



**TODAY, it's as beautiful as just about any cemetery around these days, but Tempe's Double Butte Cemetery - final resting place of many of the community's pioneers - wasn't always so lovely and once upon a time it came close to being closed to burials forevermore. (See story, page 3) - Larry Mishler photo**

### From Our President

## **There's Lots For You In THS's New Season**

Ah, the onset of fall! After months of searing heat, punctuated by a plethora of monsoon storms, we, at long last, can welcome the first few breaths of cool air – the harbinger of what we have longed for. It's my favorite time of year.

The same goes for Tempe Historical Society that has not idled through the summer. Rather, we have been working behind-the-scenes with the museum planning exciting new season of activities – like these:

- ♣ If you didn't visit the cool, comfortable climes of the museum during the summer, now is the time to get reacquainted. Thanks to former Tempe Historic Preservation Officer **Joe Nucci's** terrific postcard collection, **Josh Roffler** and **Dan Miller** working with the CADS (the Central Arizona Deltiological Society) have created **Greetings from Tempe – Quite a Little Town Here** - historic postcards set on a Tempe map showing how Tempe has evolved over the past century.
- ♣ As we prepare for Tempe Historical Society's 2019 golden anniversary, we look forward to your participation in a yearlong celebration. Let us know your memories of the Society and share any photos you may have.
- ♣ The Society's **Lunch Talks series**, our signature event, has invited some of the most interesting and knowledgeable people imaginable to discuss local and state history. Best of all, thanks to Friendship Village sponsorship, our Lunch Talks are absolutely free. We even provide coffee, tea and snacks. Regularly attracting audiences of a hundred or more, there will always be a seat for you.

Topics for 2018-2019 series, which begins the second Wednesday in October, are irresistible. **Kyle Mitchell** kicks off the season with a return visit talking about *life on the Navajo Reservation*.

In November, **Colonel Scott Turner** will reveal secrets of his career as pilot of Air Force One – the President's airplane. Historian **Steve Hoza** kicks-off the New Year with stories of the *"German POW's in Arizona."*

**Marshall Trimble**, Arizona's Official State Historian and always a favorite, has the perfect subject for February – *"Arizona's Rocky Road to Statehood."* **Karina Bland**, who has taken over the *Arizona Republic* column space of the late, beloved Clay Thompson, is Lunch Talks guest in March talking about how *"Arizona women journalists led the way for the next generation – including me."*

**Jay Mark**, former *Tempe Republic* history columnist, winds it up in April taking his audience on a whirlwind tour of Arizona's *"Ghost Towns – specters of the past."*

♣ Along with 50th Anniversary activities, THS continues its **Tree of Lights** observance, annual **Ice Cream Social** and hosting of **exhibit openings**.

Much more is planned for the fall and winter. So, as you emerge from your summer hibernation we invite you to make the Tempe History Museum your first stop to see all that has changed since your last visit.

**-Vic Linoff, THS Board President**



**MODERN-DAY Tempe St. Luke's Hospital, which just celebrated the reopening of its newly remodeled second floor medical/surgical unit, is a beauty, too. But it owes its existence to a long-ago little clinic established by a doctor noted for - well, you can find that out on Page 4.**

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**Hmmm?**  
**Know what this is? Historical Society President Vic Linoff, an antiques guru, is betting you won't. Turn to Page 4 for his debut Whatizit**

## Dine Kyle Mitchell, President's Pilot To Kick Off Season's 'Lunch Talks'

Tempe Historical Society gets its free-to-the-public 2018-19 "Lunch Talks" series off to a start in October and November with a returnee - a Navajo who was a popular guest last season - and an Air Force veteran who flies a unique plane taking the podium as initial speakers. The second-Wenesdays programs are presented in the Community Room at Tempe History Museum, 809 East Southern Avenue, starting at 11:30 a.m.

Dine **Kyle Mitchell** will inaugurate the season, telling guests more about life on the Navajo Reservation where he grew up, when he appears for the first talk in the series on Wednesday, October 10 and November 14. **Air Force Col. Scott Turner** (a name he shares with at least two other fellow U.S. Air Force officers) will be next up on November ?? He'll talk about his career as pilot of Air Force One - the airplane that takes the U.S. President wherever he may need to go, often on a moment's notice.

