



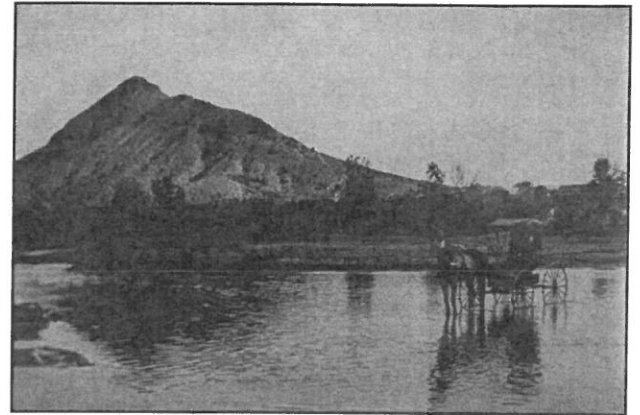
What Part Of Tempe History Do You Belong To?

Maybe you are a member of a family whose Tempe roots go back as far as the community's beginnings in the 1870s - or earlier since there were, after all, quite a few families around here even before the area became part of a new territorial addition to the United States of America. One could say you "inherited" Tempe history - and have helped build upon it, generation after generation.

Or possibly you're part of that group of "newcomers" who began swarming into Tempe in the post World War II era of the 1950s (perhaps to use the G.I. Bill to attend Arizona State College) - and started an overwhelming population growth that was to triple the town's population in a decade, then more than double it again over the next 10 years - and tax (in more ways than one!) Tempe's resources for decades. Now you've been here long enough to not only consider yourself a Tempe old timer but to have added kids, grandkids and great-grandkids to the "native Tempe" mix. You have taken your place as a major part of a change in the course of Tempe history, from small town/agricultural to manufacturing/big business/university city.

Then, again, maybe you are fairly new to Tempe - coming here from somewhere else within the new Millennium, but have already decided this is where you want to stay (and maybe raise another generation or two of Tempe natives!). Wonder what the new "chapters" you will be adding to Tempe's history will bring to this city by the Salt River banks. And will there be any place still around to show and tell future Tempeans about what your generations were like and what you contributed to "their" city?

No matter which of the groups above you belong to, Tempe Historical Society would like to make you a part of helping keep alive for generations yet to come the essence of what your - and past and future - generations have added, and will continue to add, to the always changing chapters of Tempe's history.



Crossing the Salt River in early days. Photo from Tempe History Museum collection.

And you can help do that by something as simple as joining us as a Tempe Historical Society new or continuing member and becoming a partner in efforts to preserve, celebrate and educate present and future generations (your kids and grandkids and great-grandkids perhaps) about Tempe's amazing history. Read on. . .

It's Historical Society's Membership Month . . . (And We Have A Few Surprises In Store For You!)

April is Tempe Historical Society's annual membership drive month and this year the organization has some surprises in store for those who renew their memberships or decide to join for the first time - and THS Board of Directors President Richard Bauer and Board members hope there will be many of both.

For the first time, the Society will be offering some special "perks" to those who renew memberships or become new members during the April drive. Depending on the membership level chosen, those benefits may include having the Society's quarterly newsletter e-mailed to you; invitations to an annual Society membership social and other Society-sponsored programs; membership card entitling the holder to a 10% discount at Tempe History Museum's Gift Store and to discounts at some Museum paid events; membership recognition in the newsletter; tickets to a Museum exhibition preview or a VIP gala reception; a special gift of a set of note cards or a hand-signed 11x17" historical print by noted Tempe artist Richard Nearing who has painted just about every historic building of importance in Tempe at one time or another. And there's more - you'll find a complete list of the membership benefits on the back of an Annual Membership and Renewal Form included with this newsletter. Membership levels are \$25 for supporting individual membership; \$45 for sustaining couple membership; \$100 for patron family membership; and \$250 for corporate membership.

