

# Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 15 Number 4

“Preserving the Past, Educating the Future”

Summer 2011

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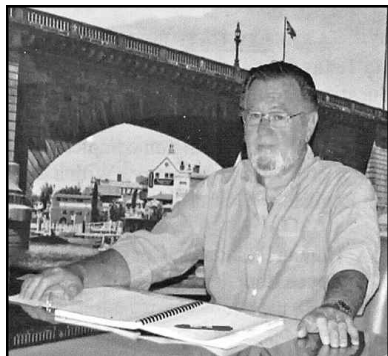
Mike Riddle

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## Museum Welcomes Mike Riddle as Curator



The Lake Havasu City Historical Society Board of Directors has appointed Mike Riddle as the new

Curator of the Museum to replace Ruth Brydon who is retiring. Riddle has been an active volunteer at the Museum since its planning stages in the 1990s. His knowledge of archiving and exhibit development will be a great asset to the Museum.

Mike Riddle has been active in the community on various committees, is part of the State Centennial project on locating historic cemeteries and has done extensive work in historic preservation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) especially at Swansea ghost town.

## Appointment of Temporary Museum Director

Mike Riddle was appointed Interim Museum Director by the Board of the Lake Havasu City Historical Society at their meeting Tuesday, April 12, 2011. The Board has voted to hold off selection of a permanent Director until Fall. Riddle took over the position May 1 when Ruth Brydon, the present Director, retired.

Mike Riddle has been active as a volunteer at the Museum since it started and was recently selected as the new Curator. He has also been a BLM volunteer and has taught archaeology at Mohave Community College.

## Museum Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Official Opening

### Come celebrate with us!

The Lake Havasu Museum is holding a reception Friday, June 17, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm to celebrate their 10th anniversary of the opening of the Museum.

On June 12, 2001, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to officially open the Museum. (See the story on page 3 that was in the Desert Outlook in 2001). We have come along way since then.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony, entertainment, refreshments, costumes and silent auction.

Call the Museum 854-4938 for more information.

## Preview of Coming Events

This is a quick preview of upcoming events in our 2011-12 year.

Watch for this new event, “Curator Brown Bag Talks” (TBA).

During our usual movie month September, we will be showing “Terror on London Bridge” to help celebrate the 40th Anniversary of London Bridge. Our Special Exhibit, September through November, will be a display of London Bridge memorabilia.

The 10th Annual Christmas Tree Festival will be held November 28 to December 31 with the “Holiday Party Among the Trees” Wednesday, December 7.

We will have speakers from the AZ Humanities Council and some local speakers for our programs October through March.

Watch for our 2011-12 Events Calendar with all the details in our Fall newsletter

## *President's Letter*

The Board of Directors is pleased to have hired Mike Riddle as the new Museum Curator. Mike has served the museum in many capacities in the past. He is well qualified for the position of Curator and has also agreed to fill in as Director for a few months.

In June we will celebrate the Lake Havasu Museum of History's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Plans are being made for a celebration at the museum. We are also planning to join in on the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of London Bridge Days.

Summer is upon us and many residents have left Lake Havasu City. We invite those who remain to visit the museum. Word of mouth is the best advertising, so please tell family and friends about the museum.

The museum store manager has ordered some new and interesting items for the museum store and it's a great place to find books for summer reading. You may also find a unique gift to give. Members of the museum receive a discount in the store.

There are some exciting plans for the autumn months and we'll keep you posted.

Have a great summer and be safe.

Beverly

## **Letter from the Curator/(Interim) Director**

The swishing noise accompanying this letter is the sound of me switching hats, Let's see there's the BLM Archaeology/Historic Preservation hat. Nope maybe the Church Treasurer, nope. Wait, there on the top shelf ... Museum Curator and there, next to it, Interim Director. That's it.

It's a pretty new hat and I am just holding it for a while. It is simple, but never easy to wear all these hats, this one is a summer sombrero and for those of us living here year round, the shade is good.

It is a time to look ahead to Fall. We are looking forward too more kids from schools. We just hosted classes from Telesis and Havasupai. Their energy and curiosity still lingers.

Scheduling programs and speakers is underway. Planning for some interesting and different activities. Exploring more ways to address students. We are looking to finish a major archiving project as part of a grant from the State. Fund raising, as always, a major part of our thinking and planning.

Then there is our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, later the Bridge's 40th in Havasu and February the Arizona Centennial.

"The beat goes on."

Mike

## **Two Third Classes Tour Museum**

A group of Havasupai 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students during a class "field 'trip to the museum. Their teacher created an "information" scavenger hunt". Answers to the questions were in the exhibits. The girls pictured at right are making "scratchglyphs" as part of their visit.



## **Jenny Anderson Receives Site Steward Award**

Each year Arizona Site Stewards from across the state gather for training and recognition. Jenny Anderson recently received the Regional Coordinator of the Year 2011 Award at the annual Arizona Site Steward conference in Tucson this spring. Jenny and Dick Anderson have been in the program for nine years, and have helped monitor both historic and prehistoric sites located within the Lake Havasu BLM Region.

