

# Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 15 Number 2

“Preserving the Past, Educating the Future”

Spring 2011

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### Newsletter

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## Ruth Brydon, Curator/ Director Of the Museum Retires



Ruth Brydon, curator of the Lake Havasu Museum of History since the start of the Museum in 1999 is retiring in May. She has also done duties as director in recent years. Ruth was on the planning of the Museum and worked directing the establishment of the exhibits which trace the history of our area as well as Lake Havasu City. She has arranged interesting public programs and hosted class visits from elementary schools. She has also written many grants, which the Museum has received, to help the Museum financially.

Ruth will also retire as an associate faculty member at Mohave Community College where she has taught history for 21 years.

She is eventually moving to Long Beach CA to live in a cottage at her son's home. She will be close to her grandchildren, be able to glimpse the ocean from her porch and have Buddy, her dog, with her.

THE MUSEUM WILL MISS HER! We wish her all the best in her retirement and life in California.

## March Program “Archeology and Cultures of AZ”

Allen Dart, will be the speaker for the March 18th Lake Havasu Museum of History's meeting. He has worked and volunteered as a professional archaeologist in New Mexico and Arizona since 1975, for government, private companies, and non-profit organizations. Dart is employed full-time as a principal investigator in the Tucson office of EcoPlan Associates, Inc. and volunteers his time as Executive Director of Tucson's nonprofit Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, which he founded in 1993 to provide educational and scientific programs in archaeology and culture.

“Archaeology and Cultures of Arizona” is the topic of his presentation. Many different peoples have contributed to making Arizona such a unique and fascinating cultural place. He interprets the archaeology of Arizona from the earliest “Paleoindians” through Archaic period hunters and foragers, the transition to true village life. He also discusses connections between archaeology and history.

The meeting is at 7:00 pm at the Museum. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Refreshments will served.

## Museum Search Committee

The Search Committee has been collecting applications for replacing Ruth Brydon as curator and director of the Museum. Two part-time positions are being offered. The Director is the Chief Administrator Officer of the Museum and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Museum as well as fundraising and publicity. The Curator supervises all collections and exhibits and works with the educational programs for the schools.

The deadline for applications is March 15, 2011.

## 15th Annual Queen's Tea a Success

The 15th Annual Queen's Tea held February 27th at The Martini Bay London Bridge Resort was a great time with 65 attending. Thanks to all who helped to make this happen.

The “most beautiful hat” prize went to Ginny Rude and the “most unusual hat” was given to K'Lee Bender, which had a bird cage on it. Ginny was very beautiful all dressed in pink.



The Queen and Lord Mayor choosing the hat winners.



Ginny Rude



K'Lee Bender

## Presidents Letter

The Board of Director officers have begun the second year of our new two year term and we have been busy! The Bunco fundraiser in January was very successful and we received comments that this event should happen more often. The *Ancient Foods of Scandinavia* was very well attended and has added additional funds. There were three foods experts that shared the history, preparation and the tasting of the various foods. This may also be an ongoing event.

The January and February programs were excellent. Each month there are many new people attending these programs from Havasu, other states and yes, other countries!

Our biggest job as a board is replacing our dear Director and Curator, Ruth. We think that it will take at least two people to replace her. Ruth has helped greatly to make this transition smooth and with her expertise we will get the job done. Ruth has set in place a very strong foundation for our museum and we will do our best to see that the future will be built on that foundation. We will miss Ruth tremendously but at the same time we know that she so deserves to have a retirement. We wish her the very best.

Spring is just around the corner ~  
Beverly

## Letter From the Curator

What would our Museum be without our volunteers? We are so fortunate to have so many good people willing to give up their time. We can always use more, especially in the summer when many people are away.

In my Curator's Corner this time I have given a brief history of the start of the Museum. It brought back to me how much I am going to miss the Museum when I retire next May. The thing that stands out is how much fun I have had doing creative work that you can actually see and working with such wonderful people. I thank you all.

