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MUSEUM NUGGETS

DECEMBER 2011

LACE EXHIBIT: FINE FOR A DANDY



DELICATE AND INTRICATE, the lace on display in the Ansbrough Auditorium speaks of skill and patience, as well as beauty. From the collection donated by Carolyn Johnson, the exhibit shows patterns and uses for the elaborate work.

Lace is more an absence than a presence in fabric. Holes, either removed or woven, define a negative space that transforms thread into intricate patterns, shapes and scenes. True lace, that is, a fabric resulting from manipulating threads without benefit of a supporting background, was not made until the late fifteenth century.

Initially, lace embellished vestments worn by Catholic priests. As the sixteenth century dawned, intricate designs appeared in earnest and were adopted by the noble class. This "lacies" (darned netting or "spiderwork") evolved into many patterns of great detail and intricacy, including flowers, whirls and scenes with people or animals.

Much as today, lace was used on beds, linens and other decorative pieces for the home. Lace took on another role in the sixteenth century: that of fashion statement. Queen Mary of England spent £1,900 in 1694 on lace. Noble ladies were not the only ones vying for lace to accent their wardrobe. Men added the elegance of lace to their clothing as well. Records show that King William spent three times as much as his wife Queen Mary on laces for collars, headdress and other clothing items.

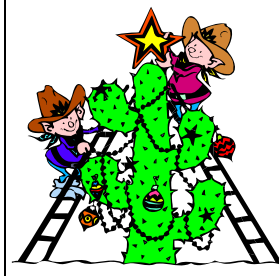


The National Portrait Gallery, London

By the 1700s, lace was the height of fashion. Vast quantities of ostentatious pieces were worn to display wealth. Many socialites owed their lace merchants hundreds or thousands of pounds. By the reign of Louis XIV, anybody who was anyone had a fontange, a tall wig with starched laces supported by wires for a truly regal pose. Ties

(Continued on page 5)

Cowboy Christmas Free Popular Family Program Sunday, December 4



ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., launch your holiday season with a rootin'-tootin' afternoon of fun, games and special guests!

Share seasonal cheer with staff and volunteers at the Museum for the fourth annual "Cowboy Christmas". Put your own 'brand' on some holiday ornaments and make it and take it projects for all ages. Play cowboy games. Chow down on holiday grub. Delight in a special guest. So, round up your wranglers and head down to the Cave Creek Museum for an afternoon of Christmas ~ cowboy-style!

Come Early! Photos and up-close visits with Dusty and Cowboy Claus from 12:45 to 1:15 p.m.

Powerful machines, loaned and operated by APS, moved heavy pieces of the stamp mill assemblage into place in time for the November 15 Miners' Dinner.



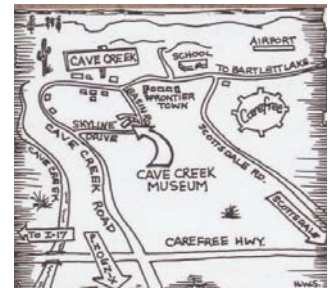
Pictured above is the ore feeder being lowered into position for installation (below). Now for the gold!



Watch the January Nuggets for more pictures and description of the Stamp Mill Project.

(photos by Charlie Connell)

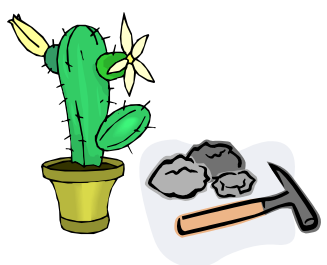
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 and tubercular cabin



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Make History! Join the Cave Creek Museum

All memberships include a ten percent discount in the Museum Store, free entry to the Museum with membership card, and monthly newsletters.

For membership, volunteer opportunities or other Museum information, call **480-488-2764** or Email: **info@cavecreekmuseum.com**

Visit the Museum Website at : **www.cavecreekmuseum.com**

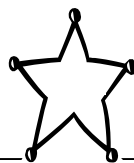
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Contact any of the following Board Directors with your comments and ideas to make the Museum even better!

