

Vol. No 11 Issue No. 2, April, May, June 2014 * <http://threerivershistoricalsocietyaz.org>

Welcome Bill Arnold, President

At the January 23rd meeting of the Three Rivers Historical Society, Bill Arnold was elected President of the organization. Actually, he is a returning president, having served 3RHS as President in 2010. He brings experience in leadership; he was Mayor of Goodyear from 1997 to 2001 and served as our State Representative 2003-2004. Bill is a native of Buckeye. He and his wife, Joey have lived in Goodyear since 1978.



Now, folks, let's all step up and help him; volunteer when asked, consider serving next year, help on the Centennial Trail.

Centennial Trail Update

Although a visit to the trail site might not show that much is happening, it's behind the scenes that important work is being done. Don Harris, Park Supervisor, reports that he is getting bids for our irrigation system. Just when we want to jump in and start digging trenches for the pipes, we realize that we must follow the protocol.

Denise Bates, Ph.D., ASU professor and chairman of the Centennial Trail has been able to tap into programs at ASU that allow us to gain valuable services and provide "real life" training to college students. Traci Arellano, a graduate student working on her Master's degree in landscape architecture from the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at ASU, has chosen as her Master's project to create a sensory/butterfly garden adjacent to the trail, near the Nature Center.

Dr. Scott Shrake, director of the Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) program in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering at ASU, has met with the Centennial Trail committee and toured the site. He has assigned a group of six engineering students to work on developing an engineering project plan and conducting a survey of the trail site. We need a survey before we start any earth-moving projects.

Salt  Agua Fria  Gila
Three Rivers Historical Society

Litchfield Park Historical Society Museum

I hope you have not missed this local treasure! The Litchfield Park Historical Society has a Museum located at 13912 W. Camelback Road, in Litchfield. It is housed in Aunt Mary's house on the historic La Loma estate of Paul Litchfield.



A new exhibit opened on April 6, entitled THE WIGWAM: From Necessity to Luxury. This will be on exhibit until next October. Current exhibits include PAUL WEEKS LITCHFIELD: The Man and His Vision, A COMPANY TOWN: Litchfield Park 1916-1959, and MEDICINE in Litchfield Park, and The Southwest Cotton Company and Goodyear Farms. This spring they will also have a miniature model of Rancho La Loma as it looked during the 1930s and 40s. The model was built by

miniature artist, Jeff Alderman, of Litchfield Park. This museum is beautifully done and is a labor of love of the historical society volunteers.

The museum is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 AM – 4 PM. Admission is free; donations are gladly accepted.

Dr. Lattie Coor



Three Rivers Historical Society hosted a special evening meeting on January 23, 2014, at Avondale City Council Chambers. We were entertained by guest speaker, Dr. Lattie Coor. Dr. Coor is President Emeritus and Professor of Public Affairs at ASU. For 26 years, he served as a University President, most recently at Arizona State University from 1990-2002. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Arizona and is a member of the Greater Phoenix Leadership Council.

But his story began here. He was born in Phoenix and spent most of his youth in the West Valley. His father was the Principal and then Superintendent of Avondale Elementary School; his mother a fifth grade teacher. He graduated from Litchfield High School. He told of his father building their home out of old barracks from the POW Camps and growing up on the farm with his two brothers, Larry and Kenny. Dr. Coor also told of visiting the Italian POW camp on Cotton Lane and Olive and the German POW camp at Papago Park. As an adolescent, he knew these men were the enemy, but when he saw them he realized they weren't much older than he, were homesick, and happy to see a young lad.

As the talk ended, he enjoyed visiting with some of his classmates that came out to visit with him. It was a great evening!

Pueblo Grande

Submitted by Catherine Kessler, 12

Located near Sky Harbor International Airport in the heart of Phoenix, Arizona is a wonderful piece of history, the Pueblo Grande Museum. In the museum you can walk through the village of the long gone Hohokam people and discover the beauty of what they once were.

The Hohokam's lived in adobe huts built very close to their neighbors, the whole village was surrounded by an outer wall probably used to keep predators such as coyotes out of the village. The Hohokam people were traders with Mexico and what is now California. They traded pottery, jewelry, cotton and baskets; in return for these items they received turquoise, shells, parrots and obsidian.

The shells and parrots came from Mexico and what is now California and the turquoise and obsidian came from different parts of Arizona. The Hohokam people made everything that they traded and also much more such as baskets, pottery and clothing, which they made by using a back strap loom.

The Hohokam's also built an expansive canal system to irrigate the villages built along the canal. This canal was very important to these people because this was the main source of water, and since they were in the desert there weren't many other places to get water. This water was also used to irrigate the gardens where the Hohokam's grew all of their food and the cotton that they traded.