What will your membership fee do? While the Society's general membership is no longer directly involved in its business decisions since voting at last year's annual meeting to make the organization a Board of Directors-driven one, the general membership is needed as much as ever, actually perhaps more so than ever. City budget cuts for Tempe History Museum have halved its staffing and left new manager Brenda Abney scrambling, looking for other funding sources to at least keep current

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programs going if possible - especially those for children. She would like to add new ones as well to attract more people to the museum for exhibits, programs and activities. Both Tempe Historical Society and the Tempe History Museum which it started grew out of Tempe's majorly big 1970-71 Centennial Celebration. The Society continues to help the museum where it can, sponsoring some of its programs so they can be free to the public, hosting exhibit opening receptions, and providing for special needs. It offers some programs of its own at the museum as well - among them the monthly October through May "Lunch Talks" featuring speakers on topics related to Tempe and Arizona history; the Christmas season "Tree of Lights" program which helps support the museum's oral history project - and more recently the Veterans' History Project as well; help with needs at such historic sites as Tempe's historic Petersen House; and involvement with efforts of other historic preservation organizations.

At present the Historical Society is in the process of outfitting and opening its own first real office within the Tempe History Museum and setting up a web site where before long Historical Society members and others will be able to get information on Society happenings - and, for the first time, get THS newsletters online.

Historical Society's Members Are In For A 'GEM' Of An Event

Tempe Historical Society's annual May get-together of its members will have a new dimension this year. At its 2014 annual meeting, the membership voted to make the Historical Society a Board of Directors-driven organization, discontinuing the need to conduct business - including election of new Board members and officers - at a May annual meeting of the general membership.

But there will be, as usual, a yearly May get-together of the members - continuing ones and new ones who sign up during April's annual Historical Society membership drive and prospective members who want to find out what the Society is all about. And Mary Ann Kwilosz, THS Board of Directors member who is planning it, says it will be a "GEM of a Gathering!"

A highlight of the 10 a.m., May 2, "Greet, Eat and Meet" event in the Community Room at Tempe History Museum will be an opportunity for members to meet Tempe History Museum's new director, Brenda Abney, and hear her plans and vision for the museum's activities and programs for the coming year. Guests also will learn about plans for a very special major community event scheduled for next spring that is being spearheaded by Tempe Historical Society. The Society's activities calendar for the coming year also will be presented.

Mary Ann says the gathering will be an opportunity for Society members to greet friends and welcome new and prospective members, enjoy a free continental breakfast, have an opportunity to win a special door prize and, "gather your friends and enjoy a special morning at the museum as the Society's honored guests."

New Museum Chief's Concerns Are People And Funds

New Tempe History Museum Manager Brenda Abney, who has only been on the job since December, is already looking at ways and means to address two major museum concerns: attracting more people to the museum to learn about Tempe's history - and bringing in more funding to support programs, both to continue current ones and to add new ones.

One of the first changes with those aims in mind will be visible this summer when the "Wild Wednesdays for Kids" program becomes "Family Fun Days" with the addition of one Saturday a month and expansion of the program into August. Some of the programs will be "Wild Wednesdays," others will be "Super Saturdays." Abney said, "The museum's popular 'Wild Wednesdays' program has been a mainstay to the June and July roster for years. It gets great attendance each week and provides mentorship opportunities for teens. However, the Wednesday format leaves out attendance by working parents and the program is starved for funding."

In order to offer "quality hands-on activities and rebrand the program to signal the changes," Abney said the museum has already submitted a grant proposal to obtain funding and "sponsorships are being solicited to underwrite this great, free summer program."

The economic recession resulted in drastic budget cuts for the museum which affected staffing and programming, Abney said. "At one time, the museum had 12 full-time employees," Now, she added, the staff includes, in addition to the manager,



Brenda Abney

the museum's three curators: Josh Roffler for Collections, Jared Smith for History, and Dan Miller for Exhibitions - a "great team. . . which was one of the selling points of the museum" when she interviewed for the manager position last year, she said. They are augmented by four temporary and part-time staff who work from 7 to 19 hours each week.

In January, however, a new staff member came aboard whose job will be relieving the manager and curators of much of the administrative work they have been doing for many years, allowing them, Abney said, "to put their expertise to use in preserving, collecting and interpreting the history of Tempe." The new Administrative Assistant, Tempe native Melinda Gonzales, has been with the City of Tempe for 24 years, serving Police and Fire departments.

The cut in city funding and support from other areas during the recession, in affecting programming also has affected the museum's ability to attract more people. The staff is looking at various ways of bringing in funds to support programs and "to raise the profile of the museum and the services it provides," Abney said. Staff already is taking part in more outreach efforts such as promoting the museum through media, flyers, tables at events and media.