**Mitchell** currently is American Indian Outreach Coordinator and adjunct faculty member of the Storytelling Institute at South Mountain Community College. He grew up on the Navajo reservation with his grandparents, learning his family's work ethic and oral tradition - every day, he says. Enlisting in the Army after high school, he served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. After military service, Mitchell signed up at South Mountain Community College to pursue degrees in accounting - and, while taking a Mythology class with Liz Warren, was introduced to the storytelling community.

**Col. Turner** will be revealing secrets of his career as pilot of Air Force One for President Obama. He previously served as vice-commander of the Presidential Airlift Group at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. On January 4, 2009 he flew President-elect Obama to Washington aboard a 757 (not Air Force One), which generally carries the vice-president, first lady and other top officials on journeys

One of the most recognizable symbols of the U.S. presidency, Air Force One bears

## "Tree of Lights" To Be Earlier This Year

Tempe Historical Society's 18th annual holiday season "**Larry Campbell Tree of Lights**" reception will come really early this year. It is scheduled for Sunday, December 2 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Community Room at Tempe History Museum, 809 East Southern Avenue. The trees, however, will be on view through Christmas.

The annual project offers individuals an opportunity to remember family members



who have passed on or honor special people in their lives or in the community. They can do so - and help support a trio of worthwhile Tempe programs while they're at it. The project itself honors the late Larry Campbell, a past president of Tempe Historical Society who began the tree tradition in 2001.

Anyone wishing to honor or remember a special person can purchase an ornament for a tree tagged with the honoree's name for a \$10 donation. Again this year there will be two trees - one honoring veterans, one for non-veterans. Ornaments will go to honorees or their families after the trees are taken down.

Forms for purchasing ornaments are available at Tempe History Museum or on Museum or Society websites. Proceeds will help support events or activities of the Tempe History Museum, the Tempe Veterans History Project and Friends of the Library - all partners with the Historical Society in the tree project. Friendship Village is a partner in the tree project, too.

For a second year, reception attendees also will be invited to help decorate several small trees which will be going to Tempe Community Action Agency for distribution to selected families.



Kyle Mitchell

Col. Scott Turner

the wording "United States of America" and images of the U.S. flag & Seal of the President of the United States on its sides. It has to be ready to take the President anywhere in the world on a moment's notice. And you can walk around in it easily while it's in the air.



*THS is indebted once again to Tempe's senior living community for making it possible for the Historical Society to provide the wonderful "Lunch Talks" speakers we are offering you this season.*



*Nearly 12' in length, this curiosity is made of wood, tin and cast iron. The museum has it on display in the Community Building section.*

## WHATIZIT?! Can You Guess?

*Welcome to WHATIZIT?! -- a new Tempe Historical Society Newsletter feature.*

*In each issue we will share an unusual historic artifact gleaned from the vast Tempe History Museum collection.*

*Your job is to see if you can identify it.*

*If you think you know or can't wait for the answer, we will give you a clue to where it may be found in the museum gallery. Otherwise you'll have to wait until the next issue of the newsletter to find out what it is.*

### TEMPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

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**Larry Mishler, Vice-President, & Peggy Bryant,**  
Historical Society newsletter co-editors

# A Place To Be Buried — With Lots of Tempe History

Taking a stroll through Tempe's Double Butte Cemetery at 2505 West Broadway Road, near Double Butte Mountain, is like taking a walk through history - and not just the history of Tempe either.

Names of many of Tempe's leading citizens of more recent years appear on markers, as do those of pioneers whose histories date back to the founding days of Hayden's Ferry, the little community beside the Salt River that very shortly became Tempe. The graves hint of the history of the settlement that grew from small village to small town to bigger town to city - from being part of a territory to becoming part of the 48th state in the United States of America on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1912.

Crosses, headstones, monuments and other markers, including some unique ones, dot the 131-year-old (and maybe much older than that) burial grounds. The cemetery covers about 40 acres. The land for it is believed to have been undeveloped farm land owned by one of Tempe's most prosperous and well-known Valley-wide citizens, Niels Petersen. The onetime Norwegian seaman turned it over to the community for a cemetery in the late 1880s. But even before then, there were signs that a few unmarked burials had taken place there.