Jenny said, "I am honored to receive this award in behalf of our local group of stewards. Last year our group logged 657.5 hours of volunteer work. We are committed to helping preserve our history."

## Curator's Corner

Taking on the assignment as Curator (and Interim Director) involves a good bit more than just shifting one desk to the right and attempting to replace Ruth Brydon who as we all know is well nigh irreplaceable.

This edition of the newsletter celebrates the Museum's first 10 years. It also celebrates all those pioneers in our community who through founding the Historical Society and hard work created the "Best Little Old Museum in Arizona. It wasn't easy and it wasn't cheap.

It lives up to that basic mission of all museums: "Preserving the Past Educating the Future". We are not about a collection of memorabilia arranged in some reasonable order. We are about being a repository of information and source of research for scholars.

Using this benchmark, we have reached the end of the beginning, but by no means the beginning of the end. When I applied for the Museum Curator position, I reviewed and articulated my goals for the next five years. These goals are a continuation of the vision that created and has sustained the museum.

### Lake Havasu Museum Five Year Plan

#### Finance

- In consultation with the Society Treasurer, Phyllis and Store Manager:
- Review current finances and budget.
- Prepare a proposed budget for review, discussion and approval by the Historical Society Board of Directors.
- Brainstorm with Staff and the Board ways to improve fund raising efforts (e.g., grants, endowment, bequests, and fund raisers.)
- Encourage the Board to develop a Finance Team to assist the Historical Society's Treasurer and staff.
- In consultation with the Board, Develop a Business Plan including marketing and public relations for review and approval of the Board.
- Design a new Brochure for the Museum. The current design needs a rewrite. (e.g., the front does not show the Museum's name). Establish a regular delivery system and destinations. different purposes.

#### Exhibits

- Complete Parker Dam
- Complete Water in the West
- Complete Natural History
- Maintenance and repair of current exhibits

#### Archives

- LCRIF Archives
- Simpson Files and Maps
- The PastPerfect<sup>®</sup> Database
- Inventory of the warehouse (especially the costumes)
- While not exactly "Archives" a serious review of "unaccessioned" artifacts and other
- "materials" is needed.
- Explore the possibility of becoming a certified repository for Federal Agencies (e.g., BLM, Nat'l Park Service etc.

#### Education Services

- Outreach to K -12 (e.g., rather than bringing kids to us, we go to schools with materials, speakers etc. within their curriculum)
- Creating "Museum in a Trunk" within the curriculum that can be used by individual teachers in the classroom..
- Creating a "Virtual Museum" using various media including our website. This will not have a significant impact on visitation.
- Design and prepare a catalogue of available research materials for distribution to Colleges and Universities reflecting the Museum's status as a research capable facility.

#### Want List

##### Volunteers for:

Work in the museum archives and exhibits. At the volunteer's pleasure an hour now and then or more a variety of projects, a chance to learn and it's fun!

Docents on a schedule, as little as 3 hours per week We will train you and allow you to grow in the job. Telling our story to visitors and it's fun!

——Mike

# WE HAVA-HISTORY

**A history and a legacy. . . .Lake Havasu Museum of History opens its doors  
Excerpt from the Desert Outlook, Volume 9 #23, June 14, 2001**

The Lake Havasu Museum of History officially opened its doors to the public on Tuesday, June 12, during a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by over 150 participants. The new 3,000 square foot building, which sits next to the Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau, is now the holder of memories for a fledgling town and the surrounding area.

The museum has been 25 years in the making, thanks to the efforts of the Lake Havasu City Historical Society and a slew of volunteers who have helped make the dream come to fruition.

According to the acting director Lee Shoblom, the museum is a testimonial for the entire region.

"It's called the Lake Havasu Museum of History because it goes beyond the city," he said. "It chronicles the Chemehuevi Indian tribe and all they brought to the area along with the history of the steamboats and mining that first shaped the region. And, of course, it tells the story of how the London Bridge was purchased and brought to Lake Havasu City."

The first permanent exhibit has been completed in commemoration of the London Bridge's Journey from the River Thames to the Colorado River. It takes up 23 percent of the floor space and will be kept in perpetuity for London Bridge activities. Once the ceiling is lowered, there will be a mural drawn to depict the journey of the stone blocks from London to Lake Havasu City over ocean and land. The exhibit was designed and built by George Fuller, exhibit designer for the famous Sharlotte Hall museum in Prescott.

Soon more permanent exhibits will be constructed and there are plans to have several relating exhibits that will be borrowed from other museums, along with some created by local artisans and schools. Two more exhibits are scheduled to be completed within the next 6-8 weeks.

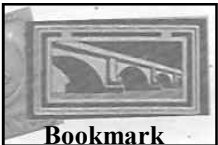
"The second exhibit will be dedicated to the Chemehuevi Indian tribe," explained curator, Ruth Brydon. "David Chavez and Tito Smith (from Havasu Landing) have contributed photos, and artifacts like the metate and baskets from the tribe.