Other efforts the new museum manager says she and her staff are investigating include:

- Can we create more educational tours for students and teachers? An example is a program that includes the historic Elias Rodriguez adobe that focuses on the role of our Hispanic community in the development of Tempe. How do we fund those programs?

- There is limited square footage at the museum for use by the public. Could this be changed by relocating large collection items or activating the lobby as an extension of programming and exhibit space?

- Can the museum generate a greater income with certain programs or services? Is the community willing to provide additional support so programs at the museum can remain largely free to the public?

- How can we best partner with key stakeholders such as Tempe Historical Society to meet both our needs?

Some things on the museum's "to do" list for the new year already are accomplished or underway including: the database that holds the information and images of all the historical material held by the museum has been upgraded; research and outreach has begun to document the old Legend City amusement park that held forth in Papago Park; and plans are underway for exhibits in the permanent galleries and other of the museum's public spaces.

While the museum completed, in 2014, some important milestones in the multi-year process for becoming accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, there is still work to do towards that goal. "The museum as it stands is ready for accreditation and has a high probability of being approved if the tasks (yet to be done) are completed," said the museum's new manager. "The only area that may hold us back is the lack of an Education Coordinator. Perhaps that deficiency can be remedied with the help of our partners and renewed commitment by the City as we go through the steps to get accredited."

Tempe Museum's New Manager Began Career In Colder Places

Arizona will be a really new experience for Brenda Abney, who in December succeeded Amy Douglass as manager of Tempe History Museum. She won't, as the old saying goes, have "jumped from the frying pan into the fire" but come summer, she may think she's jumped from an iceberg into something akin to a fire. Brenda is a native of Ketchikan, Alaska and most of her 22 years in the museum field were spent in that icy part of the world and a couple of states that can be fairly cold themselves - Oregon and Washington. She earned her B.A. in art history in 1989 at Washington State University. Her M.A. in the same subject was added in 1992 at the University of Oregon. She later attended a UofO Museum Studies Program, working at campus galleries and at the Oregon Museum of Art on campus while doing so. Back in Ketchikan after earning her M.A., the Alaskan served in positions as Curator, variously, of Exhibits, Programs and Collections at Tongass Historical Museum and was a member of the adjunct faculty at the University of Alaska. Before applying for the Tempe History Museum position, she had begun the new century as coordinator of Cultural programs for the City of Kent, Washington, leaving that position in 2006 to become director of the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center in Wenatchee, Washington. The latter, she says, is a regional museum in a rural area with a focus on history but also covering natural science, art and cultural diversity.

Abney, her husband - retired businessman Gary Looney, and daughter Sophie, now an eighth-grader at Kyrene Aprende Middle School, were formally welcomed by Tempe Historical Society members, Tempe History Museum staffers and others at a social event at Shalimar Country Club in late January. Missing was the Abney's son Connor who is away attending college as a freshman.

The new museum manager says her "greatest challenge and pleasure in making Tempe my home is to learn the history and heritage of the Valley. Each community grew up in very similar ways across the nation, yet each has a unique story to tell. . . Taking the time to learn Tempe's history is important and needs to be my personal priority."

Saying Adios . . .

184-Year-Old La Casa Vieja Closes Its Doors

By Peggy Bryant

Over the years, it has housed a store, the headquarters for several businesses, a place to plot political moves (like those aimed at getting the "Thieving 13th" Territorial Legislature of 1885 to establish the Territorial Normal School at Tempe!), an informal library, a hostel, a boarding house, several restaurants, a place to dance (or listen) weekends to live music, a place for weddings and banquets and other special events - and for almost all its years a very popular get-together place for "talking business" or socializing. It has been a big part of life for several generations of Tempe pioneer and newer families, as well as students at Arizona State University and its predecessors back to the Territorial Normal School.

But it was also once a private home, a place where a man and his wife shared their hospitality with friends and strangers alike - travelers from various parts of the territory and from out of the territory (the latter including Civil War Yanks and Rebels and Mormons scouting for a place to settle), laborers from the nearby little Mexican settlement of San Pablo, and well-to-do settlers - at least as well-to-do as one might get in Territorial Arizona. It was a place where children were born and played and grew - one of whom would grow up to make history nationally, another of whom would have a long association with the school plotted for in her father's business from Normal School to Arizona State College days and with her sister later would open a business in the old home in hopes of saving it. A fourth would live just a short life in the old house. Like all homes, it held both good times and bad, happy times and sad ones.