John Southard, City of Tempe historic preservation officer, has said that about 82 of 91 Tempe pioneers listed in a book on prominent early Tempeans, are buried in a Pioneers Section at Double Butte. That section also includes local veterans from as long ago as the Spanish-American and Civil Wars. (**Winchester Miller**, an ex-Confederate soldier who had a real "Wild West" sharpshooter reputation, is among the Civil War veterans buried at Double Butte. Only 36 when he died in November, 1893, he had been a Maricopa County Sheriff for a number of years and was a prosperous farmer with land on the South side of Creamery Road between what is today's Una Street and McClintock Drive. Interred at Double Butte are men who served Tempe, the territory and state, the U.S.A. - and the world as well, as founders of businesses, city leaders, Arizona governors, U.S. Congressmen, doctors, firemen and law officers, teachers and veterans of too many wars. Many markers bear names of Mexican-Americans - several generations of families such as the **Abeytas, Acedos** (two-months-old **Manuel Acedo** was the first of that family to be buried there in 1922), **Arredondos, Arbizus, Rodriquez's, Valenzuelas** and many others. Some, maybe many, of those families may have joined others in helping keep Hayden's Flour Mill producing (a few for as many as five generations), helped build the Kirkland-McKinney canal, labored on area farms and created their own businesses, including Mexican restaurants where many Tempeans still get their taco, tostada and enchilada fixes!

Buried at Double Butte, too, are women who endured the hardships of pioneer days to raise families - but also served the little town by the Salt River and the city it became in many other ways. They brought it the civilizing touches of home and family life, culture and education AND many served the town and territory and state as well through the years as nurses, secretaries, teachers, business owners, City Council members, state legislators, founders of social and service organizations, and fund-raisers for multitudes of good causes. One of the most recent burials at Double Butte is that of former Arizona State Legislator **Juanita Harelson**, a member of Tempe's pioneer Law family. She was a State Representative 1972-'82 and then a Senator for many more years.

Sadly, buried at Double Butte as well are way too many children mostly from the town's earliest years: infants, some born dead, toddlers, teens, even some twins. A 12-days-old "**baby girl**" **Laird** was buried there in 1892 - one of 11 members of Tempe's Laird family.

The co-owner of one of the friendliest places in town - **Hugh E. Laird** - was buried at Double Butte on April 18, 1970 at age 87. He was the chatty fellow behind the lunch counter at the Laird & Dines Drugstore at



**NOT SO LOVELY** in earlier days, Tempe's Double Butte Cemetery for many years pretty much still bore a resemblance to the bleak and barren dirt-filled landscape it had been as untilled farm land. Initially burials were helter skelter, taken care of by families of the deceased themselves. A citizens group, the Tempe Cemetery Association, took on care of the cemetery later. But that ended in the dire economy of the Great Depression when, lacking funds, the group disbanded. With no water nor care, according to City Historic Preservation Officer John Southard graves sank, trees and grass withered, the cemetery looked bleak again. In 1958, the City took over the cemetery's care. It's taken quite awhile but Double Butte now has growing trees, green grass and the impressive entryway shown on page 1. (Tempe History Museum photo)

the store from 1901 until it closed in 1964, the lunch counter was a gathering place for many of Tempe's politicians (in fact, it was claimed that a lot of the city's "official business" was conducted at that counter). But just plain folks - even college kids - who dropped in were treated like old friends by Hugh. Both Laird and Dines were Tempe mayors; Dines in 1903-1912, 1916-1920; Laird, 1928-30 and 1948-1960.

Hayden's Ferry/Tempe founder **Charles Trumbull Hayden** is buried at Double Butte, too. But probably the most revered person laid to rest there was "the silent senator" Carl Hayden who fought for and got water reclamation projects for the West in his 50 years in Congress. For the last Hayden to run the Hayden Flour Mill, C.T.Hayden's grandson **Hayden Hayden**, Carl was a father figure.

Double Butte is the final resting place for governors, too.

