



# COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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## CHRISTMAS TREE PASS



Buckhorn Cholla Cactus

Tis the Season!

Christmas Tree Pass gets its name from the scattered pygmy forest of junipers and pinyons growing among the rocky ridges of the Newberry Mountains.

Years ago, some passer-by started a tradition of decorating some of the trees and cacti with leftover Christmas decorations and other shiny or colorful items, including beer cans and even underwear. The National Park Service takes a dim view of leaving refuse in areas it administrates, so the debris disappears, only to be persistently replaced.

The pass lies south of craggy, 5,600-foot Spirit Mountain, a cultural heritage. Dominating the Newberry Ridge, these distinctive peak features prominently in creation stories and religious

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karole Finkelstein – President  
Ralph Patterson – Vice-President  
Brenda Warneka – Secretary  
Carla Lucas – Treasurer  
Laurie Thompson – Director  
Robbie Adams – Director  
Denise Vallon – Director  
Terry Shurte – Director

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Merry Christmas everyone! I am also wishing you all a very healthy and happy 2022!

We had our annual membership meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup> and we have four new board members. I want to thank and congratulate our newest board members for choosing to serve. Robbie Adams and Denise Vallon will be serving a 3-year term. Terry Shurte will be serving a one-year term. Our officer's will remain the same.

I am looking forward to the new year to see what good things will continue to come out of the museum. A heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers for your dedication and hard work. You guys are the best!

Karole

traditions of several regional Native American cultures. Home to life-giving springs, game animals and many useful plants, the mountains were special to the desert people along the Colorado River.

One canyon, called Grapevine was carved by flood waters and bears proof of its importance with one of the most extensive displays of ancient rock art in Nevada. Boulders on either side of the intermittent stream are covered with petroglyphs made hundreds of years ago. Among many enigmatic symbols, without meaning to modern visitors, are recognizable depictions of animals, including bighorn sheep. Take plenty of photos, but resist touching or climbing on the rock art. In wet years wild grapes grow prolifically

Even in a year of scant rain, travelers on Christmas Tree Pass Road will see wildflowers and various cacti in bloom in the spring and fall. Watch for them where water collects along paved roadsides and among boulders. Starting first on south-facing slopes, the blossoming moves into the pass as the season advances.

The maintained road over the pass will eventually intersect Nevada N-95 near Cal-Nev-Ari, NV.

### HONEY BAKED HAMS

We will be selling our tasty Honey Baked Hams for Christmas. Proceeds benefit our building fund! Please call Susana Van Sloten at (928)- 234-4807 and get your order in asap!

### NEW FIRE-RESISTANT FILE CABINET

The Collections committee was able to secure a brand new 4 drawer fire-resistant file cabinet through a \$2000 grant awarded to the museum by the Arizona Historical Society. The museum's share of the purchase was approximately \$700. This will allow us to further protect some of our historical documents and photographs. We were to find a local vendor for the purchase which made the delivery so much easier.

### COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

Cheryl Mangin – Curator  
Laurie Thompson – Archivist  
Carla Lucas – Asst. Archivist  
Richard Dotson – Asst. to the Committee  
Jim Lucas – Asst. to the Committee

### DONATION GUIDELINES

What we are looking for is any artifact that is pertinent to our Tri-state area. This includes, but is not limited to, photographs, family histories, military activity, Davis Dam, Native Americans, steamboats, ranching, fossils, explorers, highways, historical maps, churches and service clubs, businesses, and mining.

Please keep in mind, these are the guidelines we use if you choose to donate an artifact in your possession:

- Is it of museum quality?
- Is it pertinent to our area of interest?
- Do we already have as good or a better prime example of the artifact?
- Does the provenance of the artifact or material increase its significance?
- Is the donor the legal owner of said materials?
- Do we have enough resources to maintain/store/display it.
- We cannot accept an artifact with stipulations on it such as it must be displayed in a particular way or time period.
- We do not accept loans.

Give us a call at the museum if you have an artifact or historical item you would like us to consider!

We are actively seeking local historic photographs and Mohave Valley Daily Newspapers before 2010.

## THANK YOU

The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to recognize our two retiring board members Dick Warneka and Jeanette Miller for their years of service as directors on the board.

Board service is one of the toughest volunteer roles of all and we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge you for your contributions to and on behalf of the museum!

We wish you well in your next endeavor(s) and sincerely thank you for your service.

## WALTER TO VISIT DECEMBER 18TH



On Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 2:00 p.m., Walter the Orphaned donkey and Mayor of Oatman, AZ will be here dressed in his Christmas regalia to take photos with his adoring fans here at the museum.

Making his third appearance at the museum we are so happy to give you the opportunity to interact with this fun little donkey.

Owners Brad and Kelly Blake will be here to answer questions, sign books and visit with you. We are hoping Walter's second book will be out and available for purchase at this time, but there is no guarantee as shipping has been delayed.

## BOOM BOX PARADE



A group of volunteers headed up by Barbie Brandt restored our vintage farm wagon, decorated it and used it on a float in the Boom Box parade on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The repairs were done by David Owens and Don Dunkelman. The box was carefully removed and shored up with new timber. The seat was stabilized, and the entire wagon was given a new coat of paint.



Pictured are Robbie Adams, Barbie Brandt, Carol & Ray Wesch, and Venus Munan all decked out in holiday cheer. Doug and Mary Wall drove the tow vehicle.

Great job everyone!