That old adobe building at 100 South Mill Avenue, just across from Tempe Beach Park, served Tempeans as Monti's La Casa Vieja for just shy of six decades, but altogether the revered "old house" has had a history of some 143 years in Tempe. Half of those years were while Arizona was still a Territory; its first 17 years it was "the Hayden House" - and it still gets called by that name often. It was the home of Tempe founder Charles Trumbull Hayden and wife Sally Davis Calvert Hayden and the 1877 birthplace

of one of Arizona's most illustrious and beloved public servants, Carl Hayden. Carl Hayden served as Arizona's first Representative in the U.S. Congress after it became a state in 1912 and later as a Senator, for a grand total of 57 years. Those are just a couple of reasons the old house - La Casa Vieja - was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Michael Monti, last owner - since 1993 - of Monti's La Casa Vieja and a son of that restaurant's original proprietor, the late Leonard Monti, shut the doors of the historic building in November, citing rising costs and inability to get the excellent beef for which the restaurant was renowned. Before long the old house will be dwarfed by more downtown high rises. Planned to go up on the 2.5-acre property on which it sits are a 16-story hotel, 15-story office building, 17,000 square feet of restaurant and retail business, and an underground parking garage. The consortium of California-Colorado real estate firms which has purchased the property for about \$17-million is



Thousands of Monti's patrons dined in the old Hayden Dining Room. Part of the Old House, it featured the thick adobe walls and the original tree branch ceiling. Modernization in the later years added electric lights and air conditioning.

Larry Mishler Photo

committed, as part of the deal with Michael Monti, to keeping the original part of the Old Hayden House. The additions made by the elder Monti in the 1950s and beyond, including a large banquet room which has served many community needs, have already been removed. Tempe's Historic Preservation Commission has some concerns yet to be answered before the new construction starts. It will be monitoring the project to see that the original "old house," listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1984, is preserved. How it is incorporated in new construction and possible effects of digging for the underground garage are of special concern.

Leonard Monti was a Chandler restaurant owner when he bought the building and the site it was on in 1954 after hearing about "the old house" being up for sale on a radio program while he was hospitalized in Phoenix. In 1956, he opened the Tempe restaurant and added his name to the one it had been given many years earlier - La Casa Vieja. The Hayden family had used the Spanish name in referring to it after moving to their new home on today's McClintock Drive in 1889. Monti soon turned it into the most popular eatery in town for Tempe families, students of Arizona State (both college and university) and visitors

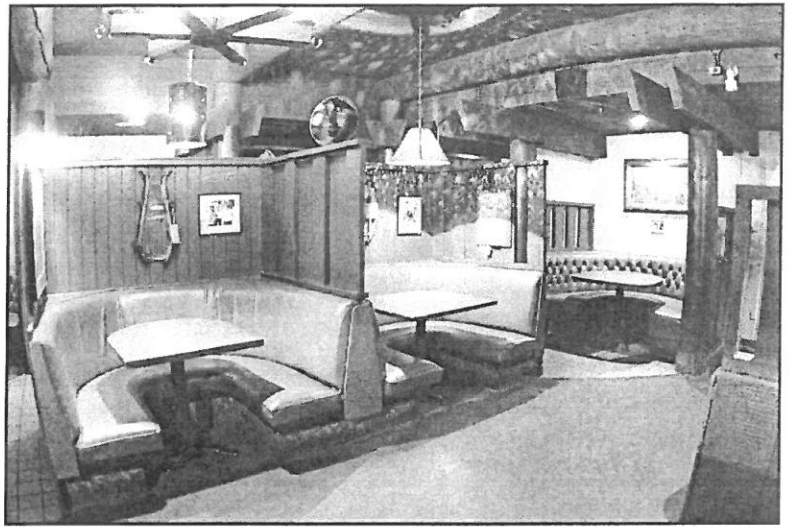
from surrounding towns. His daughters Kate and Katy were part of the restaurant's staff for a number of years. As its reputation grew, it attracted some famous people from out of state who might be visiting in the Valley, too. Among its most notable of guests were the man who was born there - Senator Carl Hayden who was often a visitor to the restaurant after returning to Arizona on retiring from Congress; and former Arizona Governor and President Eisenhower administrative aide Howard Pyle. Pyle, who had a special booth at the eatery, did commercials for the restaurant.

