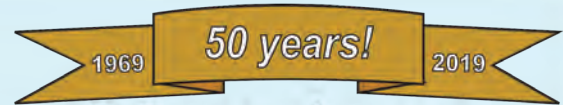




**Tempe
Historical
Society**

Spring 2019



Newsletter

COME HELP US CELEBRATE!

THS Is 50 Years Old And Getting Ever Better!

You'll be hearing a lot about big time celebrating in Tempe over the next few years as Tempe itself nears - and in 2021 reaches - its 150th birthday, its Sesquicentennial. Tempe Historical Society and partnering Tempe History Museum are already well into planning big things for that year's *Hayden's Ferry Days* which just had its fourth annual running in March. . . Then, come 2022, the Tempe Old Settlers Association will reach the ripe old age of 120, having had its beginnings in the fall of 1902 when the Niels Petersens hosted a picnic for all comers on the lawn of their famous



HAYDEN'S FERRY DAYS definitely had its "sweet' moments this year as sponsoring Tempe Historical Society dished up free ice cream for visitors. The special treat was an early celebration of the Society's 50th

Tempe home. . . But before either of those, there's another historical event celebration in the offing - the 50th anniversary of Tempe Historical Society itself.

Mary Ann Kwilosz, Tempe Historical Society Board member and the lady who makes all the Society's special events festive, planned a free-for-all luncheon for Saturday, May 4, to celebrate the anniversary. Set to start at 11:30 a.m. at Tempe History Museum, 809 East Southern Avenue, the event will be free to all Tempe Historical Society members. Making it extra special, some members and officers from the Society's past - even back to its founding - are expected to be among those attending and sharing memories of the work that went into the making of the Society and the beginnings of a Tempe museum.

The founding of the Society will be subject for the day's program, said Mary Ann. Photos and even a video of the Society's formation will be on view to help tell the community organization's history. Reminiscing will be an audience participation part of the program too.

It's anticipated that the Society's very first president and his wife, both instrumental in the Society's founding and events that led up to it, will be among the guests.

And who were they? Tempeans who have been around for a spell will remember a young Tempe Police Department detective who took on the Society presidency initially. With his wife, he had joined several other folks with Tempe pioneer roots in a project that led to the Society's founding and eventually to the creation of the Tempe History Museum. The policeman was native Tempean and Tempe Policeman **Bob Enright** - his wife the former **Sue Westervelt**, daughter of highly regarded Tempe physician Dr. Mark Westervelt.

The project, led by **Helen (Connor) Harter** - a member of a pioneer Tempe family, was the gathering of information about the city's pioneer families as a prelude to Tempe's 1971 Centennial Celebration. The group of women and men interviewed, wrote up or taped the stories of pioneer families of such prominent Tempeans as Carl Hayden, Dr. Benjamin Moeur, Winchester Miller, Ophelia Celaya, Joaquin Bustoz, Dr. Benjamin Baker Moeur, Estelle Hackett, Tempe's famed bird lady Guess Birchett, Howard Pyle and many others.

While planning for Tempe's 1971 Centennial Celebration was the impetus for the information gathered, the interviewees were given historic items by many of their interviewees for use for Centennial activities - but also for the possibility of the hometown history museum that Tempe Mayor Rudy Campbell had indicated the town really needed.

And that museum would come. But first would come the founding of the Tempe Historical Society. You'll be reading more about both in coming issues of the THS newsletter.



WAY BACK WHEN, people actually drove cars like these around town - and they still do in Tempe when Kiwanis Club of Tempe Nuevo stages its annual Catch A Wave Car Show. The show became part of Hayden's Ferry Days for the first time this year with its 15th annual running at Kiwanis Park on March 16. Cars roll down Tempe streets to get to the event which also includes music, food, silent auction and more.

