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Peggy Jones – Historian of the Year

Peggy Jones, founding member and an integral part of the fabric of the Three Rivers Historical Society was awarded Historian of the Year at their 10th Anniversary celebration in June.



Peggy and her husband, Don, also a member of the 3RHS, came to Arizona in 1972 by way of California and Pennsylvania. Don's career was in the electrical generating business, working at Three Mile Island and here at Palo Verde. Peggy, a CPA, worked for Bechtel as a payroll supervisor and then had her own accounting business.

As a founding member of Three Rivers, she helped develop the organization's bylaws, mission statement, and obtain 501 (3)(C) non-profit status. She has always been an active member and at various times has served as a Director on the Board, Vice-President, and Treasurer. She has hosted the yard sale for several years, supplying not only her shaded back yard, but a delicious lunch for the workers. Peggy also served her community as an Avondale Council Member from 1998-2003.

It was so fitting to finally award this gracious lady who has served the organization so faithfully, has always been there to help when volunteers were needed, and has given so much of her time and talent. Speaking of talent, she also made the beautiful and amazing cake for the 10th Anniversary Celebration!



Congratulations Peggy Jones! Thanks for all your years of service.

Salt  Agua Fria  Gila
Three Rivers Historical Society

A Tribute to Chuck Lakin

Three Rivers recently lost a friend and Lifetime Member, Chuck Lakin. Born in Fort Scott, Kansas, he was brought to Arizona at the age of six months and was raised on ranches in Kingman, Prescott and Avondale. He attended the College of Agriculture at the U of A and was just a few units short of graduation when he enlisted in the Army. He earned his diploma 63 years later! With his love and knowledge of horses it was appropriate that he was assigned to the Cavalry serving in Burma. He was discharged in 1945 and worked for the Lakin Cattle Company.

He developed a pelletized feed for cattle and designed and built the pellet mill. His community service is legendary; Maricopa County Sheriff's Posse, Estrella Rotary Club, Arizona Horseman's Association, Arizona Farm Bureau Federation, Arizona National Livestock Show, Arizona Agribusiness Council and Arizona Cattle Feeders Association. He was also known for his sense of humor, storytelling and poetry.



Chuck passed away June 29, 2013 and leaves his wife, Maxine, four daughters, ten grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



Flies

TIME FLIES is their common name,
And eating calendars is their game.
Friends, have you ever wondered why
The years so swiftly hurry by?
Of times long gone, we often say,
"It seems like only yesterday."

Now, you may find this hard to buy,
But it's caused by a certain kind of fly.
An entomologist I'll never be
But I'm an expert on "fly-ology."

And since we'll never be without 'em
I'll tell you a little bit about 'em:
It's in the good book, you'll find his name,
A dude named Noah is the guy to blame.

When Noah loaded the Ark that day,
He must've been lookin' the other way
Surely he didn't realize
He'd let in all those pesky flies!

They're nasty things, and a nuisance too,
And they cost us billions in revenue.
Think of the trouble he could avert
Had he been a little bit more alert!

House flies speck the window pane
And drive the horses near insane.
Face flies make the cows lose weight
And cause their tails to flagellate.

The screw worm fly, the rancher's hex
Met their demise from sterile sex.
The heel fly damages the hide,
Which the tannery cannot abide.

The bot fly puts your horse to flight,
Add causes internal parasites.
The nit fly covers his legs with nits,
And sometimes makes him throw a fit.

The horsefly makes him buck and pitch
When you try to swat the sonofabitch.
The blow fly blows that stinky carrion,
Stuff that's bad in need of buryin'.

White flies are tiny, cute and sexy,
But they give the farmers apoplexy,
And there's a thousand, million zillion of 'em.
Which makes it awfully hard to love 'em.

But now, friends, I want your full attention,
The worst kind of flies I've yet to mention.
TIME FLIES is their common name,
And eating calendars is their game.

They eat the months and they eat the years
And they make the decades disappear,
And friends, it's because of them we so often say,
"It seems like only yesterday."

Chuck Lakin

Centennial Trail Receives Donation of Trees

Maricopa County Flood Control heard of our Centennial Trail project from Estrella Mountain Region Park Ranger, Amy Roberts, at a meeting. They were so impressed with the project they decided to give us some surplus trees and shrubs they had from flood control projects.

