



Memo to Members

*Latest happenings at your museum from
Ed Allen, president of the Board of Trustees*

August 2016



Summer has been a busy time, despite being closed to visitors...

I told you about the exhibit space Hal Lind and David Verble added, and they came to the museum's rescue a couple of weeks later. Over time, wind had caused the big Palo Verde tree in the backyard to shed leaves and twigs onto the roof of the McMillin Terrace. Along came a rainstorm, and the drains were blocked, causing the weight of dammed up water to buckle the roof. Hal and David braced the roof and cleaned it off while awaiting the roof repairmen. Our groundskeeper, Mark Stanley, trimmed the tree way back to avoid future back-ups.



If you are looking for yard service, be sure to consider Mark Stanley of *Across the Valley Landscape Maintenance &*

Irrigation as Mark is donating his time and services to the museum. Our yard has never looked better. You can reach Mark at 602-757-7183. Tell him the museum sent you!

Searching for R. P. Davie...

In my last Memo, I recalled how Marinette Wisconsin got its name. I learned that in tracking down R. P. Davie who the book JUBILEE credited with founding Marinette, AZ. I couldn't find any record of him living in Marinette, WI, nor Wisconsin for that matter. The men giving the name "Marinette" to a water stop along the railroad back in the 1890s did come from Wisconsin. Andrew Merryman was a wealthy lumber mill operator from Marinette, and he and his chief engineer, John Casson, obtained adjoining land grants here in 1892. They never settled here, and a few years later sold their holdings to invest in orange orchards in California. R. P. Davie purchased their land and surrounding parcels. But who was R. P. Davie? He apparently came from Colorado, and bought up thousands of acres in the West Valley. Somehow, he also invested in land in far-off Florida where the small town of Zona sprung up. That turned out not to be short for "Arizona" but was a name picked by settlers who were returning from working in the canal zone of Panama. Now here's the interesting part: a few years later, the town was renamed "Davie" in honor of guess who – R. P. Davie. There's a story here in this man's life and the extent of his developments— let me know if you would be interested in helping flesh him out with a genealogical search. I have his death certificate and other documents I'd be happy to share.

New talks in work ...

When I told my wife, Loretta, that I planned to work this summer on a talk about William Beardsley and the canals of Arizona, she asked “Why don’t you do a talk slanted more to women?” Hmmm... The answer came soon after as we were visiting the Heard Museum. The gift shop had a display of books on the legendary Fred Harvey and his Harvey Girls. “Now there’s a subject I’d like to hear about,” Loretta remarked. I’ve since read three books about this remarkable man and the “girls” who helped civilize the West. I think the fun part will be to see if we have any retired Harvey Girls living in the Sun Cities, or their children who might have memories and memorabilia to share in an exhibit at the museum. So, talk to your friends and ask them if they knew a Harvey Girl. Send any leads to me via the office (623-974-2568), and I’ll follow up.



Remember Del Webb’s encounter with Bugsy Siegel in Las Vegas?

Bugsy had been sent to Las Vegas by the New York mafia to build a casino-hotel. Midway through construction, the contractor ran off. The banker who had loaned Bugsy money asked Webb to complete construction of the Flamingo as a favor to him. Webb agreed, then met Mr. Siegel and was dismayed to learn of his affiliation with the mob. That much we knew – but here’s a historic footnote from the July 21 “Mysteries of the Museum” TV program. Bugsy had become enamored with tall, attractive Virginia Hill, who he nicknamed “Flamingo” for her long legs. And then he named his new hotel for her. Bugsy was shot six months after the opening of the Flamingo. No one was ever arrested but a prime suspect was Virginia’s former boyfriend, Joe Adonis, hit man for the Chicago mob.

Be sure you have the following dates on your calendar...

Wednesday, Sept. 14 – Museum reopens: 1:00-4:00, Mon., Weds., and Fri.

Thursday, Nov. 10 – Second JUBILEE Gala. Palmbrook Country Club. 6:00 PM. In addition to a great meal, we’ll be recognizing two who have made significant contributions to our communities, be entertained by the Jazzy Poms, and have an *Arizona Highways* editor as a guest speaker. You won’t want to miss it!!