These canals are saturated by the Salt River and the original system the Hohokam began is still used today. While at the museum you will see part of the canal system as it is used today. The canal system was actually controlled by the Hohokam that lived in the Pueblo Grande Village. They decided which villages would receive water from the canal system and how much.

There is also a building that has been identified as an astrological site. The sun would enter during the summer solstice and shine straight through to a particular spot on the ground. It is rather interesting. It is believed that this was used to help them decide planting seasons. This would have been very important to these farmers.

I recently visited the museum and very much enjoyed my time. Start your tour with a 10-minute movie that explains the Hohokam and how they lived a desert life. Then take a 2/3 mile outdoor loop. It is a paved trail and easy to navigate. There are many benches and water fountains along the way. I think just about anyone could navigate the trail. Many of the original walls still remain. A number of the buildings and ball field have been recreated. These ruins provide a good idea of what life might have been like for these simple people.

When you finish the movie and outdoor trail, inside is an actual museum where you will see great examples of the pottery the Hohokam made. Many pieces were found on the site and were carefully reconstructed. There are also examples of the weaving and reed mats they created. Finally, the museum also has a small children's area that has many hands on activities.

The Hohokam people settled in Pueblo Grande in the year 450 and lived there for more than 1,000 years before they suddenly disappeared. The Pueblo Grande Museum helped me understand the history, culture and beauty of the Hohokam people. While no one knows why these people left their home, the Pueblo

Grande Museum helps keep their memory alive in the city of Phoenix, Arizona.



Soil conservation & Water in the West Valley

We all know the story of the Dust Bowl of the 1930's. How poor farming techniques, a prolonged drought, and endless wind turned the fertile lands of the American Plain into a waste land and forced families to leave farms and search for jobs. The dust storms they endured were far worse than our recent haboobs. The day would become dark as night and dust seeped in every crack and crevice, even causing dust pneumonia.

As a result of that environmental disaster, Congress created the Soil Conservation Service in 1935. This new government agency would use science and research to improve farming techniques and help farmers implement them. The Agency's mission was to stop soil erosion. Some of the new ideas in farming were to grow a greater variety of plants instead of just one crop, to plow rows using different patterns and plant grass and trees on parts of their farms.

After World War II, the soil conservation Service wanted to help Arizona farmers protect their fields from the wind. The best way to protect these farms from wind erosion was to plant windbreaks. The windbreaks were created by planting trees close together to slow down the wind. In Arizona, the Soil Conservation Service provided thousands of Eucalyptus saplings for the farmers to plant along the edge of their fields. An extensive row of these trees was located along Cotton Lane. When the Arizona Department of Transportation began work on the 303 freeway they had to remove a number of these trees to make room for the interchange. A stately row of trees remains along Cotton Lane north of Thomas Road.

In addition to preventing soil erosion, West Valley farmers needed a reliable source of water. Our area only receives about 7 inches of rain a year, not enough to raise crops. Although both the Agua Fria and the Gila Rivers used to flow they did not provide a consistent supply of water; sometimes flooding sometimes reduced to a trickle. In 1888, five men in Phoenix formed the Agua Fria Water and Land Company. They wanted to build a dam to store water that would provide a steady supply of water and build a canal to bring the water to farms. Will Beardsley and his son, Robert worked for more than 30 years to get the dam built. It was completed in 1927. Working with the Beardsley men was Donald Waddell who raised the money to build the dam. Upon completion the dam was named Waddell Dam and the water behind the dam formed Lake Pleasant. The Beardsley Canal, named in honor of Will and Robert Beardsley, carries the water from Lake Pleasant to the farms in the West Valley

Donald Waddell a banker from New York came to Arizona in 1926 and became a rancher, owning 3,000 acres of land north of the City of Goodyear. He quickly became active in the efforts to build the dam and was instrumental in raising the money to pay for its construction. Waddell Road is named for Mr. Waddell.



Singing Praises of 4-H Clubs

By Ken Wood

My intent in this article is to tell you about a wonderful organization involving the youth of America and adults too. I'm going out on a limb and predict that very few young people under the age of 18 will ever read this Three Rivers Historical Society's *Quarterly* newsletter. This is where you the reader comes in, as I'm asking each of you to carry my message to all the young people you know between ages of 9 and 19. My message today is about the wonderful opportunities available to all young people through the organization known as 4-H. But first let me give you a personal insight of my first pre-introduction into 4-H when I was in the 5th grade.