Leonard's son Michael took over the restaurant as president in 1993 and made a number of changes, creating new menu offerings and opening an outdoor patio lunch place on the north side of the restaurant. Associated with the younger Monti in the business for several years was Eddie Goitia, son of former Tempe Elementary School District Superintendent and Mrs. Ralph Goitia.

The original Mexican row house-style adobe building was built in 1871 by Tucson-based wagon freighter and transplanted Connecticut Yankee Charles Trumbull Hayden and his crew of Mexican workers. Monti's restaurant customers could still see a small portion of the original unplastered adobe wall encased in glass. It and the many historic photos and relics of other days hanging on the restaurant walls were special attractions for customers. Most were offered in an auction after the restaurant was closed.

The one-story building initially housed Hayden's general store and, between travels, off and on his living quarters until he moved permanently from Tucson to Tempe in the summer of 1873. It also was a place where the industrious Hayden could keep an eye on all his businesses as they came into being nearby in the early 1870s: Hayden's Ferry, which took passengers - including four-legged ones - across the unbridged Salt River (giving Tempe its first name of Hayden's Ferry until May 5, 1879); the Tempe Canal in which he was invested and from which a ditch would bring water to power his future grinding mill; that under-construction Hayden Flour Mill across from his home on the street which would get its Mill Avenue name from the mill; and his livery stable, blacksmith and carpenter shops. The mill was opened for business in 1874 - the first of three mills on the site, as both it and a second, built in 1895, were destroyed in fires.

Betwixt and between the 1871 construction of the old house as the Hayden home and its 2014 sale ending its years as Monti's La Casa Vieja, there was lots going on at La Casa Vieja. More about some of that in a future Historical Society newsletter.



Expansion of Monti's restaurant in the '60s added modern dining rooms and a large banquet room just south of the old walls. Comfortable booths added pleasure to the dining area while still maintaining the rustic motif Monti's has been known.

The Beat Goes On In Museum Musical Salute

Tempe History Museum, 809 East Southern Avenue, continues its year-long celebration of the musical sounds of Tempe, primarily from the '60s and beyond, with an exhibition, art exhibit, lectures by ASU music professors, and live musical performances on tap from now through early October to inform, listen to, bring back memories, and even provide visitors an opportunity to try a hand at playing the drums.

Opened in mid-November, to continue through October 4, 2015, the focal point of the salute to Tempe-based musicians and the places like JD's and Chuys, Rula Bula and Long Wong's and others where they played is an exhibition of paraphernalia related to the local music scene. Included are posters, musical instruments, sheet music, platinum records, heavy metal costumes and even a replica of the stage of the popular old original Long Wong's club in downtown Tempe, according to museum Curator of Collections Joshua Roffler who spent months, with help from other staffers, rounding up information from musicians, fans, club owners, deejays and others hep to the music scene of the period and tracking down items for the exhibition.



Among the music-makers paid tribute in the year-long exhibition is the late Waylon Jennings, nationally famed country-folk-rock and more musician, who got his big start toward fame in the 1960s as star attraction at the two-story JD's nightclub on Scottsdale Road on the north side of the Salt River. (Some Tempeans may still remember the 1965 New Year's Eve when its first-floor River Room really was that - a river room - as flooding on the Salt swept through it literally 'dampening' the New Year's Eve celebrating there and closing the nightspot for awhile?).

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Featured in the exhibit, too, are other Tempe musicians who went on to make names for themselves nationally - among them:

- **Gin Blossoms**, a homegrown Tempe group, which disbanded at the end of the '90s, then re-grouped in 2001 and really went big nationally. It was nominated for a 1996 Grammy award for Best Performance By A Group, but lost out to The Beatles. In the '90s they were big attractions at local venues including Chuy's and Long Wong's.

- **Walt Richardson**, who started out on Mill Avenue as a street singer performing for coins tossed in a hat and a popular attraction at Mill Avenue Festivals, was and still is a major part of the Tempe music scene. Honored in January 2014 with a Mayor and City Council declared "Day for Walt," he was in the spotlight again this past November as the first musician to have a name plaque embedded in the new Music Walk on Mill during the City's First Annual Tempe Music Revival Month (the Gin Blossoms were added to the Walk in January). He now introduces new musical performers and songwriters to the community as host of Tempe Center for the Arts Wednesday Open Mic Nights and the center's Songwriters Showcase;

- **Morningstar**, a reorganization of the earlier Driftwood musical group - both products of Richardson and his friend Aziz Chadley, who were big attractions at local venues including Chuy's and Long Wong's.