Many thanks are due to Phyllis Wagner for doing the major work in putting on the Queen's Tea. It sounds as if it was a great success. Yours truly was unfortunately down with a cold and had to miss it!

Archana Aliyar lined up the raffle things and sponsors for the tea and did her usual great job. Thanks to her also.

Thanks go as well to all whose participation made it such a great success: Pauline for the great fashion show, our Queen Margie, Lord Mayor Dean, Bell Ringer Mike, Beefeater Tom, the beautiful voice of Vanessa and the lovely Queen's Court, Dian, Beverly, Jenny, Lorrie, Roberta, and Phyllis, the delicious food done by London Bridge Resort, and others who helped.

By the time of the next Newsletter, there will be a new Director and Curator. Applications are starting to come in and we should have the positions filled about May 1. I wish them all to luck and fun in the world.

Ruth

## Local Photographers on Display

We had a great response to the 'Local Photographers on Display' exhibit with 27 photographers bringing in 74 photos to display. A reception was held for all those who had photos on display Thursday, January 13th. The following are names of the photographers: Steve Kruse, Eric Stephan, Fran Bittner, Shila Holmes, Kay Sykes, Deanna Agney, Marge Mero, Marsha Bryce, Jennifer Jones, Stellene Mazdorff, Christina Hawthorne, Carol Wendt, Rudolfo Ruiz, Linda Gromov, Darlyne West Ramos, A. J. Haley, Mary Drayton, Jenny Anderson, Richard Baker, Renee Good, Bob Drayton, Alice Goen, Alisha Johnson, Michele Renee, Norma Bogetto, Dian Gibson, and Jerry White Jr. Thank you to Jenny Anderson and Avon Card for hanging all the photos.



## Curator's Corner

Eleven years ago The Museum opened with only one exhibit---The London Bridge. At that time it was only volunteers who worked with George Fuller, Exhibit Curator for Sharlot Hall Museum to collect the artifacts and stories needed. The Board of Directors and members had decided that we wanted exhibits that told a story, not just a collection of artifacts. We read up on how to organize a museum, we listened to George who gave us a crash course on exhibits (put main items on eye level, have titles large enough, etc.), listened to Richard Sims, Director of Sharlot Hall Museum, on how to run a museum effectively, and we searched through boxes of unorganized things from storage to find what we wanted. People started bringing in a wonderful collection of items that they had saved "until we have a museum": they are still coming in.

We were off to a good start and began training volunteer Docents to show people around and training others to archive pictures and artifacts so that we could have records of the development of the town. Soon we realized that people were needed each day to effectively run the Museum. At that point, I cut back on my MCC teaching to devote to a paid position five mornings a week. In 2000, Phyllis Wagner became volunteer bookkeeper as needed and she became paid Office Manager as we needed more and more of her time. In those early days, Lee Shoblom was the Director and his knowledge of the town helped to get the Museum known and he was vital to fundraising as we are a non-profit organization and depend on such things to keep going.

Our early Board Presidents seemed to alternate between Lyle Matzdorff, Judy Whelan, and Jim Halteman. Jim and Lou Ann Striyle started the Elrose Dussault Museum Store.

Programs for visiting school classes and for tour groups were initiated.

Judy Whelan, Mike Riddle and I volunteered to establish exhibits with advice from George Fuller who went on to install the Chemehuevi and Natural History exhibits.

It is a continuing story of hard work and many volunteer hours. As Curator, I worked on all other exhibits. It is also about individuals donating from \$5,000 to \$15,000 to pay for exhibits and grants from \$500. to \$14, 000.

What does all this lead up to? It means that with a change in leadership, there is a good solid basis for the future years of our wonderful Museum. We will continue to get very positive comments from visitors on the Museum as a whole and our programs. We will also be able to keep up our Certification by the State Historical Society that we uphold national standards for a well run museum.

The search for my successor is in full swing now and I wish the incoming Curator and Director all the best in their new endeavors.

