



WE WISH YOU...

A Merry Christmas (as guests at the Historical Society's annual Tree of Life event December 2 at the Tempe History Museum got that wish musically from Tempe High School's amazing Madrigal Choir (at left), directed by THS music teacher Cary Burns. After entertaining with songs from the Renaissance/Baroque eras, the choir ended with Christmas songs we all know as they left the "stage" and wound their way through the room and out the door.

Larry Mishler Photo

HAYDEN'S FERRY DAYS

Heading Toward A Sesquicentennial

Tempe Historical Society and Tempe History Museum continue the countdown to Tempe's 150th birthday- its Sesquicentennial coming up in 2021- with seven days of 2019 **Hayden's Ferry Days** celebrating starting February 22, and winding up on Saturday, March 16. Events will range from the opening Founder's Dinner at historic Hackett House on Friday evening, February 22, to the wind-up event (and a new one to the Ferry Days program) a car show at Kiwanis Park on Saturday, March 16 where you can see history pass by "on wheels."

Tickets for events are already on sale and you can get them at the museum or online at www.tempe.gov/HaydensFerryDays. It's suggested that some events - such as anything happening at the historic and very popular Eisendrath House - will be quick sells

As it has been since Tempe Historical Society and partnering Tempe History Museum inaugurated the Hayden's Ferry Days annual celebration of Tempe's history, the biggest family-oriented event will be the **Hayden's Ferry Days Festival** on **February 24**. The 1-5 pm. event on the museum grounds is to offer music performances, Wild West reenactments, children's activities, "show and tell" demonstrations of technology and crafts of yore and "behind the scene" museum tours. And, says the Historical Society's past president and HFD chairman **Richard Bauer**, a free ice cream social - while the supplies last - celebrating the landmark 50th anniversary of the Tempe Historical Society itself (see page 2 for that story.)

February's activities also will include the traditional **Founder's Day Dinner** at historic Hackett House, 95 West Fifth Street, on **February 22** at 6 p.m. and **"Walk Through History Tours,"** **February 23**. For a second year, the AZ Cattle Company's ranching family will be providing a frontier style dinner - and, making it a real Old West kind of evening, featured on the evening's program will be Arizona's official storyteller and its official balladeer - **Marshall Trimble** and **Dolan Ellis**. (You can figure on getting tickets early for that one!)

Some of the city's oldest buildings will be on the route for the "Walk Through History" tours - among them the Casa Vieja where just about

everybody in Tempe used to eat after the onetime home of the family of Hayden's Ferry/Tempe founder Charles Trumbull Hayden became first a tea house run by Hayden's daughters, Sally and Mary, and later a restaurant, last owned by Leonard Monti. Many oldtimers will have been pleased to learn that ownership of the Hayden building has been returned to the City of Tempe. Will it be a restaurant yet again? We can all hope!

The "Walk Through History" tours will begin at 9 a.m. after a "Share a Continental" breakfast at the Hackett House at 8 a.m. Among the places on the tour will be the Hayden Mill and Tempe Hardware store (which "way back when" provided a classroom for grade school students in its upstairs quarters and later even a theater for a drama group's early productions).

On the same day as "The Walk," February 23, there'll be an **Adobe Houses Bus Tour** from 1 to 4 p.m. It will make stops at some unique homes built with one of the oldest building materials in the Southwest - adobe, a muddy mixture of earth, straw and water most often in days of yore made by Mexican workers stomping the mixture together with bare feet. On the bus tour: the Gonzales-Martinez, Farmer-Goodwin, Elias-Rodriguez, Eisendrath and Sandra Day O'Connor houses.

March 2nd will offer free self-guided **"Landmark Tours"** of the Eisendrath, Hackett, Petersen and Elias-Rodriguez houses and, on **March 3rd**, a garden tea at the unique Eisendrath House and a Victorian tea at Tempe's beloved Petersen House

And the "grand finale" on **March 16** will be another event becoming historic - the 15th Annual **Catch-A-Wave Car Show** founded by the Kiwanis Club of Tempe Nuevo (a free event).