"The third exhibit will be about the steamboats and paddleboats that use to navigate the Colorado River, along with the mining towns that were every where. We have a model of the paddleboat *Colorado II* that was hand-made by Richard Wilson, which is 30 inches long. Every little piece of planking is a separate slab of wood and it was made exclusively from pictures."

There will be other exhibits dedicated to the area's natural history, Lake Havasu today, Site Six—when it was controlled by the Air Force—and the making of Lake Havasu by the construction of Parker Dam. Brydon said there will eventually be a small video room showing short flicks about the Lake's creation and other historic events.

"We need more artifacts that represent the growth of the city," said Brydon. "People are already starting to bring items to us and we want to encourage that."

The Lake Havasu Museum of History also has a Gift Shop selling commemorative items that will help finance the ongoing exhibits and operation. According to treasurer and store manager, Jim Halteman, the museum has several exclusive items to offer the public.



**Bookmark**

"We have ordered a special brushed brass bookmark that is exclusive to the museum," said Halteman. "You won't be able to buy it anywhere but here. And we have 4' X 6' washable afghans in burgundy and hunter green that depict Lake Havasu City's story.

The Gift Shop is selling English coins like six pence, three pence, shillings and pennies. There are also London Bridge scrolls, postcards, commemorative stamped envelopes and brass belt buckles.

The Lake Havasu Museum will be financed through donations, fundraisers, the Gift Shop and visitors. Through cooperation of Lake Havasu City government, money was provided to pay off the building's loan. It is now being leased to the museum for \$1 per year.

According to Shoblom, in the future they might create an opening from the Chamber of Commerce building into the Museum via a turn style so the 350-per day visitors can easily enter. There are still plans to run a trolley to and from the information center at the London Bridge to the Museum. (Continued on page 4)



Ribbon cutting ceremony, left to right: Judi Harris, Lee Shoblom, Dottie Quiggle, Blythe Watt, Lyle Matzdorff, Linda Binder, Ruth Bryden, Lee Galst, Judy Whalen.



**Afghan**

## WE HAVA-HISTORY

(Continued from page 3) If the City approves it, Shoblom would like to display the city's old jail cage in the parking lot next to the trees to give people a photo opportunity. There's one like it in Bouse and it is the most popular spot for people to take photographs in, said Shoblom.

Several groups are already using the museum's spacious center as their meeting room and Shoblom and anyone interested in using the space may contact the museum.

The museum will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 2-4-pm for viewing and guided tours will be provided by volunteers coordinated by Nelda Sollars.

For more information cal 855-3252.

(Editors comments: All of the exhibits in the museum were completed by 2009. The Natural History exhibit the last one. We have had many Special Exhibits in the center in the past nine years, from quilts to favorite crafts, and photography and London Bridge memorabilia. The jail is now in the parking lot.


We are sold out of the beautiful afghans of Lake Havasu City. We still have a few book-marks left.

The door cut between the chamber office and the museum is only a dream and we still do not have a trolley between the information center and the museum!


It is so great to read this old article of ten years ago and know that the goals of the Historical Society have been completed after ten years. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who have made this come to fruition.)

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# Lake Havasu Museum of History




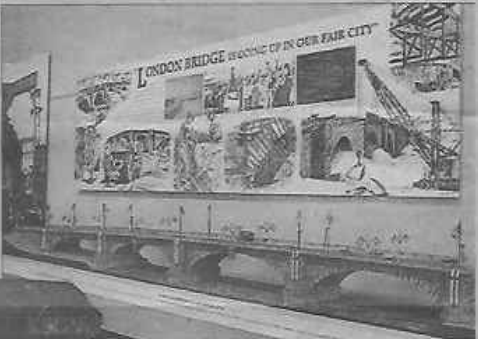
Chemehuevi Exhibit under construction



London Bridge Exhibit now open to public




Gift Shop commemoratives available now

Original Stone

London Bridge exhibit constructed by George Fuller,  
Sharlott Hall Museum, Prescott, AZ.

Located in the London Bridge Shopping Center  
next door to the  
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce.  
Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 2-4 p.m.



Steamboats and Mining Exhibit  
under construction

This was on the front page of the Desert Outlook, June 12, 2001

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VOLUME 15 NUMBER 4



Jean Kuch tells a story  
 About Ruth.

## Ruth's Retirement Dinner

Forty nine friends gathered together Sunday, May 1, at the Quality Inn to celebrate Ruth Brydon's retirement from the Museum. A good time was had by all with dinner, stories, cake and a presentation of a picture of the museum and its exhibits with messages from the guests signed on the picture mat.

The Museum will miss Ruth so much and we wish her a happy retirement in California.



The Cake!



Ruth's brother, Bob, came from Salt Lake City to celebrate with her.



Pictured above are some of the 49 people who attended Ruth's Retirement Dinner, May 1, 2011.