- **The Refreshments**, disbanded in 1998, but morphed into Roger Cline and the Peacemakers - popular today not only in Arizona and elsewhere in the U.S., but in Rocky Point, Mexico where they are frequent performers. Cline started his music-making days while still in high school (as did a few other Tempe musicians).

There are more. Check the "Tempe Sounds" exhibition out. Perhaps your favorite Tempe-based musical group is among those being remembered.

History Told In Community's Changing Music

No one really knows how long music has been around; perhaps it began as long ago as when the first humans walked the earth and heard and started to mimic the sounds of rippling water and chirping birds and wind whistling through tree branches. Or maybe even before? Greek mathematician and musician Pythagoras, who lived in the fifth century B.C., believed there was "geometry in the humming of the strings" (he played the lyre) and "music in the spacing of the spheres" of outer space.

Whenever and wherever it began, music - especially music of the masses - always has been a kind of reflection and expression of the times it represented and what was happening at the time, and of the feelings, experiences and beliefs of the humans who lived through them. What do your teenagers listen to musically today and what does it tell you about them? How does it differ from what you listened to as a teen and how did "your music" differ from that your parents listened to before you? And what about your grandparents, great-grandparents or even your great-great-grandparents who might have brought to the new country of America the music from their home country that resonated most with them so they could hold on to memories that were dear to them?

The Tempe History Museum's new year-long "The Tempe Sound" changing exhibition (see story above this one) focuses on Tempe-based musicians and the contemporary rock, country, folk, reggae, soul and other music of the generations from the 1960s onward. It covers musicians and music that span times of post-several-wars unrest, dissension, national protests, changes in mores and morals, of vagabond young people and monster music festivals. More recently - well, view the exhibit and see what you think!

The sounds of music in Tempe, as in the nation, have gone through many "transformations" through the years, reflecting changes in the generations and the times. As pioneers from other areas began heading West after the Civil War, they brought with them the music of their faiths from "Oh Dem Golden Slippers" to "I Love To Tell The Story," of the just-ended war and what they were leaving behind - songs about their "Old Kentucky" or Indiana or "Old Virginny" homes or such as "Good Bye, Liza Jane" and "I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen." Much later, in the Great Depression and the war that followed, the music would again echo the times as Tempeans tuned in on their radios to hear Bing Crosby lyrically ask "Brother Can You Spare A Dime" or Louis Armstrong tell us "I Gotta Right to Sing the Blues" or Judy

Garland urge us to "Get Happy." Wartime would bring re-runs of the Civil War's "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again" and other music linked to war - "When It's Over, Over There" or "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition" but mostly there were the sentimental songs from "You'll Never Know (Just How Much I Miss You)" to "It's Been A Long, Long Time" and the swing and jazz music that helped folks tune out the war for a little while and have some fun on the dance floors. Music and its "makers" have always been a part of

life in Tempe, even when it was a just-beginning little settlement known as Hayden's Ferry in the early 1870s. In that post-Civil War period, people from north, east and south began trickling into the future Tempe. They brought with them their fiddles and violins, banjos and guitars, harmonicas, and here and there a trumpet or a bugle or a drum. And sometimes there might be a small piano or organ, but rarely because they weren't easily wedged into covered wagons filled with all the stuff needed to start a new life in a new place. Those instruments and their players became part of a musical life in the community on the Salt River that included church services and social gatherings, in-home music recitals for friends, music lessons for young people,



policy.” He changed his mind after his wife’s pursuit of a doctorate in her career of choice during a six-year stay in Washington, D.C., inspired him to think again about pursuing his history interest.