What great news! After spending last summer getting rid of the invasive salt cedar that had overgrown the site it is now pretty bare. These plants will enable us to begin to reforest the area with native plants that will provide shade and beauty. Thanks Amy, for sharing our story. Thanks Flood Control for sharing approximately 300 trees and shrubs.

The Wonderful Place- Names of Arizona

Doesn't Arizona have some wonderfully descriptive place-names? Who can argue with some of the more descriptive names like Camelback Mountain and Painted Desert? Or try to conjure up what happened that places were called Skeleton Canyon, Fort Defiance, Skull Valley or Bloody Basin. The early miners must have had a hand in the naming of Fools Gulch, Rich Hill and Gold Road. And, don't you imagine that the early cowboys named Chuck Box Lake, Jerked Beef Butte, Stray Horse Canyon, Jackass Flat and Poker Mountain?

Some of them are just interesting like Superstition Mountains, Mount Baldy, Window Rock, Phantom Ranch, Apache Leap, Cochise Stronghold, Devil's Kitchen, Copper Queen Mine and Bright Angel Trail.

Ever wondered how the town of Why got its name? Well, long ago Jim and Peggy Kater homesteaded near the junction of Routes 85 and 86 and the ranch went by the descriptive "The Y." The Y eventually grew big enough for a post office and when they were called upon to name the town the Katers selected "Why." Well, why not?

Frontier Medicine

An unfortunate fall, a prompt x-ray, the doctor sets the bone, a cast is applied and we are on our way again. This series of events are what we have come to expect. But if we go back to Arizona's Territorial Days we would find things much different.

Doctors at that time only had a couple of years of training. Most that were drawn to the West to practice medicine had a thirst for adventure or had reasons for wanting to leave the Eastern society. Dr. Charles Woods who came to Jerome was of mixed racial background was readily accepted in the mining town of Jerome. Some contracted with the military because they wanted to explore the new Territory.

In the mid to late 1800s the relation of germs to illness was not yet understood and aseptic surgery was a thing of the future. Standard treatments consisted of bleeding and purging; amputations were the standard treatment for shattered bones. Remember, there were no x-rays or anesthesia! Territorial physicians faced snakebites, arrow and bullet wounds, horrific mining accidents and devastating epidemics. They often had to improvise, using whatever was at hand to treat the patient.

Childbirth on the frontier was another ordeal. Women giving birth were most often cared for by family members or neighbors. With no ultrasound a breech birth or twins could not be anticipated and with no anesthesia labor was a painful process. Mortality rates for both the mother and the newborn were fairly high.

Many folks lived miles away from the small town and doctors that might live there. They relied heavily on self-treatment with patented medicines which ranged from harmless but ineffective sugar-water to addictive concoctions that contained alcohol, opium or heroin.

The close of the 19th century brought many changes to medicine including stiffer certification requirements for doctors, legislation banning fraudulent patent medicines, hospitals, x-rays and early vaccines. But these changes were slow to come to the many small communities and settlements that were distant from the towns that had doctors and the larger towns that might have a hospital.

When I think back to the medical facilities that were available in the West Valley in the 1940s it was fairly primitive by today's standards. If an x-ray was needed it entailed a trip to Phoenix and many families had limited income. Our local doctors were doing the best they could with what they had. They often treated symptoms without the benefit of blood test or other test. Since many of us are still alive they must have been skilled diagnosticians! By the way, they accepted chickens, eggs or other goods in lieu of payment. I'm sure all of us "old-timers" remember Dr. Davis, Dr. Martin and Dr. Hilton fondly.

Submitted by Sally Kiko

Do you remember 50 years ago?

These events happened in 1963!

