

Lake Havasu City, AZ Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 15 Number 4

“Preserving the Past, Educating the Future”

Fall 2011

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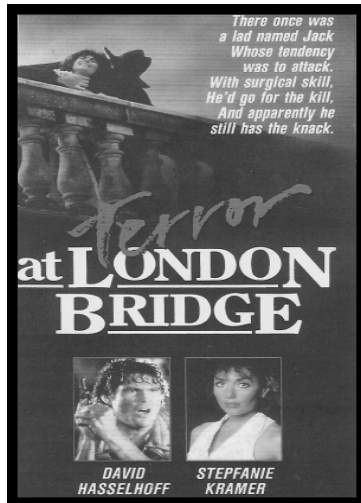
Newsletter

Mike Riddle

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Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Dedication of the London Bridge

A Rededication ceremony is to take place October 14, 2011 at 4:00pm under the London Bridge.

A committee consisting of Judy Whelan, Evie Cistaro, Kathy Hotel, Linda Binder, Phyllis Wagner, Les Galst, and John Parrott has been busy this spring and summer making plans. The committee sees this as a light hearted take on the original ceremony (Bob Keller acting as McCulloch, actors portraying the Lord Mayor, etc.) After the reenactment ceremony the spectators and participants will be invited to a no-host cocktail party at Martini Bay.

The committee plans to decorate the area with large heraldic banners and pictures from the Museum and “heads” and written history of those individuals who did have their heads impaled on the Bridge.



The London Bridge Days Parade is Saturday, October 15th, and many other events are being planned for the week.

This years theme is “London Bridge: Spanning 40 years”

September Program ”Terror at London Bridge”

The “Terror at London Bridge” film will be shown at the September 20th meeting of the Historical Society. The film, starring David Hasselhoff and using local people as extras, was filmed in October, 1985, as a made-for-TV film for NBC. The idea for the film came to screenwriter William F. Nolan when he and his wife were here in Lake Havasu City at London Bridge late at night. He said to his wife, “What if you saw Jack the Ripper up there?” His wife replied, “That’s a scary idea.” He went ahead and wrote the story.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 PM at the Museum, 320 London Bridge Road. Come and bring your friends. Free admission.

October Program “A Story from the Mojave Desert”

David Bellomy is the speaker for our October program, October 18, 2011, at the Museum.



Retired from California law enforcement, he now resides in Lake Havasu City. He has written the book “Tude, A Story from the Mojave Desert”. The book is about “Tude” an ancient desert tortoise who travels through the Mojave Desert. The book is sold in our store.

David is a member of the Society of Southwestern Authors. His early academic training was in herpetology and botany, but he earned his PH.D. from Claremont Graduate University’s School of Economics and Politics. He is a lifelong advocate for the habitat and indigenous species of the Mojave Desert.

The meeting is at 7:00 pm. Admission is free. For further information call 854-4938.

November Program “History of London Bridge”

A presentation of the London Bridge-an historical account from Roman times to the present, will be shown by Mike Riddle with other discussion topics and pictures about the Bridge at the November 15th meeting. The program starts at 7:00 pm . Admission is free.

See 2011-2012 Event schedule for the Museum inside (pullout section.)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Board of Directors met for two special meetings during the summer. One was primarily for brain-storming.

There seems to be a consensus that the museum is moving in the right direction. As I have stated many times we are most grateful for our many volunteers who do their individual jobs so faithfully. Our newest 'official' volunteer is Dick Anderson. Dick has been doing maintenance jobs around the museum for some time but now he's officially in charge of maintenance. Since the beginning of the museum, Lyle Matzdorff held that position and now he is happy to turn it over to Dick.

Financially, it is always good to remain within our budget during the summer months. However, we, along with most non-profit organizations are feeling the loss of revenue during this present economic time. At our brain-storming session we discussed many forms of fundraising. Among other ideas, a letter to go out to members requesting monetary giving, it was decided to have another *Bunco at the Museum* in November, and other fundraising ideas to reach out to the community.

We also will work out a plan to receive *Planned Giving* in the case of a death. Other ways to make donations would be in the form of giving a donation in memory of someone or to honor someone for a birthday or anniversary. In the past the museum has received these kind of donations and we'd like to create an awareness of this opportunity. An example of Planned Giving: one of our board members, Dian Gibson and her husband Dale, in their estate planning, have arranged for the Museum to receive their art collection, the paintings and other works of art created by Dian and also their collection of Indian arts.

Our museum truly is a GEM in the heart of Lake Havasu City!—————Beverly

Director's Letter

“Volunteers are not paid because they are priceless.” Erma Brombeck

First and foremost, a huge thank you to our priceless volunteers. Acting as Docents, cataloging books, maps and photographs, archiving records, manuscripts and artifacts from our past. Creating our temporary seasonal exhibits with style and creativity. Moving chairs and setting up for meetings and presentations. The whole host of things that make our museum an indispensable part of our community.