- Arizona's fourth governor (1933-'36) who had been a member of the new state's Constitutional Convention, **Dr. Benjamin Baker Moeur**. Tempe's Moeur Park and ASU's Moeur Activity building are named for him (he served as Board of Education secretary for Arizona State Teachers College). - **John Howard Pyle**, Arizona's ninth governor (1951 to 1955) and his wife **Lucile Hanna Pyle** (whose parents owned Tempe's early-day Hanna Livery Stable) are among 10 Pyles interred at Double Butte. Among them, Howard's parents Baptist minister **Rev. Thomas Miller Pyle** and **Mary Sue Anderson Pyle**. Rev. Pyle brought his family to Tempe from Wyoming in 1925. A Tempe's high school and college graduate, Howard live a busy life as war correspondent, administrative aide to President Eisenhower, director of the National Safety Council and more. (But many in and out of states still fondly remember him most for his yearly Grand Canyon Easter Sunrise broadcasts).

Among a dozen former Tempe mayors interred in the old cemetery, are Tempe's first appointed (in 1984) mayor **Dr. Fenn Hart**, a physician, and Territorial Normal School Board of Education member. **Garfield Goodwin**, 1924-26 mayor, Normal School star football player, 1930s Arizona State Teachers College board secretary, owner of a Mill Avenue curio shop (and two totem poles); and Benjamin Moeur's grandson **John C. Moeur**, 1964-'66 mayor and nurseries owner who grew up in Tempe.

Also buried at Double Butte are first and last owners of the Tempe Daily News - **Curt W. Miller** and **Frank and Irma Connolly**. Between them (and for a year Miller's grandson Curt), they remarkably kept the TDN running as a six-day-a-week newspaper from 1887 through 1980 when Cox Communications purchased it after Frank Connolly's death and Irma's two-year valiant but unsuccessful effort to save it.



From left: Congressman Carl Hayden, U.S. Representative John R. Murdock, Gov. Benjamin Baker Moeur, M.D., Gov. Howard Pyle

# And A Place To Have Been Born - Once Upon A Time

He was a Seventh-Day Adventist missionary doctor who, with his missionary wife, had not long been back in the states from a Guatemala mission. But it didn't take **Dr. Ernest von Pohle** and wife **Myrtle Gray Arkebauer von Pohle**, also an M.D., long to get settled in and get to work. A place to open a hospital to, primarily, serve the needs of the growing military population of Williams Air Force Base was their first major goal.

Dr. Von Pohle, a graduate of the Adventists' Loma Linda University School of Medicine in California, found that place finally in an old one-story farm house at 1500 South Mill Avenue, Tempe. And on March 2, 1944, the farm house - about half a mile from Arizona State Teachers College (now ASU) - became Tempe Clinic Hospital (seen in picture at right). It was Tempe's first real community hospital, though Tempe Normal School earlier had operated a hospital just for its students under the direction of Dr. Benjamin B. Moeur.

The 10-bed Tempe Clinic Hospital opened with just two patients - and a staff including **Dr. von Pohle**, **Dr. Robert Clark**, nurses **Ione Sharp** and **Sheila Bryant**. It didn't take long before word got around and patients from Tempe and the growing population of Williams AFB families, many moving into Tempe, started showing up. **Myrtle von Pohle** served at one time as a kind of counselor to mothers-to-be and new mothers.

Dr. von Pohle was said to be a kind man, thought well of in Tempe and early on in his "doctoring days" in the town, he became a legend in his own time. He had become fluent in Spanish while a missionary in Mexico and in Arizona. He soon had a large practice in surgery and obstetrics among Mexican-Americans and was said to have delivered more Mexican babies than any other doctor in the area. He frequently went to areas closer to Phoenix to deliver babies of Mexican mothers-to-be because the only hospital in Phoenix would not take Mexican women as maternity patients.

**Dr. Max Taylor**, who was chief of staff at the hospital for a couple of years, wrote years later about the small size of the clinic and its limited number of rooms and the "younger new physicians" who helped him. "The hospital operated with the halls overflowing with patients," he said. "In smaller rooms, patients feet extended into the hallway." The operating room was the kitchen of the old family home and the doctors' dressing room was 5x7-feet.