1. U.S. performs nuclear test at Nevada test site
2. The Boeing 727 jet takes first flight
3. Beatles tape a 10-track for their 1st album
4. Julia Child's cooking show premieres on TV
5. Peter, Paul & Mary win 1st Grammy for "If I Had a Hammer"
6. Dick Van Dyke show wins an Emmy
7. The Supreme Court rules against Bible reading and prayer in public schools
8. U.S. bans monetary transactions with Cuba
9. 1st class postage raised from 4 to 5 cents!
10. All America cried! November 22, 1963, President and first Lady, Jacqueline Kennedy, were in a motorcade through the streets in Dallas, when shots rang out as they passed the Texas School Book Depository Building at 12:30 p.m. President Kennedy was pronounced dead at the Dallas Parkland Hospital 30 minutes later. He was 48 years old. Everyone old enough to recall that day can remember it vividly. Our Roving Reporter asked some 3RHS members to share their memories.

Celeste Crouch



"I lived on the Gulf Coast in Gulfport, Mississippi and I worked as a buyer and department manager for a major department store in the area. The president of the store group was visiting our store that day. I was with him and our store manager and - of all places; we were standing in the electronics department where many TV sets were turned on. All

of a sudden all of the TVs gave the news that President Kennedy had been shot in Dallas. WOW! We were all in disbelief and could not believe what we were seeing and hearing. I followed the story very closely and even remember seeing Lyndon Johnson as he was sworn in as president on Air Force One after Kennedy's death."

Frank Ross

"I was a freshman at the U of A at the time and a mid-term exam in economics was scheduled for the early afternoon. I spent the morning and lunch hour in the library preparing for it. After lunch, I was

walking and overheard some students talking and one asked if he had heard what happened in Dallas. He responded that he heard that Kennedy had been shot. I walked to the Student Union to find a TV to see the coverage. I wanted to confirm that what I heard was true. Of course every channel was covering the event. As of that moment the President's death had not been announced. I went to the classroom to take the exam but the professor was so emotional that he canceled the exam.

I then walked to my apartment about a block off campus. My roommate already had the TV on and the first thing I heard was, Ave Maria. It brought tears to my eyes and a few minutes later Walter Cronkite announced that the President was dead. I remembered that as I walked by the flagpole it was still at full staff. It must be lowered. I went back to the flagpole - it must be lower to half staff -but, campus police did not immediately lower the flag, so I said a few things that they didn't like! I didn't get arrested, but I came close. The election of 1960 was my first time to vote and Kennedy was the first president for whom I had voted. I was very emotional that day and canceled a blind date. My roommate and I drank Chivas Regal instead."

Gloria King



"I was living in Berkeley, CA at that time. I was working with international students who attended the U of CA at Berkeley. I was interested in world affairs. When my phone rang and a friend said, "Turn the TV on

ASAP." I was so shocked. I could not believe someone could do such a thing in MY country! It was frightening and confusing and I started to think about some foreign students that I knew wanted Communism to take over the USA. I was glued to the TV for hours, listening to the newscasters. I felt so sorry for Mrs. Kennedy in her blood-stained pink suit. The country had to have a president, so L.B. Johnson took over at 2:30 p.m. Then I went to my office a few blocks away to be with friends. It so happened that I was living in Washington, D.C. when Kennedy was inaugurated as president. There was a freezing snow on January 20, 1961. I saw the parade from the sidewalk near the Capitol Building."



Jo Ann Gongaware

"On November 22, 1963, I was

at the NATO site at the time. I was totally shocked when I saw President Kennedy slumping over in the convertible! I started crying and so did my landlady who kept saying, "pas bon, pas bon" which means not good in French. I didn't speak French very well so they stuck to simple words for me. I called the site where Ron was and he came down immediately. We were devastated by the assassination, and felt helpless being so far away. I don't think anyone will ever forget that day which was one of the worst days in American history."

Larry Baker

"In November 1963, I was a young bank trainee with United California Bank in the Los Angeles area. My wife, Margaret, and I were living in Anaheim, but as a trainee I was asked to cover for some loan officers during their vacations. Since I was destined to work in San Joaquin Valley after my training period because of my agricultural background, I was asked to work for the week of November 19, 1963, in UC's Bakersfield office. Margaret and our baby, Lynda, accompanied me and we were staying in a local motel during that week.

On Thursday morning sometime around noon, Margaret telephoned to tell me the unbelievable news about JFK being shot. I was in total shock as was everyone else. Nothing like this had ever happened in our lives, so we were horrified.