We are hoping this year to expand the museum's hours to include Sundays. Perhaps from 11AM to 2PM. We are also considering opening the museum on Mondays (or at least the museum store). Having the Museum or the Museum store open at other times. The Christmas Season for example.

We are, for better or worse, a retail operation. Admissions and store sales should be a large part of our income. We are currently open 5 days per week for 3 hours. This is just not enough hours (15 total) to keep us operating.

Docents are our primary need to move beyond the 15 hour limit. So, how many hours do we need from Docents. Sunday 2 Docents 3 hours per month or one Sunday per month. If we open the store during the holidays one docent (museum staff is here in the mornings) 3 hours (9-12) one day per week. Current regular museum hours 1-4 Tuesday – Saturday.

Training is provided for Docents and Store Persons. Rookies are placed with experienced docents for O.J.T. It is not a difficult task and can be fun meeting people and sharing our history. It is better than watching daytime TV for sure.

We don't need those other folks out there who just might sign on. We need you and a small bit of your time to be a big part of our museum. The number is 928 854 4938 e-mail: lhmuseum@npgcable.com.—————Mike

Paintings and Kachinas Donated to the Museum



The BBVA-Compass Bank donated four large Kachinas and six framed paintings of Kachinas and Indians that have been in the bank for over 30 years. They have redecorated and decided they did not want to display them anymore. We can display or sell them. We will be looking into the value of them. Thank you to the BBVA-Compass Bank for giving them to us.



Pictured front row; Ruth Brydon, Christina Garner and baby Ruth Victoria. Back row; David Garner and Becky Koford.

Visitors to the Museum

The Museum was honored with the visit of Ruth Victoria, great granddaughter of Ruth Brydon. Ruth's granddaughter Christina and her husband, David, and new baby (born June 25) visited in Lake Havasu City in July. They came to the museum so we could meet the new baby. The family lives in Columbus GA. Also visiting was Aunt Becky from Houston TX. Both Christina and Becky worked here at the Museum in years past. Congratulations to all, especially Great Grandmother Ruth Brydon.

Curator's Corner

It is Volunteer Season here at the "Best Lil Ole Museum in Arizona". Summer is rapidly becoming Fall and as folks return from fleeing the heat or the cold opportunities abound at the museum.

Some folks signed up at our Anniversary and honestly we haven't had a chance to get back to you yet. These are some of the opportunities for those who want to help.

Set up for programs: chairs out front and return to the back and help to set up DVD and Computer equipment for projection at presentations.

You too can be a "History Detective". We have excellent museum software, Past-Perfect. We need a stable diagram of our storage area and file spaces. It is important. Items in our database of artifacts, pictures, and manuscripts need locations so a researcher can find them, including a comprehensive inventory of items, check for existence in Past-Perfect Data, catalog some items and mark them for accessioning, and clean up of items for disposal.

Museum produced videos are a "Work In Progress", Shawn Bowman, Volunteer. A new project is converting Cassette tapes to CDs. This will include Oral Histories for a joint project with the Mohave County Library. We have software and hardware for this. Slides to CDs for input into our Past-Perfect Database. We have software and Hardware for this.

The Simpson Files: This is an enormous project that will give you a look into Water Issues past and present. This is a "Work In Progress; needing review and restart including data input into an existing database, creating an Executive Summary and catalog for scholars.

Lower Colorado River Industrial Foundation: Archiving, data input, and filing, creating Executive Summaries and cataloging for scholars.

Library: cataloging books for the Library and entering into Past-Perfect System.

We have need of people with past experience in many fields to share their experience and knowledge. Just a few: Public Relations, Marketing, Grant Writing, Fund Raising, and Planned Giving.

A little rusty or perhaps just wanting to learn? **Not to worry, We will work with you.** Age and education is not a factor. These jobs can be an hour or so at a time or more. The time commitment is up to you. Reply by email to lhmuseum@npgcable.com.

Memorial Gifts

For: Ruth Brydon "to honor a valued member of the PEO Chapter DJ of Lake Havasu City, AZ. on her retirement and for the extra special touches she had in the success of the museum."

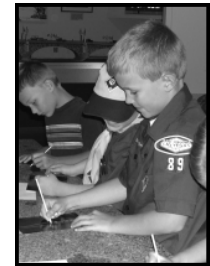
From: PEO organization LHC

Email Addresses Needed

We need your email address for our membership list. We will be publishing information about presentations, special events, sales in the Museum Store and possibly the newsletter by email. Here's how to do it; send us an email to lhmuseum@npgcable.com and put your email address as the only content.