## Volunteer Highlights



The Volunteer Luncheon was well attended January 24 at the Museum. The Board and Staff provided the food. We would like to thank all of our volunteer docents and others: Jackie and Bill Stutz, Ophelia Toth, Lyle and Stellene Matzdorff, Bill and Joanne Harvey, Roberta Lahey, Barbara Masden, Dennis Miller, Theron Gibson, Nancy Valenti, Betty Sosnovske, Ed Walker, Judy Whelan, Mike and Lorrie Riddle, Jean Macauley, Edith Waldon, Avon Card, Dian Gibson, Don and Mary Ann Noel, Judy Nakanelua, Dick and Jenny Anderson, and Lucille Roser.



### 2010 Financial Report

Income for 2010:	\$33,800.00
Expense for 2010:	\$39,839.96
Net Income:	-\$6,039.93
Balance in Checking:	\$8,339.81

### Memorial Gifts

For: Andy Colton from Lake Havasu City Historical Society Board of Directors

For: Jim Weldon from Judy Whelan

# WE HAVA-HISTORY

## Museum Founders Highlights

Anything artistic in the early days can probably be traced back to Art Tuberman. One of the first things Art did was design a logotype for the Lake Havasu City Chamber of Commerce as a gesture of good will toward their new hometown and its people and was used for many years.

Art was born in New York, N.Y. and grew up there until he entered the Navy and then the Air Force for several years and then worked for the Federal Aviation Agency living part of that time in Anchorage Alaska before retiring.

The Tuberman's, Art and Sue, daughter Shari, son Barry, migrated from Long Island, N.Y., in 1972 and were quick to tell anyone that they came here to escape the pressures of the city and the cold eastern climate.

Sue started her business "Art Paul Advertising" and Art became the designer and art consultant. They were here for the first anniversary celebration of the London Bridge and Art designed posters and announcements and worked closely with C. V. Wood for many London Bridge Days celebrations. (See picture at left).

Art had been active in Chamber work in New York organizing four Chambers. He served as a director of the Chamber in Islip, N.Y. He soon became active with the Lake Havasu City Chamber of Commerce and served as president in 1974. He joined the London Bridge Rotary Club and they asked him to design the London Bridge Rotary coin which he did for 20 years. He also designed the Lake Havasu City seal.

Art along with Elrose Dussault and Les Galst were the 'thinkers and dreamers' of the Lake Havasu City Historical Society and a future museum. (See article below on how Art received the "Guild Hall" paintings and gave them to the Museum.)

Art loved to fly in airplanes and he took many aerial photographs at the request of C. V. Wood of the development of Lake Havasu City. (We have many of them archived here at the Museum.)

Art and Sue still reside in Lake Havasu City. Sue still has her business and Art tends to the desert tortoises he has in his back yard with the permission of the Arizona Fish and Game. Art has degrees in Zoology and Herpetology so he is always interested in animals. Through the years he has had as many as 31 tortoises at once all given to him by others, some were injured and he nursed them back to health. He now only has three "babies" that he says get bigger every day.

Thank you Art for all you have done for the development of our City and the Museum.

### Story of the "Guild Hall" Paintings at Museum

Before he moved to Lake Havasu City in 1972, Art Tuberman was a member of the board of the Emile Walters Art Gallery in New York. Emile had the idea of having various painters from around the world do a painting of the London Bridge after it was reconstructed in Arizona. Most worked from photographs and did their own interpretations of what the bridge was like in its new setting. The paintings were then exhibited in the Emile Walters Gallery and also at Guild Hall in London.

After Art moved to Arizona he was very active in promoting Lake Havasu City in a variety of ways. He designed the first London Bridge Rotary Club coins, which are still sold throughout the world, and many other promotional items were his design. When Emile Walters retired and his gallery closed, he sent the paintings to Art. C. V. Wood, who designed Lake Havasu City, stored the paintings and used them to promote Lake Havasu City.