Yet, Taylor wrote, "It was amazing the volume of surgery that was done in such small quarters," and "the amount of cases with unusual pathology was astounding for such a small hospital. The unusual cases that I saw and cared for were greater than what I was seeing at all of the



**IN A "YESTERDAY" of 74 years ago, Tempe got its first hospital when Dr. Ernest von Pohle opened the little Tempe Clinic Hospital at 1500 South Mill Avenue. Tempe's hospital is still in that general area - but it's much different these days as Tempe St. Luke's Hospital as you can see on page 1.**

bigger hospitals in Phoenix."

Another well-liked doctor joined the clinic staff at a later date. **Dr. Richard Flynn** would eventually have a place of his own (and for one term, a place in the Arizona State Legislature. When he decided against a second term saying he needed to get back full time to his office, the *Arizona Republic* bemoaned the fact and lauded him as the best and most effective legislator of them all.)

By mid-1945, Dr. von Pohle's little clinic had been expanded to become a larger Tempe Community Hospital with a surgical wing and 50 beds (with Tempe Lions Club providing TV sets in each room). And during the final year of World War II, according to several-years Arizona State University Director of Communications **Dean Smith** in his book "**Tempe - Arizona Crossroads**", several hundred babies were born to service couples in Dr. Pohle's little hospital.

In 1960, Dr. von Pohle transferred ownership to the Arizona Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists making it possible to expand to 110 beds. It was at that capacity when Phoenix St. Luke's took on its management in 1982.

Dr. von Pohle, born in 1905, died in Mesa in 1978. His wife died 20 years later in Scottsdale. They are interred in Phoenix's East Resthaven Cemetery.

## The 'Baby War' Has Been An On Again, Off Again Battle

You might look at it as "a baby war" that has been going on at Tempe's only hospital since Phoenix St. Luke's took over management of Dr. Ernest von Pohle's Tempe Community Hospital and it became Tempe St. Luke's back in 1982.

As Tempe St. Luke's Hospital prepared on August 18 to open a remodeled second-floor medical/surgical unit with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, dedicating it to Dr. von Pohle (his daughter **Ellen Hardin** doing the honors), it announced - not for the first time in its history - that it was closing its maternity unit on August 27 for financial reasons. That might have saddened the good Dr. von Pohle who delivered so many Valley babies. But new CEO, **Jeff Egbert**, blames the competition from larger hospitals in Chandler and Mesa for the Tempe hospital's inability to "attract enough physicians to make it viable."

There has been an on-again, off again "baby war" at the hospital ever since Phoenix St. Luke's Hospital took over management of the Tempe Community Hospital and renamed it Tempe St. Luke's Hospital back in 1982, announcing it would close the maternity ward. At about the same time, Tempe's City Council had posted it would be voting on closing Double Butte Cemetery to further burials. A *Tempe Daily News Tribune* article noted that if those actions took place, there would never be another real "native-born" Tempean - unless born at home. Most would come into the world in Mesa or Phoenix hospitals. And Tempeans, even those families who had family buried at Double Butte, would not be able to be buried in their hometown either.

Both St. Luke's and the City apparently got plenty of backlash from Tempe's citizens - because the City kept Double Butte open (and in recent years has made it a much more beautiful place to be buried). And temporarily at least, the last board of Tempe Community Hospital/first board of Tempe St. Luke's managed to convince St. Luke's to keep the maternity ward open.

Again, though, In September 2000, IASIS Healthcare Corp., a Tennessee-based company which first leased and then bought the hospital, said it would close the labor and delivery unit for financial reasons. And just four years after spending about \$3 million to renovate and reopen an 11-bed obstetrics unit, Tempe St. Luke's again blamed poor patient volume and financial performance in its decision to stop delivering babies as of June 15, 2018.

**Jeff Egbert**, the hospital's new CEO, cited poor patient volume and financial reasons for the closure and blamed the competition from larger hospitals in the East Valley for drawing obstetrician-gynecologists (and their patients with them) away from the Tempe hospital. "Patients go where the physicians take them" and in the East Valley, Egbert said many of those physicians are going to larger hospitals in high-growth areas, including Chandler Regional and Banner Desert Medical Center in Mesa, where more than 7,000 babies are born each year.

"Look at the location. Where is the growth of new families happening?" said Egbert. "I don't think it's in Tempe. Where you're seeing growth of new families is in the south and far East (Valley)."