Maybe it helped that Southard kind of “married into history” as well - Tempe history at that! His wife of 10 years, Ashley - now a marriage and family therapist in Scottsdale - is a native of Phoenix, but her great-grandfather was Byron Hunter who for many years owned the Governor Benjamin B. Moeur House in Tempe and made it into an Indian art and jewelry store. A kachina painting Hunter commissioned for the side of the old house is now on display inside Hatton Hall on the west side of the Moeur House. As most Tempe oldtimers should know, the Moeur House at Seventh Street and Myrtle is now “home” to Tempe Community Council but for many years was the domicile of the family of physician B.B. Moeur. Moeur settled in Tempe in 1896, was active in the community, and served two terms as Arizona Governor in the thick of the Great Depression.

In the fall of 2008, Southard applied and was accepted for graduate school at ASU. While working toward a Master’s degree in history, he interned for both Tempe and Scottsdale Historic Preservation Offices and worked on numerous historic preservation projects in Arizona and California. His Master’s thesis was on “Progressing with Arizona: A History of Valley National Bank in the Immediate Post-War Period, 1944 to 1953.” From the fall of 2011 until he took the City of Tempe post in November, Southard worked as a contract historian. He has taught American history at Paradise Valley Community College, provided commentary for several KJZZ pieces on Arizona history and had articles in *The Journal of Arizona History* and *Arizona Contractor & Community* magazine. He is a member of Arizona History Convention, Central Arizona Chapter of Arizona Historical Society, Arizona Preservation Foundation boards, Scottsdale Historic Preservation Commission and the 2015 Arizona Historic Preservation Conference Planning Committee. Except for six years from 2002 to 2008 living in the Washington, D.C., Tempe’s new Historic Preservation Officer has been a Valley resident since his family moved to Scottsdale from California in 1986. While in D.C. area, he managed a Bank of America branch and was a private banker to a select portfolio of high-net-worth clients. The Southards have an almost three-year-old daughter, Natalie, who attends Mission Montessori in Scottsdale. Perhaps her memories of things historic many, many years from now will include how much she loved Disney’s movie, *Frozen*, and the Nick Jr. show *Bubble Guppies*!

Former Mayor Played Some Major Roles In Tempe’s History

For someone who first came to Arizona as a young boy with his Great Depression-uprooted Oklahoma farm family to pick cotton in Mesa - one of many stops in several midwest and western states to help harvest crops of various kinds, Rudy Campbell has had some major roles in some major events in Tempe’s history. He talked about some of them, and of his trials and triumphs in the process, as guest speaker on Tempe Historical Society’s first “Lunch Talk” program of 2015 in January.

Reprising some of the tales from his 2011 autobiography, *“My Four Worlds,”* Campbell recalled instances from his days of service on Tempe’s City Council in 1956-’60, as Mayor in 1966-68 and in between times as one of 14 publicly elected freeholders. The freeholders were to write the document that would make Tempe an incorporated Charter City in 1966. The charter would make it possible for the city to create its own form of government, freeing it from state government restrictions - and it would pave the way for Campbell to become, in 1966, the city’s first mayor elected by the people. Prior to that, the



TEMPE’S FIRST MAYOR to be elected publicly, Rudy Campbell got interested attention from his audience at Tempe Historical Society’s January “Lunch Talk” with tales of some of the trials and triumphs of his four years as a Tempe City Council member and his later two-year term as Mayor. He began his duties as Mayor just as the city was embarking on a new course as a citizens-approved, incorporated “Charter City” in 1966.

- Larry Mishler photo

city’s voters elected members to the City Council and its seven members chose one of their own to be Mayor. As Campbell, who had come to Tempe to help open a bank, pointed out in his book, it only took four Councilmen’s votes to win - the would-be mayor’s and three others. “It took two years to get 16 people to agree” on terms of the charter, Campbell said. Tempe voters ratified it by a vote of 709 to 354 in a special election on October 19, 1964 but the change didn’t become official until 1966. (The charter was approved by Governor Jack Williams on November 12, 1964 and the election of the new Charter City’s first Mayor and Council didn’t take place until the spring of 1966.) On the primary election ticket with Campbell were

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builder Elmer Bradley, who would be his opposition later in the General Election, realtor and then City Council member Harold Andrews, and retired Army Judge Advocate George Malone. With 1,849 votes, Campbell led by nearly 500 votes and went on to win in the General Election in May.