The series was first exhibited in Havasu's first bank, Valley National Bank. Art has now donated them to the Lake Havasu Museum of History as part of the city's heritage. Each one is unique and they are hanging in the Museum for all to see.



Amada Blake, of "Gunsmoke" fame, strolls thru the English Village escorted by Elizabethan gallant, Sir Arthur of Tuberman.



Emile Walters and Art Tuberman

### Early photos of Lake Havasu City

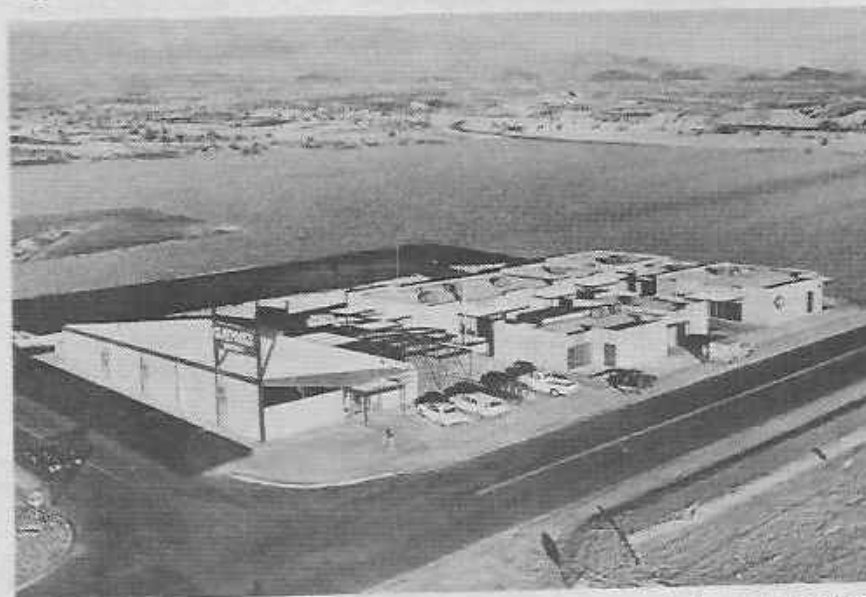


This early photo shows the very beginnings of the new community — Lake Havasu City.



By 1968, buildings around Lake Havasu City's civic center were beginning to take shape. Clockwise, beginning in the left

foreground, are the city's library, the Irrigation & Drainage District building and the Wood Professional Building.



The corner of McCulloch Boulevard and Smoketree Avenue was the site of the first commercial center in Lake Havasu City.

This location is now in the central business district and surrounded by businesses.

## Total permit valuation

Total building permit valuation for Lake Havasu City exceeded \$117 million in November, 1976, as the community recorded its fourth monthly permit valuation of the year in excess of \$1 million.

As of Nov. 30, the total valuation of all building permits ever issued in Lake Havasu City was \$117,986,080, according to the Building Department of the Irrigation and Drainage District. November's total was \$1,311,541, up 94 per cent over the previous month's total.

New building permit valuation was \$11,158,567 for the first 11 months of 1976, according to IDD figures. Building permit valuation, it should be noted, is generally lower than the actual value of the completed structure.

Under construction or completed in Lake Havasu City, as of Nov. 30, 1976, were 2801 single-family homes, 29 townhouses, 348 apartment complexes (1346 units), 325 commercial structures and 189 condominiums.

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'Bunco at the Museum' a success! 65 tickets were sold and the museum was packed with tables of players. A good time was had by all with plenty of prizes and desserts, January 17th.

### The Museum was packed at the January events!



Jim Turner talked to the crowd (a full house) about artistic photos and paintings of the Grand Canyon, January 18th.

### Best turn out ever for the "Ancient Foods of Scandinavia Workshop-with Samples"



Twenty six attended the workshop January 26th.



New cook, Ray Champaign.



Everyone ready for the yummy samples