



SKULL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 143, Skull Valley, AZ 86338-0143 / 3150 Old Skull Valley Rd

Annual Newsletter 2017

Est. 1968

Happy New Year.

Thank you for your support, 2016 was a fruitful year. With the help of a grant from the Marley Foundation and the expertise of Russ Dryer, Skull Valley resident, most of the restoration work on 1925 school has been done. We hope to move our archives into the office area of the building this year. It is our goal to be able to have some educational programs in the former classrooms eventually.

Darla DeVille, Coordinator for the APS volunteers, arranged for a crew to trim the large cottonwood trees in the museum yard, as well as remove a dead cottonwood behind the Section House. The trees posed a hazard to the museum buildings, and this valuable work was done at no cost to the Society.

On August 27, we collaborated with the Skull Valley School District to host a Centennial Celebration commemorating the 100th birthday of the 1916 school (now known as the Community Hall). It was not the first school in Skull Valley, but was the first school to be built on the present school property. Both this building and the 1825 school were open, and we were very pleased to visit with some alumni who traveled to Skull Valley for this event. The parents group held a barbeque and games for the children to round out the celebration.

An important addition to the museum is a pre-1960's grandfather clock which was donated by Mr. Robert Randle. It is in excellent condition and can be seen in the living room of the Section House.

2017 Officers

Josie Oakes / President
Josiesvhs@aol.com
(480) 221-7424

Bob Pearson / Vice President
(928) 442-3645

Barbara Scott / Secretary / Archivist

Sherry Acedo / Treasurer

Board Members

Marion Mager
Susan Dobson
Sandra Jolcover

Skull Valley Historical Society is a 501-C non-profit organization and accepts tax deductible donations.

Event Schedule - 2017

January—None

February—None

March 11-Melissa Ruffner – Arizona Historian

April 8 Spring Tea & Fashion Show

May 28 Museum Opening-Sunday Sundae

June -Aug Sunday Museum Tours

Sept. 9—Victor Merina former LA Times reporter

October 7 - Pie & Ice Cream Social, Quilt & Car Show

Nov. 11—Annual Meeting/TBA

Dec. 16 - Last Minute Christmas Stocking Stuffer

SVHS hosted a half day tour on the afternoon of July 20, 2016 for members of the Yavapai-Apache Nation of Camp Verde. Judie Piner, Preservation & Technology Administrator for the tribe was the field tour group coordinator. Robert Pearson was the tour guide, assisted by Barbara Scott for the SVHS. Judie provided us with reference materials on the background of the two former independent tribes of Yavapai and Apache Indian groups that currently form the combined group named the Yavapai-Apache Nation. This relationship was part of the result of their forced "Prisoners of War" encampment together for 25 years on the San Carlos Reservation. Judie provided me with a 2007 publication titled A Short History of the Yavapai Apache Nation. It is a well-written documentation of the recent history of these two groups. The sub-group of the Yavapai Indians that lived mostly SW of Prescott, in this area, are known as the **Tolkapaya**. Reading this document is a great way to get a better understanding of the history of this sub-group. It is located in the SVHS library.

After a tour of the Museum and a lunch break at the Skull Valley School grounds, we drove south to the old Joseph Ehle homestead, where Ed F. Bowers had established one of several government stations and a stagecoach and mail stop. We discussed the landscape, plants, and animals, and then moved north through the valley to some of the known sites occupied by the Tolkapaya People. Sites included petroglyphs, battle sites, hilltop rock fortifications, springs, smoke signal hilltop sites, and the low stone "fence" across the hills with a few small associated petroglyphs. The Skull Valley Wash stop on the upper Jenner property proved to be the most popular. Why? Because of the mutual attraction between the beautiful paint horses and the group of Indian youth along the roadside fence. We made a brief stop under the Champion Fremont Cottonwood tree, and then made an onsite visit to the main petroglyph site along Coughran's Canyon. I was hoping to gain more information about this early rock symbol technique of communications, but gained little, other than that they were identified as being of Tolkapaya origin. It was an interesting afternoon for me to observe and interact with these people.

Robert Pearson - Vice President

What happens to my donation?

Your generous donations and dues are used for the following: repairs and maintenance of the Community Hall, the Section House, the Depot and the 1925 school; archival and artifact preservation supplies; electricity and propane; postage and office supplies. Some of our big needs now are money for the repair or replacement of the Section House roof, painting of the Depot and the large cottonwood trees in the Museum yard that need further trimming or possible removal.

We have a memorial fund in Bill Ghering's name for the purchase of new trees. We are very grateful for the monetary help that you provide. Come and visit the Museum and see your \$ at work.

Barbara Scott - Secretary



As some of you may know, former President Ida Downing (left) and long time Treasurer Lou Ghering (right) both retired from the Board at the end of the year. The Skull Valley Historical Society is indebted to both of them for their many years of service. Both were always willing to go the extra mile for our community. Thank you so much Ida and Lou...



We had a year of wonderful and interesting speakers who contributed information and gave us a look at the past. How about Monte Crook (pictured) and his presentation of "How the transcontinental railroad headed west" and Arizona historian Mona McCloskey speaking about the Yavapai county movers and shakers in ranching and commerce. Were you able to hear Larry Sanderson give a talk about his dangerous job as a high scaler? A real eye opener!! He helped built the Glen Canyon Dam in Page.



Just to name a few speakers who came to Skull Valley to share with the Historical Society. Also other activities throughout the year!!



Railroad section house on the Skull Valley Historical Society grounds. Learn the history of it..

We lost one of our board members last year. Bill Ghering, the beloved husband of Lou Ghering, our previous treasurer, passed away last year. He was a hard working member who always helped where ever needed. He will truly be missed.

Money was donated in Bill's honor. Lou has graciously given this to plant trees on the grounds of the Skull Valley Historical Society.



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SKULL VALLEY, AZ
86338-0143

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