Cub Scout Pack Tours Museum

Den Mother Kathy Murray and her Cubs visited the Museum June 23. They enjoyed looking at all the exhibits and making petroglyphs.

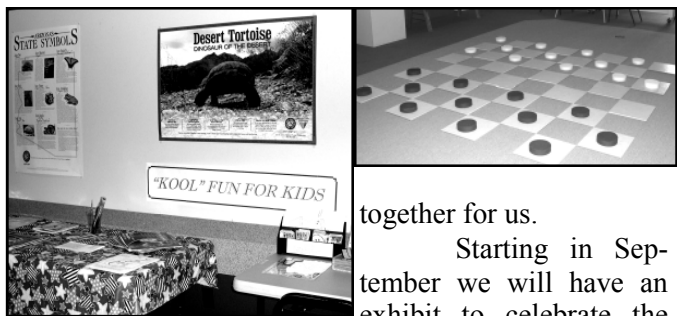


A Special Thank You

The Historical Society and Museum give a special big thanks to Lyle and Stellene Matzdorff for the donation of the new carpet in the center of the museum. The old carpet was separating at the seam and raveling out. A crack was found in the cement floor causing this to happen.

Special Exhibits

This summer our special exhibit is a "Kids Corner" with a variety of activities. There are activity books, drawings to color and games to keep children busy while parents browse the museum. We also have a giant game of checkers on the floor and Havasuopoly (the vintage Havasu version of Monopoly) to play. We thank Jenny and Dick Anderson for putting this exhibit



together for us.

Starting in September we will have an exhibit to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the dedication of London Bridge with memorabilia and pictures.

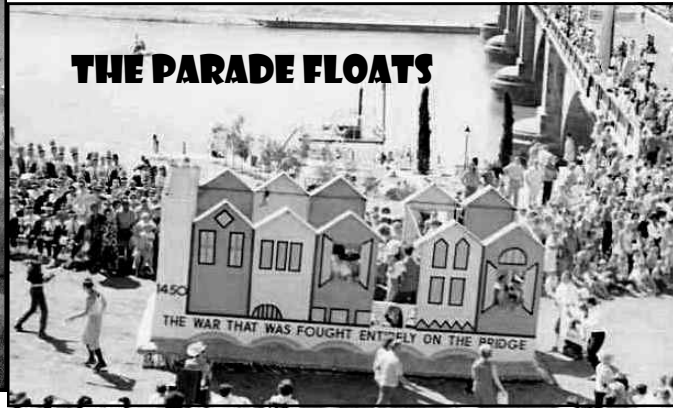
At the end of November the Annual Christmas Tree Festival will start. If you would like to have a tree in our festival this year call the Museum at 854-4938.

WE HAVA-HISTORY

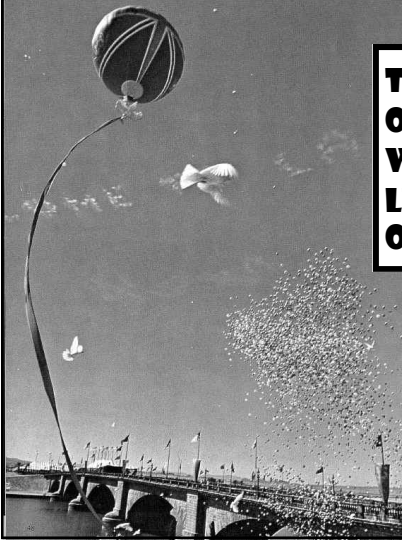
LONDON BRIDGE DEDICATION OCTOBER 10, 1971



THE CROWD



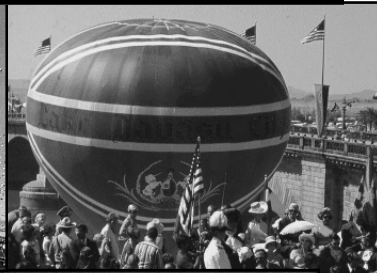
THE PARADE FLOATS



THE HOT AIR BALLOON OVER THE BRIDGE, WHITE DOVES AND RELEASE OF HUNDREDS OF BALLOONS.