Historical Society Board Gets New Faces

Tempe Historical Society's Board of Directors has added a few new faces to its membership to join continuing members President **Victor Linoff**, Past President **Richard Bauer**, Vice-President **Larry Mishler**, Public Programs Chairman **Mary Ann Kwilosz**, **Woody Wilson** representing the Tempe Preservation Foundation, **Eduarda Yates**, **Carter Rogers**, and **Peggy Bryant**. New to the Board are the folks we introduce you to here.

JoAn Cooks, president of the Tempe Historical Museum's African American Advisory Committee, has experienced success on both sides of the fence - education and business. Armed with an Arizona State University



bachelor's degree in Clothing & Textiles In Business, and a minor in Marketing. JoAn worked for Cloth World (now JoAnn's Fabrics) in Tempe as an advertising coordinator, took the company's Manager training program and became its Phoenix Uptown Plaza Store manager.

Teaching a South Mountain Community College Clothing Construction class led JoAn to decide a teaching work schedule would allow more time with her three young children. She entered an ASU Post-Baccalaureate Program in Early Education, then changed to Elementary Education and got experience working

a job at Mesa Community College's Childcare Center. Plans changed again when she watched a Sunday football game and learned players didn't get adequate mentoring in selecting classes. So she earned an Educational Leadership Master's Degree from Northern Arizona University to become an Academic Program Advisor.

A native of Mound Bayou, Mississippi where she was raised by her grandparents, JoAn went to St. Louis, Missouri the summer after graduating from high school to babysit a cousin. She stayed to go to Harris Teacher's College - and there met her husband of 46 years Charles E. Cooks, now deceased. It was his career with Job Corps that moved them first, briefly, to Lincoln, Nebraska, then to Moses Lake, Washington and finally to Tempe.

She's the mother of two daughters and one son (deceased) and the grandmother of three. And she's an "evolving quilter."

Lawn Griffiths is a new member of the THS Board, but true to his nature, he's already serving as its secretary succeeding Carter Rogers in that role.

Lawn has some 60 years of experience as a daily newspaper writer and editor, including 25 years with the *East Valley Tribune*. In the mid-1980s he was managing editor of the *Tempe Daily News* after it was sold to Cox.

He had begun his newspaper career as farm editor of a Waterloo, Iowa newspaper

Lawn holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Iowa State University and master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University.

In addition to his news writing, he has authored articles for other publications, a book about his (and twin brother Lincoln's) Iowa childhood - *Batting Rocks Over the Barn: An Iowan Farm Boy's Odyssey* - and a 306-page

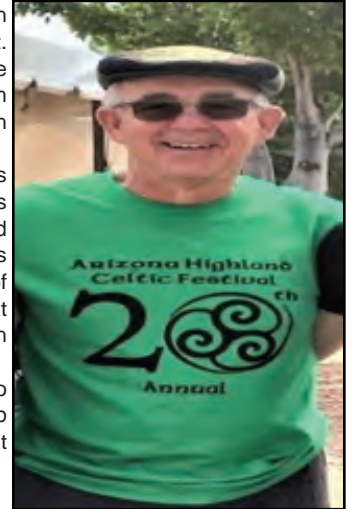


Gary Looney has been an active community volunteer for more than 30 years in a variety of roles from youth baseball coach to dance performance coordinator to business and service club leadership. He has been involved as board member and organizer as well as hands-on help anywhere there is a need. He began volunteering at Tempe History Museum more than four years ago - first

helping with event set-up, then leading school tours as a docent. When he found out about the Historical Society's Museum support, he pitched in to help with Hayden's Ferry Days.

Now he serves as the Society's treasurer which puts to use his knowledge of non-profits and bookkeeping using QuickBooks that he brings from his years of running a business in Alaska. That was after retiring from American Airlines.

Gary is married and has two children - one just finishing up college and the other a senior at Corona del Sol High School.



Marliese Reeves may be new to Tempe Historical Society's Board, but she's no stranger on the premises. A stay-at-home mom and community volunteer while raising two children, she began volunteer work at Tempe History museum "around 1975" and in 1995 became a curator's assistant at the Museum as a part time temporary City of Tempe employee. As such, she was responsible for docent training and

scheduling as well as for running 4th and 5th grade programs with the Tempe Elementary School District.