We drove back to Anaheim the next day and I remember how we both felt so saddened that such a terrible thing had happened in our wonderful country. We were glued to the television all weekend trying to comprehend it all. We were supporters of President Kennedy and were quite excited about his presidency. It just seemed unreal at the time, and still does."

Glo O'Donnell

"I remember it well! We lived in Dolhan, AL at that time. I had just taken Rod and Salli to their pre-kindergarten classes. Then I stopped in the home of a very good Catholic friend for a visit when the news of the assassination of the president was on her television...she had us immediately in prayer for the family. I did not like leaving her, she was so very upset, but after staying with her all morning, I had to go back and pick up my children. They had been instructed about the awful, unfortunate assassination – and because they were so calm, it helped me put everything in order. There would be justice and America would continue on."



Margaret Wood Carl

"It was my junior year at ASU and I was headed into the cafeteria for lunch. In a loud voice someone yelled out, "Did you hear that President Kennedy just got shot?" We all left our trays and ran to the nearest TV. Suddenly it seemed like the whole world stood still! We watched in stunned silence, as continuous scenes of an open limousine showed the president's head thrust backwards and Jackie Kennedy crawling over the back seat in a pink suit and pillbox hat, hovering over her husband.



We had so many questions; how could this happen in America? Who shot him and why? Then came the dreaded news that he had died in the hospital. Regardless of our political affiliations, we seemed to feel a kinship, like we were one family on that day. Afternoon classes were cancelled and as more students began filtering in, we spent the rest of the day into the late night sharing our sorrow, anger, fear and resolve to be more patriotic. I remember the grassy knoll, an arrogant Lyndon Johnson, being sworn in on Air Force One, and later the long funeral procession and little John-John saluting his dad's casket. These are memories that will never be forgotten."

Al Carroll

"On the day President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, I had a few months prior, graduated from high school. I was working on my first job at a hospital. It was in the afternoon and we were in the process of cleaning up from the noon meal. We had a radio on listening to some music, when a DJ broke in on the program with a special news announcement. After a short spell, Walter Cronkite came on over the air with the announcement that President Kennedy had been shot in Dallas, Texas. Then he started giving a summary of why the president was in Texas. A short time later he (Walter Cronkite) came back with the word that President Kennedy was DEAD! I was looking out a window to the east. Some of the women in the group started to cry openly. I know my heart hurt and I believe it was that same way for the other males in the group.

We all relate to these remembrances, don't we? Shock! Disbelief! Tears! Al Carroll mentions in his story above that Water Cronkite gave a reason for President Kennedy being in Dallas that day (against advice: not concern for his life, but for political reasons.) A little history lesson fits in at this point, (probably different from Cronkite's)."

Peggy Jones, 3RHS Archivist, shares with us an excerpt from a report she wrote on this subject while attending Park College at Luke Air Force Base in 1986.

Comments that were made in the series: "Death of a President" by William Manchester in Look Magazine – Jan-Feb, 1967, caused me to take a look backward into some of the reasons for the Kennedy party being in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

1931: Lyndon B. Johnson D. TX, arrived in Washington, D.C. as Congressional Secretary to Congressman Richard Kleberg.

1946: John F. Kennedy made his political debut as a candidate for Congress from the State of Massachusetts.

1955: JFK came within a whisker of walking away with the Democratic Nomination for Vice President. But, that was the year Eisenhower won the election.

1959: Relations between JFK and LBJ had deteriorated and become very bitter. Elections were nearing and Kennedy threatened to have LBJ kicked out of his house majority leadership when he was elected. John Connally, Director of Citizens for Johnson and a Fort Worth lawyer, called a news conference and charged that Senator Kennedy suffered from an incurable disease (Connally, seated next to Kennedy in the limousine, was also shot and seriously wounded. Kennedy won the election and LBJ was vice president. It was said that even though they are enemies, this was done to remove LBJ from the powerful position as Senate Majority Leader.

This brings us to why President Kennedy was in Dallas that day.

1960: Kennedy-Johnson ticket had barely carried in Texas. The state's Democratic Party was rent by factionalism. Governor John Connally and Senator Ralph Yarborough were embroiled in a long time ideological feud. By going to Dallas, JFK, LBJ, Yarborough and Connally could show a united front, patch up the state's difficulties and try to secure Texas' 25 electoral votes in the fall election.