Coming Up: Tempe Historical Society's 50th Anniversary

By Victor Linoff, Historical Society President

2019 is a very special year. It marks the 50th anniversary of the Tempe Historical Society!

With Tempe changing and much of its history rapidly disappearing, a small alliance of concerned, visionary residents realized it was the appropriate time to begin collecting and preserving what remained of Tempe's past so that future generations could better appreciate just how far the once tiny enclave had come since 1871.

So back in the fall of 1967, this dedicated group got together to talk seriously about establishing, "an organization to foster the preservation of historical items relating to the development of the city of Tempe..."

The challenge of actually transforming their ambitious goal into reality turned out to be a much greater effort than any could have imagined.

They persisted however, investing more than a year-and-a-half in debating, wrangling and strategizing just how to formulate an organization that would oversee all the complexities of collecting, preserving and exhibiting the artifacts of our city's past.

Persistence paid off. Everything finally came together on May 15, 1969, just two years head of the city's Centennial. It was the date the Tempe Historical Society became officially incorporated. After which the hard work began in earnest.

Thanks to the Hayden family, who were the first to donate, artifacts began pouring into the Society's collection. How a handful of residents were able to assemble a collection, an archive and open a museum in which to display the artifacts is a remarkable story that we will be retelling and celebrating over the next year.

In order to provide the entire picture, we would love to hear from those of you who were there at the very beginning. What are your memories of that momentous time? Do you have any photographs or memorabilia from those formative years?

As noted, the Society was formed two years ahead of Tempe's Centennial. It is no irony that a half-century later, we are on the cusp of another important historical milestone – Tempe's Sesquicentennial. Our 150th birthday.

Back in 1971, the Centennial was a bang-up celebration with events and activities that spanned from April to October. It included the dedication of the upside-down pyramid that is now our iconic City Hall.

50 years after it was incorporated, the Society is once again being visionary. In 2016, knowing our Sesquicentennial was just five years away, we decided to take the lead on planning a citywide celebration in 2021. So we inaugurated Hayden's Ferry Days. What started as a one-day event will grow to two weekends in the spring of 2019. By 2021, we hope to have a gala birthday that will even outdo 1971.

And we want you to be a part of it – by being a member, by making a financial contribution to the event, by sharing your memories of Tempe's past, or attending one or more of the wonderful events planned.



NO - THEY DIDN'T SHRINK - The full-size Christmas trees for Tempe Historical Society's annual Christmas season "Trees of Life" event were out in front of the History Museum and the "minis" on the holiday decorated table welcomed guests as they arrived for the indoors festivities. Those festivities included a lunch, greetings by THS President Vic Linoff and entertainment by the wonderful Tempe High School chorus pictured on Page 1. Above Society Board Member and event planner extraordinaire Mary Ann Kwilosz (left) and Museum

Trees of Life Planner Earns Lots Of Kudos

Mary Ann Kwilosz is a member of the Board of Directors of Tempe Historical Society - but she's lots more than just a member. Mary Ann plans - and carries out the plans - for the Society's membership and other open to the public special events throughout the year.

Lots of kudos went to Mary Ann for the Society's annual Trees of Life luncheon event at Tempe History Museum on the afternoon of December 2 .

Attended by about ??? guests and Society members this year, the event annually gives Tempeans an opportunity to remember or honor loved ones who have passed on or people in the community they especially want to honor. They do so by purchasing special ornaments - this year crocheted angels - which go on the tree, each tagged with the name of the person being remembered or honored. After the event, the ornaments go to the families of those remembered - or to the person being honored

In addition to the Historical Society's two trees, always included in the Christmas season event is a third tree dedicated to veterans. Ornaments purchased for it benefit the Tempe Veterans Project - part of a nationwide program to collect and preserve the stories of our war veterans.

This year, three small trees with tagged ornaments arranged on a table just outside the Community Room welcomed guests. The big trees were outside.

TEMPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

Victor Linoff President	Gary Looney Treasurer	Mary Ann Kwilosz Director	Woody Wilson Director	Eduarda Yates Director
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(Larry Mishler, Vice-President & Peggy Bryant, Director, also serve as newsletter co-chairmen)			JoAn Cooks Director	

You're A Tempe Oldtimer If you Remember Christmases When: Tempe Shopping Center at 5th and Mill was a happening place to go not just to shop, but....

- to hear holiday tunes sung by Tempe High School vocal groups during weekday lunch hours. Early on when that tradition started, THS was the only local high school. McClintock High singers joined in the tradition after that school opened in 1964, entertaining occasionally at the Valley Fair shopping center on Southern Avenue.

- to take part in the Tempe Shopping Center's one very special evening event at which kids were helped to write letters to Santa and drop them off in a special Santa Post Office box set up at the center just for the occasion, local service clubs and some businesses had tents of a sort offering goods for sale or activities to do and there were various fun things for kids and adults to enjoy throughout the evening,

- The center hosted other special activities throughout the season as well - as did the Broadway Plaza and Valley Fair Shopping Centers. And there was the "big draw" for many holiday shoppers - the toy store in the A.J. Bayless Shopping Center on Apache Boulevard, not to mention the many toys available at the Ace Hardware store in that same center.

The spirit of the season was found just about everywhere in Tempe as:

- three camels bearing Wisemen, created by Arizona State University industrial arts students (when it was Arizona State Teachers College), "rode" towards a large star on Hayden Butte (also known as A Mountain). More recently a menorah has had a place on the mountain top - moved there from a previous "home" atop the Hayden Flour Mill.

- Tempe Jaycees went aloft in a "bucket" to decorate the palm trees that then were a feature along the center island of Tempe's main thoroughfare from Mill Avenue near La Casa Vieja and around the curve on Mill to Apache to march on down that boulevard for a ways too.

- Jaycees also sponsored an annual Christmas decorating competition with awards for not only the best-decorated home but the best decorated block in the citFolks living on Sesame Street pretty much had a lock on that "best block" award. Neighbors there got together each year and plotted a theme (and what better place for some fun decorative characters than a Sesame Street?). So many Tempe homes displayed beautiful or unusual front yard and/or rooftop decorations that neighborhood streets frequently had bumper-to-bumper sightseers traffic,

- Kiwanis Club of Tempe was selling fresh Christmas trees at the triangle Park on the Mill Avenue-Apache Boulevard curve known as Birchett Park, named in honor of Tempe's bird lady.

- Before adjourning for the Christmas-New Year's winter break, school drama and music groups from elementary school through Arizona State University invited parents and community to concerts, plays and other holiday events at their schools and most were well attended (and not just by parents!).

- Carolers (whatever happened to them?) strolled down neighborhood sidewalks singing holiday songs or as one group did one year, sang carols as they rode down neighborhood streets in a hay wagon - and a group in another year sang while traveling around on the the old trolley that was a centerpiece at the Spaghetti Company restaurant, then a popular eating place on Mill Avenue in downtown Tempe.

- Tempe's Salvation Army asked for and got women volunteers in clubs or as individuals to make clothes for dolls. The dolls were delivered - along with other toys, food, clothing and gifts to needy families (and many Tempe organizations and families, as well as individuals, adopted needy families on the S.A.'s list and provided them with such items and even sometimes with Christmas trees. Some Tempe organizations did the same for families in the Victory Acres area served by the Escalante Community Center.

(And nearby Tempe, in Papago Park, Phoenix Zoo sparkled with Zoo Lights and the Desert Botanical Gardens did so with a Southwest Christmas tradition - luminarias).