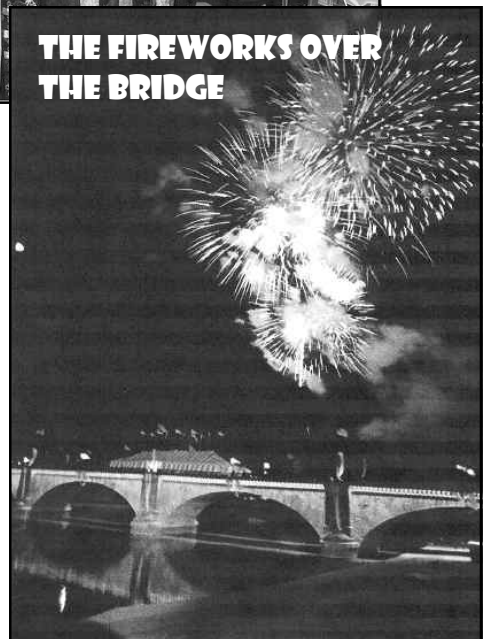
THE MARCHING BANDS



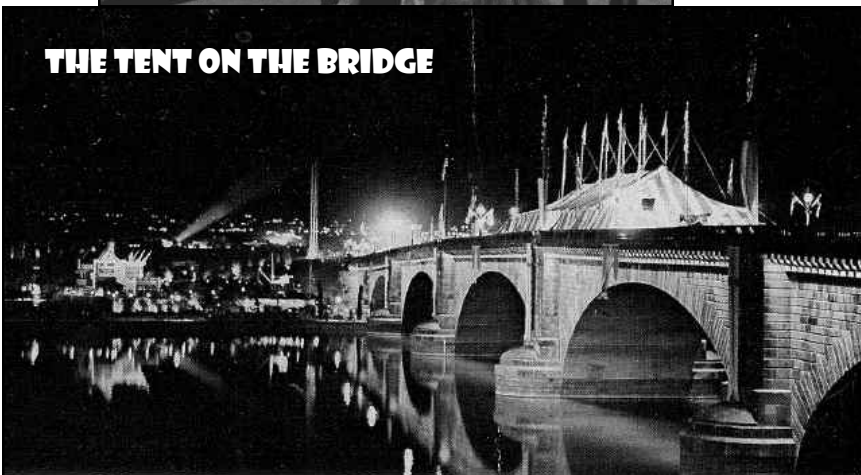
THE DIGNITARIES



THE OLD ENGLISH COSTUMES



THE FIREWORKS OVER THE BRIDGE



THE TENT ON THE BRIDGE

Lake Havasu Museum of History

Programs and Events for 2011 -2012

- July & August Special Exhibit**
Kool Fun for Kids: Puzzles, Games Books and a giant checkerboard not just for kids.
- Sept., Oct, Nov** **Special exhibit for London Bridge Days Including “Made in Havasu” movies made in and around Lake Havasu City**
- September 20** **Movie “Terror At London Bridge” 7:00PM Admission Free**
- October 18** **“Tude” Author David Bellomy, speaker for meeting. A Story from the Mohave Desert 7:00PM Admission Free**
- November 7** **“Bunco at the Museum” Call Museum 854-4938 for info and tickets.**
- November 15** **Movie--A History of London Bridge from Roman Times to the present. 7:00PM Admission Free**
- Dec 1 – Jan 6** **Special Exhibit-Christmas Tree Festival and Holiday Display – local organizations provide trees-call 854-4938 or lhmuem@npgcable.com; www.havasumuseum.com; for information.**
- December 7** **10th Annual Holiday Party Among the Trees. Open to the Public 4-6:00PM no charge**
- January** **Great Decisions Group Date TBA runs for 8 weeks Tuesdays from 11 to 1 PM. Background Books available in January. Contact Museum for details. Pre-registration and cost of materials required.**
- January 17** **“Arizona’ A Celebration of the Grand Canyon State”, Author & Historian Jim Turner, speaker. Book signing at a location TBA. 7:00PM Admission Free**
- February 21** **Arizona Pioneer Cemeteries in Mohave County. Cemetery project description and pictures. 7:00PM Admission Free**
- February 26** **16th Annual Queen’s Tea – London Bridge Resort. 2-4:00PM Price 25.00 Call for Tickets and Reservations by February 23.**
- March 20** **Arizona Women Costumes and display. Anne Frazier, MCC. 7:00PM Admission Free**
- April 17** **Swansea Ghost Town A Labor of Love. Speaker, Mike Riddle, Curator Lake Havasu Museum of History. 7:00PM Admission Free**

Lake Havasu Museum of History
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MUSEUM'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF OFFICIAL OPENING

We had close to 150 people at our open house for our 10th anniversary celebration June 17, 2011. It also turned out to be a small fundraiser for us. We made \$570.00 from the silent auction of Lake Havasu City memorabilia, \$102 from donations, and \$181 from sales in the store. Twelve items were sold in the silent auction. Refreshments were served and Kenna Brydon (granddaughter of Ruth Brydon) entertained. It was a very successful event. The Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for us and we received much publicity in the News Herald. A ribbon cutting was held June 12, 2001 for the official opening of museum.



Ribbon cutting June 17, 2011.



Archana Aliyar's mother was visiting from India and purchased the 'Basket from the Museum Store' full of Havasu items at the Silent Auction.



The Silent Auction Table



The refreshment table.



Kenna Brydon