Q: How many U.S. presidents were killed in office?

A: Four

Abraham Lincoln, April 14, 1865

James Garfield, July 2, 1881
William McKinley, September 6, 1901
John F. Kennedy, November 22, 1963

President Theodore Roosevelt survived an attack on October 14, 1912 and President Ronald Reagan survived an attack on March 30, 1981. There have been numerous other threats on nearly all presidents, but were stopped before or during the attempts.

Here are interesting fillers, if you can use them:

John F. Kennedy will be remembered for his sense of humor and his knack for telling interesting stories. At a dinner held in the White House for a group of the brightest minds in the nation at that time, he made this statement: "This is perhaps the assembly of the most intelligence ever to gather at one time in the White House with the exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

Both the first president shot and killed in office, Lincoln, and the last, Kennedy, were followed by Vice Presidents Johnson.

Every Life a story

A man's experiences of life are a book.

There was never an uninteresting life. Such a thing is impossibility. Inside of the dulllest exterior there is a drama, a comedy and a tragedy.

Mark Twain

Avondale Public Library, Its History

One of the first things that people notice when they walk into the Avondale Public Library is the display wall. A Centennial project, the wall was funded by a grant from the Library Services and Technology Act. Started in 2011, and finished in September 2012, it was built to “highlight the history of the library and the importance of the library in the community,” says Ava Gutwein, Library Manager and collaborator on the wall. Ms. Gutwein began working on the wall after one of her assistants, who had written the grant, found “some interesting historical background and the histories of the people that were involved in the library.” After Ms. Gutwein’s assistant moved on to the State Library, Ms. Gutwein took over the project. Although the library had information about the 1930s, and from the 1970s onward, they didn’t have much on the years in between.

Other collaborators on the wall were the Three Rivers Historical Society, the City Clerk’s Office, and library staff. Pictures were obtained from the Three Rivers Historical Society, and library staff member Carol Phemister. Ms. Gutwein said that “we really relied a lot on our community.” Ms. Gutwein also said that some of the older historical paperwork, including council reports, was provided by the City Clerk’s Office.

The Avondale Women’s Club started the first Avondale Library on July 10, 1930. The first librarian was Mrs. J. N. Brooke. Located on the auditorium stage of Avondale School No. 1, the library was home to a mere fifty books, and was open every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. In 1937, Mary Ludlow, a member of the Avondale Women’s Club and an elementary school teacher, became the librarian. Library hours expanded to 2:30-4 p.m. each day. One year later, Ms. Ludlow and two other ladies from the Works Progress Administration started to use the Dewey Decimal System to catalog the books. In 1941, the library changed its policy, allowing only students to use the library.

In 1946, with a population of 2000, Avondale became a city. The next year, kindergarten teacher and member of the Women’s Club, Mrs. Eleanore Stanton, went to the library, only to find it closed. Mrs. Stanton, along with some volunteers, opened the library twice a week from 7-9 p.m. The City took over operating the library in 1959, and, for the very first time, the librarian was given a salary. The city also gave chairs, shelves, desks, and tables to the library.

Avondale realized the need for a new library in 1972, and in 1974, chaired by Mrs. Pauline Hazelton, the Library Board of Trustees and the Library Funds Committee raised \$36,651.28. Thomas E and Margaret Ellison donated land, valued at \$41,750, for the library on Western Avenue. That same year, work began on the new library.

On January 27, 1975, the new library, which served the residents of Avondale, Goodyear, Tolleson, Litchfield Park, and Buckeye, opened to the public. The library housed 17,000 books, of which 95% were on loan from either the Arizona State Library Extension, or the Maricopa County Free Library. In 1985, the City issued a \$285,000 contract to expand the library, including an addition of 6,000 sq. feet. The addition was dedicated on January 28, 1986. The old building was used for special events, storage, and book processing.

In 1990, the library acquired a set of sixty Agatha Christie novels, funded by donations and grants. The library’s first OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) was established in 1993. Cataloguing was now entered online. 1999 was the last year the card catalog was in use.

