R.I.D. Canal. In 1941 Liberty and Palo Verde schools consolidated their schools for blacks at Palo Verde. The Buckeye Elementary added their students in 1943, and Avondale sent their students in 1944. The one-room, wooden structure of the Liberty Colored School was moved to the Liberty campus after consolidation in 1941. It became a car garage and later was removed from campus in 1977.

Continued on next page



Student portrait by Jean Stuart Ruth

Underwood School This was a county accommodation school established in Rainbow Valley at the Underwood Homestead in 1932. It was a one-room wooden structure and served grades 1-8. In 1939, the school was moved to the Dave Swaim property on two acres dedicated for the school. Prior to this in 1936, the Underwood School became the center of attendance for Rainbow Valley students when Rainbow Valley School closed.

The Underwood School served its community until May 20, 1955, when it, too, was closed because of annexation. The students of the area began to attend Liberty School the next school year.

Rainbow Valley School This school began operation in 1930-31. It was a one-room, wooden building that provided instruction space for students in grades 1-8. It was located near the Stralley Ranch at the base of the Estrella Mountains. It too, traditionally had a small enrollment. In 1936, during the Depression, this school closed down, and students were then sent to the Underwood School. The Rainbow Valley School was a county accommodation school.

Thomasville School This school for black students was established at the same time Underwood School was built in 1932. It was a one-room wood structure, and Mr. Dave Swaim was one of the settlers who helped Mr. Thomas construct the school building. It was located 7 or 8 miles southwest of the Underwood School.

Buckeye Colored School The earliest recorded effort of Buckeye School District #33 to provide educational services for the black children of families arriving to work in the area in September 18, 1929. The Board of Trustees Minutes for that date reads: "...an offer was authorized to be made by the principal to G.L. Foster, colored, of Palo Verde, to employ Foster to transport the colored children living in Buckeye School District #33 to the school for colored children maintained by the Palo Verde District at the following rate: 50 cents per day for each child for the first 8 children hauled and 20 cents per day for each additional child above the number 8. The teacher of the colored school will be asked to keep a daily record of the children hauled for the Buckeye district." This may or may not mean that Buckeye had transported black students to Palo Verde prior to this time. A notation in the May 1, 1930 Minutes instruct the principal (Mr. Pryar T. Scott) to arrange more favorable terms with Palo Verde regarding the colored school. The Board re-affirmed its policy and intentions to transport the children in 1931-32. However, at the end of the school year, the Board of Trustees awarded the transportation contract to Clobe Odom, colored, of Buckeye at the rate of 30

cents for the first 12 students and 20 cents over the number 12. The school was located directly west behind the Buckeye Seed and Feed Co., parallel to the railroad tracks. The facility was a 2-room building but was reported to have had only one teacher for grades 1-8. One source reports that the building was originally built as a kitchen and dining room for construction workers on the Valencia Subdivision north of the Town of Buckeye. Prior to 1929, the Valencia Subdivision resembled the Encanto Park Development. When the effects of the Depression reached this area, the project was closed down, leaving curbing, streetlights and a few freshly constructed buildings and the cafeteria building. Material submitted by Verlyn Meck and Pat Langford of Buckeye. This is research done for Buckeye's Centennial "*Buckeye-The First 100 Years*" book. Verlyn adds, "I also was in the Palo Verde Colored School – as it was on my aunt's property."

Blasts from the past

Westside Coordinating Council

Incorporated February 10, 1970.

Hal Runyan, Director
James L. King, Chairman

Board

Harold Doran	William V. Allen, Mayor, Avondale
Bill Tainter	Robert T. Bonnes, Mayor, Buckeye
Harold Porter	Arlow Posey, Jr., Mayor, Gila Bend
Mike Eaglin	Wayne Pigg, Mayor, Goodyear
Roland Stevens	Charles Marriott, Mayor, Tolleson

ASU Considers West Valley Campus

Tempe, AZ, January 28, 1971

James L. King, Chairman
Westside Coordinating Council
Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340

Dear Mr. King:

I want to express our appreciation for your taking the time to show us through the trotting park structure. I regret that I didn't have a camera, because that building from the west is certainly spectacular. Data that you have assembled on this project should be extremely helpful in analyzing its potential use for educational purposes. Your enthusiasm and your interest in this project are certainly commendable.

Very sincerely,
Gilbert Cady, Vice President

October, November, December 2009

Yes, I want to join Three Rivers Historical Society!



- Student \$5*
- Family \$25*
- Contributor \$100*
- Lifetime \$500
- Single \$15*
- Business/Professional \$45*
- Benefactor \$250*
- * *Yearly Fee*

Join _____ Renew _____ Call me to volunteer _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ (Evening) _____

Cell _____ e-mail _____

Check enclosed in the amount of \$ _____

A receipt will be issued to you.

Make out your check and mail to:

Three Rivers Historical Society,
P.O. Box 7251, Goodyear, AZ 85338

Three Rivers Historical Society is a 501 (c) 3
non-profit organization



Three Rivers Historical Society

Remembering the Southwest Valley

P.O. Box 7251, Goodyear, AZ 85338

Letter to The Editor

I would enjoy having your *Quarterly* Newsletters, previous copies too!
There are so many stories to tell!

We moved to Tolleson just before starting my freshman year the summer of 1954. My sister and I rode the bus and arrived here early to enroll at TUHS. We had a conversation with a Phoenix Police Office on the bus and when he found out we were going to Tolleson he said, "That town is full of pachucos and braceros." We were quite concerned. We were coming from Abilene, Texas, the home of three Christian Colleges, and no alcohol. We saw our first local BAR...and our suede penny loafers and sweaters were not to be used for some time!

What we found were churches full of loving people, great food, and memories for a life time, confirmed by our 50 Year Reunion in 2008.

Jeanette (Perrin) Coaly, Hollis, OK