Campbell only served two years as mayor because, he said, "I was only making \$25 a month and my family thought I ought to be out making a living." The former mayor counted as among his major accomplishments in those two years: the hiring of Ken McDonald, who had been on the City of Scottsdale's staff, as new Tempe city manager ("I still think he's the best city manager we ever had," Campbell said); leading the fight to build Tempe's new city hall and police station downtown to keep the area from further deterioration as businesses were moving south - and to build a new library on the south side where Tempe History Museum is now located. Signing the proclamation creating Tempe Historical Society was cited as another accomplishment he was proud of.

But of all his roles with the City, Campbell said he felt helping make Arizona State College a university while he was a member of the Tempe City Council was the most important. One of his first duties as a Councilman was to substitute for then-Mayor Hugh Laird in attending a meeting with Arizona State College President Grady Gammage. He came out of the meeting as a member of the Name Change Committee to promote a state-wide initiative to make the college Arizona State University, a task that would take him to various Arizona cities to speak on behalf of the name change. "We had to fight to change the name to ASU. It had all the qualifications to be a university, but the Regents wouldn't do it so we decided to go to the vote of the people," Campbell said. "Jimmie Creasman (the college's longtime Alumni Director) headed the committee." In November 1958, Arizona's voters passed Proposition 200 making ASC a university by a two to one majority (and - an aside not mentioned by Campbell! - the Tempe college's football team went to Tucson that month and "beat the U" 47-0). While Proposition 200 was a triumph, Campbell noted a couple of "trials" from his days as Councilman. "The Council members wanted Tempe to be a little town," he said. At the time, developers were restricted to building no more than two to three houses in an area. The new Councilman thought there should be more but was told by the Mayor that "he (the mayor) had four votes out of seven" so there was no point in bringing it to a vote.

Campbell also recalled that as mayor he had heard an ASU architect propose a Town Lake project. "He said the dam would cost \$500,000. I said 'we don't have that now.' When (the City) did it later, it cost millions."

REMEMBERING:

Concert Is Tribute For Longtime Latino Orchestra Leader 'Chapito' Chavarria

Rafael "Chapito" Chavarria, for many decades the leader of an orchestra deemed to be the best of the Valley's Latino music makers, passed away in Phoenix on Christmas Eve at the age of 100. So, it will be a special tribute to the son of earlier-day Tempe residents and his music when the Chapito Chavarria Orchestra makes a 7 p.m., May 22, appearance on the Performances at the Museum series at Tempe History Museum. The concert will be free and open to the public. Born in Solomonville, a small community near Safford, just two years after Arizona became a state, Chavarria came to Tempe with his family as a young boy. At nine years old, in 1923, he started playing bass and violin in his father Pablo's band. He also worked, after dropping out of school before eighth grade, for the Hayden Flour Mill, a cotton gin and in area farm fields. After an interlude in the Los Angeles area in the 1930s and service with the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Pacific in World War II, "Chapito" returned to the Phoenix area to lead the Chapito Chavarria Orchestra from the late 1940s until he retired in the late 1980s. His group played at Phoenix's Riverside and Calderon ballrooms and others of the city's best known clubs and dance halls while, on the side, also playing Chavarria's favorite gigs - weddings, plus birthdays and anniversaries, something the orchestra leader continued every weekend for 20 years after he retired. His son Michael said "He married generations."

Bob Hermon Composed Tempe's 'Official' Song For Its Centennial Celebration . .

Robert H. "Bob" Hermon, remembered by many longtime Tempeans as the composer of what is considered Tempe's official song, "Tempe Town," died January 30 at age 81. Husband of Bev Sears Hermon, who served Tempe in the Arizona Legislature for a number of years, Bob wrote the lyrics and music for "Tempe Town" especially for the city's 1971 Centennial Celebration. He led that celebration's big parade singing it to his own guitar accompaniment. A talented guitarist and singer, he sang "Tempe Town," along with other songs in his repertoire, in appearances for other Tempe groups and occasions as well, especially for Tempe Old Settlers Reunions. Hermon meant much more to Tempe than being a guitar player and songwriter-singer, though. An Iowa State College graduate with a degree in Civil Engineering, he started Anderson-Hermon Engineering after he and Bev moved to Tempe in 1963 from their native Iowa. Among the company's many design projects was The Lakes development in Tempe. Hermon had been active through the years in Tempe Chamber of Commerce, Tempe Diablos and Tempe Rotary Club, serving the latter as president. Probably not as well known to most Tempeans was that Bob had spent 30 years conducting ministries in the state's prisons and jails.