Two historic Tempe churches contributed to the downtown holiday festivities

- At the First Congregational Church at Sixth Street and Myrtle its historic bronze bell musically pealed often during the holiday month in tune with the season. (A story in itself - like many of the town's pioneer settlers, the bell also came across the country in 1899 - all the way from Ohio). And at Tempe First United Methodist Church on University Drive, just off Mill Avenue, the carrion bells rang out Christmas carols weekdays during noon lunch hour. That happened until the '70s brought many newcomers to Tempe who complained to City officials about the noise and brought the bell-ringing traditions to an end, as was.....

- another tradition at the Methodist Church: a "baby in the manger" scene staged by children on the then-University Drive walkway into the church plaza. Sometimes there was a real baby in the manger (and the babies never seemed to cry!).

Santa and his helpers were very busy during the month getting ready for the big day:

- Santa (who went by the name of **Bob Flowers** off-season when he wasn't doing his Christmas season duties - 9perhaps as a disguise to check on whether or not kiddies were being naughty or nice?) roamed the streets talking to youngsters, made guest appearances at major holiday events and sometimes stopped in to sit for awhile at stores in Tempe and other nearby cities to talk to kids about their Christmas wants. And occasionally he took time to pose for *Tempe Daily News* photographer Jan Young. (For many years, Flowers also took on "off season" work as "the Dutchman" Jacob Waltz, taking visitors on a tour in search of the Dutchman's supposed long "lost gold mine" in the Superstition Mountains).

- Santa's helpers included Mrs. Santa and quite a few older "elves" as well who responded to parents' requests that they call children wanting to talk to Santa. Santa was much too busy at the North Pole getting ready for his Christmas Eve ride to take ALL the kids' requests. Santa's helpers were "headquartered" at Tempe's Senior Center (now the Pyle Adult Recreation Center and located just west of the Tempe History Museum).

and the city's businesses were busy getting us ready for the big day too:

- Stores everywhere in the city's shopping centers and business areas welcomed the season (and customers, too) with holiday art and greetings on their windows - and sometimes even occasional Christmas music wafting from inside the store to outside for passersby enjoyment. (And for some real nostalgia - in late November of 1967 at Broadway Plaza Shopping Center, Livingston's Market grocery store was advertising in *Tempe Daily News* that T-bone steaks were available at \$1.19 a pound, sirloin at 99 cents a pound and at the Beef House restaurant you could get a filet "rib eye" charcoal-broiled steak dinner - including salad, baked potato and garlic toast for \$1.18. And at Crawford's Furniture Store, one could spruce up for Christmas visiting guests by outfitting a spare bedroom maybe with a "solid maple double dresser, mirror, bookcase-or-spindle bed with Hotel Deluxe mattress and box spring set " - all for \$159.99.

Most of those Christmas memories come from the 1960s, some had their beginnings much earlier and a few are still happening. But things began to change in the turbulent 1970s. Decorations at houses got stolen - or were trashed - so people stopped decorating elaborately (or not at all). Newcomers complained about the noise or the lights or the traffic on neighborhood streets or the religious emphasis. Downtown businesses were closing or relocating to the shopping centers. Carolers quit strolling the streets. Kiwanis Club of Tempe soon stopped selling fresh Christmas trees at Birchett Park and the Jaycees ceased to exist in Tempe. It was 25 years after the end of the '60s that Mill Avenue's Fantasy of Lights parade celebrating the season came along. Other new traditions have been added, too - the Tempe Festival of the Arts, the Christmas Boat Parade on Town Lake and holiday-themed programs at Tempe Center for the Arts - including "A Christmas Carol, the musical" on December 16.

Lunch Talks Continue With Three More Speakers Ahead

Tempe's annual series of "Lunch Talks" will be winding down for the 2018-19 series over the next three months with speakers to include **Steve Hoza**, a Phoenix native and recognized authority on the history of World War II in Arizona on January 9; a familiar face on the Lunch Talk series, Arizona's Official Historian **Marshall Trimble**, scheduled to speak on February 13; and longtime *Arizona Republic* columnist and feature writer **Karina Bland** to be the season's final guest on March 13.