The lady from the "Show Me" state of Missouri grew up in the small farm town of Slater in that state. She got an education degree from the University of Missouri and then moved to California.

She met husband Glen Reeves "after being "fixed up on a blind date by his mother," she says. She adds that her husband jokingly likes to refer to their having had an

"arranged marriage." But, she adds, "It has been successful for 45 years. Marliese retired in 2016, and now she enjoys life as a gardener, book clubber, cook, traveler and Tempe Historical Society board member.



history of the "Club of Clubs" - the Kiwanis Club of Tempe in which he has been active for many years. A past president of KCOT (and producer of the club's weekly newsletter), Lawn has been president of a half-dozen other Tempe organizations, among them the Tempe Community Council and Tempe Community Action Agency. He has been an active member of Tempe's Presbyterian Church as well. Lawn and wife Patty now have been longtime Arizona residents, raising their children - and helping raise their grandchildren too - in their Tempe home.

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Historical Society Newsletter co-editors

Lunch Talk Series Winds Up For The Season

Tempe Historical Society's annual second Wednesday of the month "Lunch Talks" for the 2018-19 season concluded with its April program, not to begin again until October. The programs, featuring some top notch speakers (many from the South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute), start at 1 p.m. in the Community Room at Tempe History Museum, 809 East Southern Avenue. They are free and open to the public. Those who wish bring sack lunches but coffee and light refreshments are served at no charge (though donations are always welcome!). THS Board member Mary Ann Kwilosz does double duty for Lunch Talks: she not only rounds up the speakers each year - she's the lady who sees to the events' refreshments. Join us when we start anew in October with "talks" also in November, January to April.



MYSTERY MAN Jay Mark promised he would not be bringing the two Orangutans when he entertained at the 2018-19 season's last Lunch Talk at Tempe History

Jay Marks Speaks Of Ghost Towns

He's an adventuresome, but elusive, man - that Jay Marks. But you could have seen him (minus the orangutans) and heard him too when he gave the last of this season's Tempe Historical Society "Lunch Talks" on April 10, at Tempe History Museum.

His topic: "Specters of the Past with Jay Mark" - the specters being some of Arizona's and other Western states' many, many old ghost towns - among them built-on-a-hill Jerome and its fabled hilltop Silver King Mine. He showed slides of many other old mining towns that have become ghost towns.

Historian, photographer, antiques and bookstore owner (including one in Tempe many years ago), newspaper columnist, commercial photography and theater, radio and television professional, Jay Marks has done it all. Also the recipient of numerous awards for service to both Tempe and Mesa, he is actively engaged in issues related to historic preservation, history museums, public transportation and urban planning. Jay has produced eight antiques-related books for Dover Publications and more recently contributed to "And Tiko Tu?," a survey of East Valley mid-century architecture. With Ron Peters, he wrote the definitive history of the iconic Buckhorn Baths in Mesa.



A THANK YOU

Jolene Gosling (at left) executive director of Friends of the Tempe Library shows off the materials she got from the Tempe Historical Society recognizing the organization's sponsorship of Hayden's Ferry Days



THS is Indebted once again to Tempe's senior living community for making it possible for the Historical Society to provide the wonderful "Lunch Talk" speakers we have been able to offer you this season.



Karina Bland

Republic Columnist Was March Speaker

The Arizona Republic may have her now - but Tempe had her first. Tempe Historical Society's next-to-last speaker in its annual "Lunch Talks" series on March 13, was longtime Arizona Republic feature writer and columnist Karina Bland who shared with a large audience some of what goes on in the business of putting out a daily newspaper.

Karina is no stranger in Tempe; she has lived in one of its several historic districts for many years. For some of those years, she worked in a third floor office in a Tempe downtown high rise building where the (Mesa) East Valley Tribune had an office for a spell in the 1980s.

Most readers of her Republic columns have "watched" her son Sawyer grow up in Tempe through her columns - and more recently read about their joint attendance and graduation at ASU.