On July 7, 2004, the Council approved an intergovernmental agreement between the City and the Maricopa County Library District for the operation of the library. Work began on a new library on Western Avenue on October 10, 2007. The new library, called the Sam Garcia Western Avenue Library, opened in 2008. On October 4, 2009, the City took over complete operation and funding of the Civic Center Library, and the Avondale Public Library System was founded.

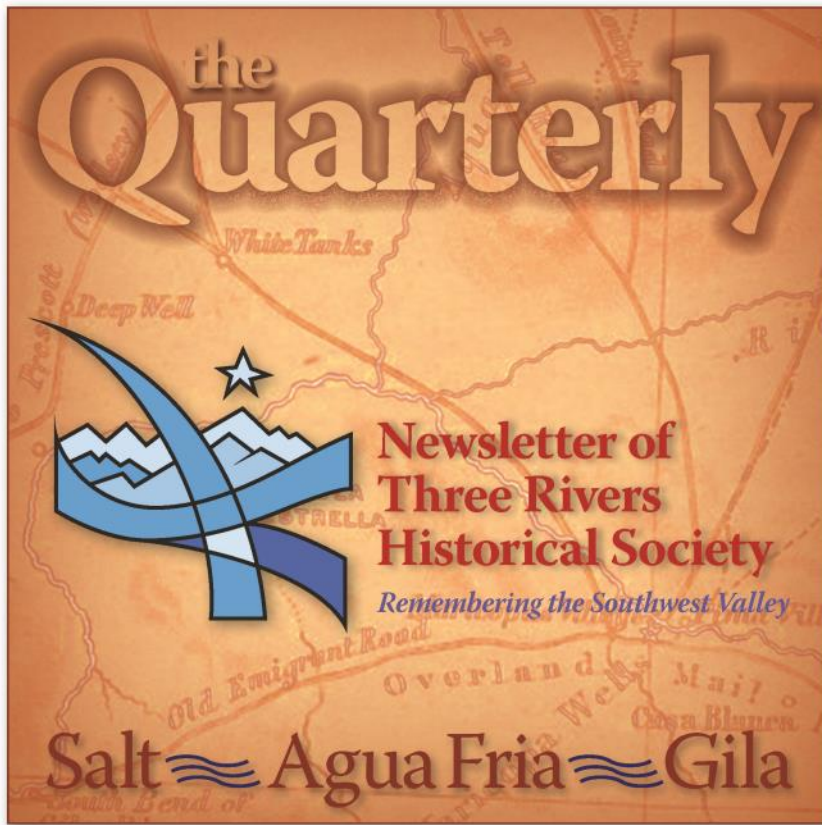
In 2010, Sam Garcia Western Avenue Library and the Avondale Civic Center Library received over 330,000 visits from patrons. The population of the City reached 78,000 in 2012, and Avondale Libraries had 23,430 patrons registered. Also, www.avondalelibrary.org was established and started to offer downloadable e-books.

The wall lays out the history of the library from its humble beginning on the auditorium stage, to the grand building it is today. When asked what she hoped people would take away from the wall, Ms. Gutwein said, “A community feels . . . Members of the community actually ran the library for many years. Take away just . . . it’s the community’s library. It’s their history, and it’s a community that participates in serving other members of the community.” She also said, “We should never forget what people in the past did for us.”

When people go to the Avondale Public Library, they should take a moment to look at the Arizona Legacy Project Certificate-winning display wall. The library is located at 11350 W. Civic Center Drive in Avondale.

*By Siobhan Ferrall, age 12
A homeschooled 7th grader*





Yes, I want to join Three Rivers Historical Society!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5* | <input type="checkbox"/> Single \$15* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25* | <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Professional \$45* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$100* | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$250* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$500 | * <i>Yearly Fee</i> |

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
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Three Rivers Historical Society

Remembering the Southwest Valley

P.O. Box 7251, Goodyear, AZ 85338

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Wendy Neely, Secretary

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Mark Pelletier, Lenore Semmler

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3RHS Meetings

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 3pm, at Goodyear City Hall, 190 North Litchfield Road, Suite 117, Goodyear, Arizona. Notices of date, location and guest speaker are e-mailed. Be sure we have your correct address. E-mail Sally at: kskiko@cox.net