Free and open to the public, the programs begin at 11:30 a.m. on the second Wednesdays of the month in the Tempe History Museum's Community Room. Light refreshments and coffee are provided, but attendees are welcome to bring along their own sack lunches if they wish.

STEVE HOZA, a Phoenix native and a recognized authority on the history of World War II in Arizona, will be talking about "**German POWs in Arizona**" (those who were in the state at the time won't forget "the great escape" attempt of the German prisoners of war encamped at Phoenix's Papago Park! Hoza is author of a book on the German POW Camps in Arizona - and also a book on Arizona's WWII aviation training fields. And perhaps for a break from such heavy topics, he also runs the Wallace and Ladmo Show official website (www.wallacewatchers.com))

MARSHALL TRIMBLE (does anybody really need an introduction to Arizona's official historian and most famous storyteller?) The native Arizonan - born on a ranch between Tempe and Mesa, attended Kyrene School and has taught history in East Valley schools but grew up in Ashfork - has been almost an annual Lunch Talk speaker. He will entertain guests this time around with a talk on "**Arizona's Rocky Road to Statehood.**" He has written more than 20 books on Arizona and the West and earned an Emmy for hosting the "Arizona Backroads" TV show.

KARINA BLAND, an award-winning journalist will be coming to "Lunch Talks" in March 13 to talk about an "**Arizona woman journalist who led the way for the next generation - including me.**"

More about her in the Historical Society's spring edition.



STEVE HOZA



MARSHALL TRIMBLE

Thank You



THS is indebted once again to Friendship Village, Tempe's senior living community, for making it possible through a donation for the Historical Society to provide the quality of "Lunch Talk" speakers we are offering you again this season. We also are pleased to have many of the "Villagers" among our Talks attendees. if you see one, introduce yourself - and help

Pleasant Valley War Is Topic For Tempe Museum Speaker

Arizona State University's Bob Stump Endowed Professor of History Eduardo Pagan will be Tempe History Museum's "Third Thursday at the Museum" guest speaker on January 17 - and his topic may be of interest to Tempe Historical Society's "Lunch Talks" devotees, too.

Pagan's topic for the 7 p.m. presentation will be the same as the title of a book he has authored that has been scheduled for publication by the University of Oklahoma Press: "Valley of the Guns: Arizona's Pleasant Valley War, 1882-1892, and the Trauma of Violence." He will talk about the challenges of the new book and lead a discussion with the audience.

The ASU professor was one of the hosts of PBS's "History Detectives" and has appeared in national and international documentaries and television shows. He holds a B.A. degree from ASU, an M.A. from the University of Arizona and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton University in U.S. history and began his college career at Mesa Community College.

The Pleasant Valley War, also known as the Tonto Basin War, was a nearly 10-year feud between the Grahams and the Tewksburys - the former being cattle ranchers and the latter shepherders. One estimate is that as many as 80 deaths resulted from the Graham-Tewksbury Pleasant Valley War.

In the West, where cattle ranching was prevalent, shepherders were considered an enemy because sheep overgrazed the grasslands leaving little for the cattle. Water and property rights also were bones of contention.

Other coming up "Third Thursdays at the Museum" will feature Swarna Sitaram exhibiting art forms of India and doing a workshop and demonstration on one of the art forms for February's "Third Thursday" ; program and in March, it will be "An Evening with Zarco Guerrero" with stories of the Gila and Salt rivers. Guerrero has won awards for his mask-making art, his teaching and his storytelling.

The Museum invites anyone interested in "Third Thursday" programs to "join us for the best local dessert and coffee - and an event that is part artist portrait, part history lesson, part community forum and part creative event. The "Third Thursday at the Museum" programs are open to the public and are free (but donations are welcome).



History Detective Eduardo Pagan

WHATIZIT?! Can You Guess ?

In the second of this new Tempe Historical Society Newsletter feature, your job again is to see if you can identify this "whatizit."

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.

This "WHATIZIT" was a child's toy. It appeared in a 1902 Sears catalogue.