The award-winning journalist started to work for the Mesa Tribune in 1987 and was lured away by the Phoenix Gazette in 1990. She's been with the Republic since it and the Gazette were merged in 1997.

Karina took over the Republic's top of page 2 column space of the most followed (we would say beloved, but he would have hated that) columnist - Clay Thompson after he died last year. She still does feature stories as well.

Oh, yes - Karina is also a talented tap-dancer and has performed with a tap dancing group - in and out - of the Valley- for several years.

And she has a place in her heart for Marines. Her dad was one.



AND THEN THERE WERE some not so sweet moments! This trio of tough looking hombres showed up at the Fourth Annual Hayden's Ferry Days Festival Society-sponsored festival on the History Museum's grounds on February 24. Ready for a fight are Dakota (AKA Kevin Groninga); Christian Bader (AKA James Bader) and Skeeter (AKA Caleb

NOT A THS OR MUSEUM MEMBER?

With Tempe's Sesquicentennial Celebration Just 2 Years Away, We Could Use Your Help

If you were here for Tempe's virtually year-long Centennial Celebration in 1971, you know how much fun it was, how much you learned about Tempe's founding and how it grew "from scratch," so to speak - things that you didn't know about the city before, how many new friends and acquaintances you made while getting involved in helping with or just attending events and enjoying yourself.

You had fun at street dances and more formal dances, or dressing "Western" with calico dresses and braids or boots and cowboy hats and ever-longer beards being grown by males for the whiskerino contests (or maybe you spent "some time in jail" for NOT having a beard!). You enjoyed meeting oldtimers and hearing their tales about long ago days in Tempe at teas and a fashion show luncheon and many other events where you got to know about Tempe's past and became acquainted - in many cases good friends with - members of some of the city's founding or longtime families.

Before the year was over, what many of the "newcomers" felt was "at home" - REALLY at home in Tempe. Many of them - and pioneer family members too - felt prouder, more in tune with and/or happier about being "Tempeans" and because of that they started getting more involved in city activities, organizations and events - and even in getting new things - like Friendship Village AND the Tempe Historical Society for instance - started.

We're almost 50 years down the road from that 1971 Centennial Celebration. And another celebration is just around the corner. Tempe's 150th birthday - its Sesquicentennial - will be here before you know it in 2021 and there is lots of planning already underway for it. Tempe Historical Society and Tempe History Museum - two entities that grew out of that Centennial celebration - are already deeply involved in planning to make it a "real happening" that you will have something to tell your grandchildren about (and maybe encourage **them** to begin plans for Tempe's Bicentennial year!).

What most Tempeans probably didn't know in 1971 was how much the Centennial celebrating cost the City and the groups involved in putting on all those special events. Many businesses, organizations and some individuals chipped in to help in the planning of, funding and putting on activities and special events. For the Sesquicentennial, Tempe Historical Society and the History Museum are hoping to get even more groups and individuals involved early.

But even if you aren't a business or organization and aren't really wealthy, there are ways you can help (and actually get benefits for yourself from doing so, too). The Historical Society hopes more of you will become Society members (renewals started this month as the membership year begins in May.) Memberships range from \$25 for supporters with steps on up to \$500 for Legacy individual life memberships or \$750 for couple life memberships. All of them come with special invitations to events and a 10% discount in the museum store (and there are some great books and unique items there!). There are special gifts for higher levels such as artist-rendered note cards and books on Tempe. Your Society memberships also help support Tempe History Museum - and special events for special occasions like Sesquicentennials.

WHATIZIT?! Can You Guess ?



At left is this issue's WHATIZIT? puzzler - a once popular 19th century novelty. Can you guess what those interesting things were for? Look closely - things aren't always what they seem to be, says WHATIZITs provider Vic Linoff.

And the same could be said for the puzzler above which is one that should have been in winter's issue but didn't make it for lack of space. So we'll give it a second chance! Answers to both WHATIZITS will be in summer's newsletter issue.