One of my best memories growing up at Avondale Elementary School was when our principle, Mr. Lattie Coor announced one day that because our country had just entered into World War II our school was encouraging all students that wanted to participate. They would have their very own little plot of vegetables; a "Victory Garden" he called it. The garden would be located just south of our school gymnasium, and we could take our own grown vegetables home to our families. The war was already creating shortages as some of you will remember really well, things such as shoes, rubber tires, sugar, butter and meats. I liked that idea very much. Since my daddy was a farmer growing plants came by me naturally. Each child that was interested drew a number to determine the location of their plot in the victory garden. We tilled the soil with a shovel, planted, watered, weeded and nurtured the plants. Finally and hopefully it would produce wonderful tasting produce for our families.

Our victory garden project was a really great experience in that we kids helped or advised each other, worked together and in doing so we became much closer friends. I can remember how proud I was when bringing home veggies from my little garden plot and giving them to the black family living across the dirt road from where we lived. My dad always planted corn, squash, tomatoes and melons along the ditch banks for our family so they needed my produce more than we did.

Avondale's 5th grade teacher, Miss Lucile Byers, who was a graduate of Litchfield High School, later became an avid long-time 4-H leader herself, was out every afternoon helping any of us kids that needed advice and help. She later would lead Avondale's 4-H cooking and sewing classes for many years, and one of "her kids" was none other than our past president Sally Kiko.

One hundred years and counting-

WHY 4-H CLUBS --- I'll tell you why. Our nearby West Valley communities are more fortunate than many, in that we have a mix of both city and rural children, unlike very large cities where only inner-city children reside with fewer opportunities to join in on rural activities that 4-H offers. We all know that children learn quickly in their formative years, and it is our responsibility as parents and adults to teach them the right things so that they are better prepared during their early school years to become young productive adults. Remember the old saying, "IDLE HANDS ARE THE DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND", well this is where 4-H comes in big.

4-H is the nation's largest youth organization, reaching more than 7 million American youngsters in urban neighborhoods, suburban schoolyards and rural farming communities. 4-H Clubs are fueled by university backed curriculum, and 4-H'ers engage in hands-on-learning activities in many areas of everyday living. In Arizona, 4-H reaches about one in every 10 young people in the state --- approximately 185,000, and has more than 500 active 4-H clubs statewide. Most meetings are held in homes which lends itself to a more relaxing atmosphere and every meeting begins with the 4-H pledge.

WE PLEDGE;
Our Head To Clearer Thinking
Our Heart To Greater Loyalty
Our Hands To Larger Service
and Our Health to Better Living for our club,
our community, our country and our world.

4-H gives youth that extra edge for life success by offering numerous opportunities to develop leadership, responsibility, citizenship and other life skills. 4-H helps develop competent, caring and actively engaged citizens who strengthen our Arizona communities. Through research-based curriculum and university ties, 4-H opens a world of possibilities to both the youth and their parents who as 4-H leaders help them explore their interests — from aerospace to gardening, dog care to robotics, livestock and many other projects.

In the West Valley, Buckeye is fortunate to have long time 4-H leaders and youth supporters, John and Chrystal Hunt. Their 4-H club's projects this last year included Art, Beef, Leadership, Photography, Service Learning, Dairy Goat, Livestock Judging, Horse, Meat Goat, Poultry, Pygmy Goat, Rabbit, Sheep and Swine. Their club has won numerous awards over the years and their kid's animals have sold for high dollars each year at the county fairs.

Some kids from families that you may recognize who were in my Avondale 4-H Clubs were Robert and Judy Rayner and Jim and Eddie King and Greg Shears (there were many more but gosh that was 50+ years ago). I remember asking ten year old Eddie King, whose project was raising rabbits, what he wanted to do when he got big, and he smiled real big and told me that he wanted to raise and sell more rabbits than anyone else in Arizona. Years later Eddie told me that he thought politics would be a much easier future than breeding Dutch rabbits!

County Fair time is the highlight of each year not only for the kids with their completed projects but also their 4-H leaders as well as this represents the culmination of all their home meetings and record keeping. They have learned by doing and by this time a team concept has been formed where the kids and leaders congratulate each other as they excitedly compare ribbons and trophies. Fair time also has its tearful moments for those raising livestock when their animals are auctioned off to the highest bidder and each kid must tell their animal goodbye. One must be part of this process though to fully understand those emotions, but depositing their prize money in the bank does ease the pain somewhat. It really was hard to part with the animals they raised, fed, groomed and trained.

So, as I stated in my opening paragraph, now that you are a little more familiar with the many opportunities 4-H offers to our youths. Junior and adult leaders are needed and I can assure you that years from now you will remember back with fondness when you read about it in the 3RHS *Quarterly*.

In addition to being an Avondale 4-H Club leader and Summer Camp counselor for a number of years I also served 3 years as president of the Maricopa County 4-H Leader's Council.
See you at the County Fair in April.

The 1980s - Master Planned Communities

Master planned communities are housing developments in which all aspects of the “town” are considered before being built. It is a large-scale, mixed-land-use development.

The concept dates back to the 1930s when Ebenezer Howard introduced Britain’s “Garden City” and fit the criteria of being located away from urban centers, contained open land, and limited commercial and industrial activities. In America, “greenbelt” towns in Greenhills, Ohio, Greendale, Wisconsin, and Greenbelt, Maryland were developed in the 1930s, as well. Reston, Virginia built in the 1960s further developed the concept, adding local shopping and some light industry.

Locally, Maryvale, in west Phoenix might be considered an early master planned community. Building started in the 1950s and featured affordable housing, shopping, a golf course and even a hospital. The community eventually stretched from 35th Avenue to 87th Avenue and from I-10 to Camelback Road.

Then Charles Keating came to town. A financier, builder, and visionary he developed Dobson Ranch in Mesa, Mountain Park Ranch and Lakewood in the Ahwatukee Foothills, The Islands in Gilbert, Anderson Springs in Chandler and Garden Lakes in Avondale. He then embarked on his largest development, Estrella in Goodyear.

In 1985, he purchased 20,000 acres of land that had previously been a federal land preserve but had been released for private ownership the year before. He



envisioned an eventual build out of 50,000 homes and 200,000 residents. Development began on the two planned Estrella freshwater lakes totaling almost 72 acres in 1986. The lakes were surrounded by community parks and trails. The Grand Opening of Estrella took place in June of 1988. Visitors flocked to the event that lasted three days. There were lakeside activities and a concert by the Phoenix Symphony. In September of that year Estrella Mountain Elementary School opened.

It all tumbled down for Keating and his American Continental and Lincoln Savings and Loan in 1989. First, in April, American Continental went bankrupt. In September, Keating was hit with a \$1.1 billion fraud and racketeering action, and Lincoln Savings and Loan collapsed. The newly opened Estrella was put in the hands of the Resolution Trust Corporation to try to recoup the losses from Keating’s biggest real estate venture. In June, 1993, it was sold to SunChase Holding, Inc. for \$28 million, about 9.5 cents on the dollar invested. Keating had spent \$295 million in land acquisition and development. SunChase became owner/manager of thousands of acres of desert, 200 completed single-family homes, two lakes and an elementary school.

SunChase was able to attract quality home builders to the area and the community began to grow again. A convenience store and gas station opened in 1997. A golf course was added in 1999. 2001 saw the opening of a high school to accommodate the growing number of families. A Public Safety Facility was built in 2003, giving residents rapid access to fire and police protection. That same year saw the opening of a second elementary school. In 2004, Starpointe, the residents activity building opened. It offered swimming, lap pool, exercise area with state of the art equipment and meeting rooms. By 2005 Estrella could boast of 3000 families and growing. Did this growth validate the vision that Charles Keating had for this land nestled in the foothills of the Sierra Estrellas, punctuated with its fresh water lakes and open desert vistas?

In 2005, Newland Communities, a nationally acclaimed planned community developer began its purchase of Estrella with the purchase of 3750 acres. In 2006 they purchased an additional 2700 acres, in 2008, 5800 acres. They have been actively developing the land, opening the new community of Montecito in 2007 and Canta Mia, a gated, age-restricted community in 2010. The Estrella Marketplace with Safeway, Chase Bank, Walgreens, and other businesses opened in 2010 bringing added services to the community. Banner opened Banner Health Center in 2013, providing easy access to basic health care services.

Soon after Keating started his Estrella development, Goodyear Tire and Rubber sold their Goodyear Farms land, approximately 13,000 acres, to SunCor. While 2,000 acres near Luke AFB were reserved for industrial use because it was considered part of the Luke AFB “crash zone,” the other 9,000 acres north of I-10 became the Palm Valley community. Another parcel of that land became Pebble Creek. And as farmers saw the value of their land increase because developers sought it for housing, more and more farm acreage grew homes instead of cotton or alfalfa, bringing about Rancho Santa Fe, Coldwater Springs, and many more. And, of course, retail followed rooftops, bringing retail, restaurants, and malls. The growth in the West Valley that starting in the mid-1980s has been amazing.

Reader's Contest

We haven't had a reader's contest for a while. There will be two prizes of \$25 gift cards awarded; one for the first reader's response from the mailed *The Quarterly* and one for the e-mail version. I know you get them at different times, so it is only fair.

I'm challenging you to identify the item or characters in the pictures. The first one to correctly identify all four pictures and name the characters will receive a prize. Remember to state which form of *The Quarterly* you receive, print or email. Send answers to Sally Kiko at kskiko@cox.net or 623-386-1397.

Good Luck!



Interesting Arizona Facts

Arizona has 3,928 mountain peaks and summits – more mountains than any of the other Mountain States (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.)

Arizona has 26 peaks that are more than 10,000 feet in elevation

All of New England, plus the state of Pennsylvania would fit inside Arizona.

Arizona's disparate climate can yield both the highest temperature across the nation and the lowest temperature across the nation in the same day.

Arizona has the largest contiguous stand of ponderosa pines in the world stretching from near Flagstaff along the Mogollon Rim to the White Mountains region.

Out of all the states in the U.S., Arizona has the largest percentage of its land designated as Indian lands.

More copper is mined in Arizona than all the other states combined and the Morenci Mine is the largest copper producer in all of North America.

Arizona grows enough cotton each year to make more than one pair of jeans for every person in the United States.

Mount Lemmon, in the Santa Catalina Mountains, is the southernmost ski resort in the United States.

The only place in the country where mail is delivered by mule is the village of Supai, located at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Located on Arizona's western border, Parker Dam is the deepest dam in the world at 320 feet.

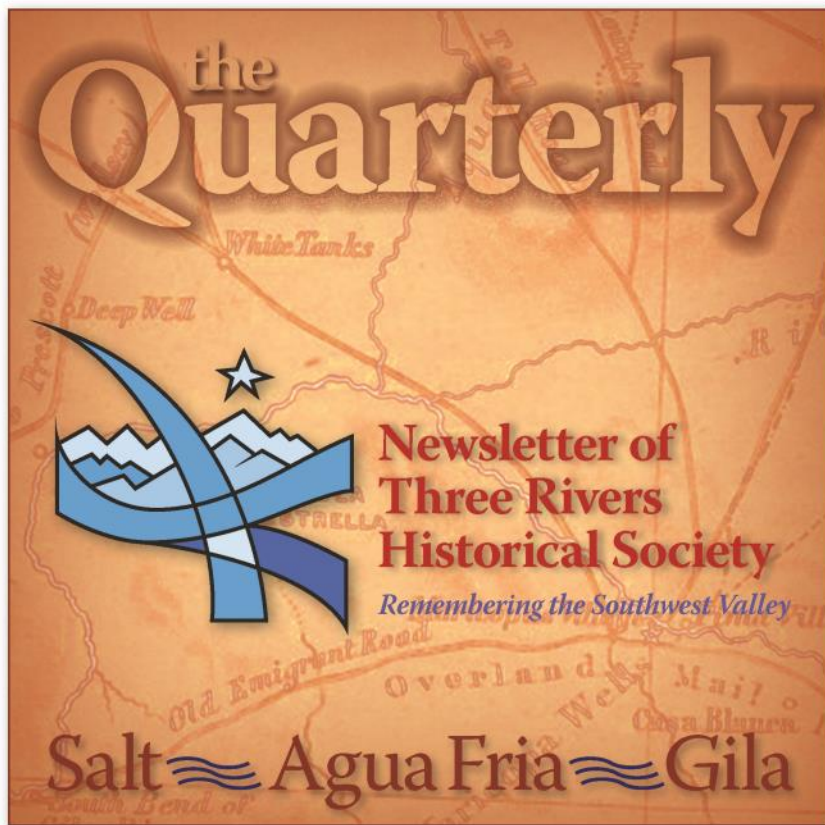
South Mountain Park/Preserve in Phoenix is the largest municipal park in the country.

Built by Del Webb in 1960, Sun City, Arizona was the first 55-plus active adult retirement community in the country.

Prescott, Arizona is home to the world's oldest rodeo, and Payson, Arizona is home to the world's oldest continuous rodeo - both of which date back to the 1880's.

Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, located about 55 miles west of Phoenix, generates more electricity than any other U.S. power plant.

Note: Our friend Dan Cook emailed me these interesting facts. There are more for the next issue.



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
non-profit organization



Three Rivers Historical Society

Remembering the Southwest Valley

P.O. Box 7251, Goodyear, AZ 85338

Bill Arnold, President

Juanita Cappelli, 1st V.P.

Frank Ross, 2nd V.P.

Wendy Neely, Secretary

David Meese, Treasurer

Sally Kiko, Past President

Mark Pelletier, Joann

Gongaware, Diane Fekete

Board Members

The Quarterly

Editor: Sally Kiko

**Produced and Printed by
BMD Business Services**

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