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The Mission of the Cave Creek Museum is to preserve the artifacts of the prehistory, history, culture and legacy of the Cave Creek/Carefree foothills area through education, research, and interpretative exhibits.



CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS

~President's Letter~

HOPE YOU HAD A MOST ENJOYABLE and Happy Thanksgiving! Our Thanksgiving was spent in Illinois with all five of our children, their spouses and grandchildren. There were 12 of us under one roof. What fun we had, but I am happy that I live in sunny Arizona.

November at the Museum was a great time, too. We started the month with a most successful Wild West evening at Cartwright's, with fantastic food and great entertainment by Icons of Arizona. We plan to make this a yearly event and look forward to seeing many of you return again next year. It was a sellout.

Next came the introduction of the book *Christmas Traditions and Legends* by author Doris Baines on Saturday, November 12. The book makes a great gift and is on sale in our museum store, along with other unique gift ideas.

Take some time to peruse through our store before the holidays for that special gift. Consider stopping by to purchase "Cave Creek, Uncovered", the DVD that tells many of the secrets of the town of Cave Creek.

The Second Annual Miners Dinner was also a huge success that moves us closer to completing the Stamp Mill. How exciting to see the "crusher" working and the "stamps" in place. I said, "we are closer to the completion", but we still have a long way to go. Any additional support that you can give is greatly appreciated.

In December, you will not want to miss *Cowboy Christmas* on Sunday, the fourth, at 1:30 pm. This is always a fun event and the children have a very festive time.

2011 will soon draw to an end, and 2012 will come swishing in. The Museum has many great things planned for the coming year, antique appraisals, author's month in February, children's programs, and much, much more. Make sure to keep an eye to this newsletter to learn more about Cave Creek's best kept secret, our museum.

Happy New Year,
Pam DiPietro

~Your membership supports collections,
preservation and educational programming
at the Cave Creek Museum.~

Got Old???

We are looking for artifacts for loan from 1912 for a Centennial display. If you have an item or two to loan from that time, please contact Joe DeVito (480) 748-8099.

Artifact of the Month

ENJOY THIS McDONALD RE-CONSTRUCTED CORRUGATED BOWL, one of several in the Museum. McDowell Corrugated is primarily restricted to bowl form. This unusual type is classified as Mogollon Brown Ware. McDonald is a place near Arizona's Mogollon Rim where this ceramic type was first described.



Look at this bowl carefully. Do you see the difference in the sherds that have been glued together to reconstruct this ceramic piece? Some of the pieces show a nice painted design. On other pieces you can hardly define the art work, Why? The sherds that show the design most clearly were buried in the dirt and protected. The pottery that was exposed to the elements show damage.

The piece was badly broken but has been artfully reconstructed. The damage does not prevent us from seeing the pleasing classic bowl shape and the thin sidewalls, marks of a skillful potter. The bowl is almost flawless.

While the clay was damp, the outside was painstakingly corrugated, except for a smooth band by the rim. Then the corrugation was partly flattened, making a surface for painting. This "Patterned" variety has red and white diamonds and chevrons including some red zigzags that are nearly obliterated.

The inside is blackened or smudged. Some of the black surface may have been worn from use, while some was removed by hundreds of years of being under the soil.

McDonald Corrugated is hard to date. Some archaeologists date it from AD 1200-1350; others date it from AD 1100-1350.

This vessel is from the Museum's Heckel Collection.

Bittersweet...
friends gathered at the Museum for a surprise potluck luncheon on November 1 to celebrate the retirement of longtime volunteer and office "maven" Jean Marsh (pictured right with Evelyn Johnson).



CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS



Noah S. Kendrick, Financial Advisor, AAMS

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ONE OF THE BEST DEALS in town, Culture Pass is a free admissions program to such venues as the Heard Museum, Phoenix Art Museum and, of course, the Cave Creek Museum! Passes, good for seven days for two people, are available at a local public library, including the **Desert Foothills Library**, until April 1, 2012. To see a full listing of **FREE** attractions and more, visit: www.theculturepass.org.

We thank the sponsors, including the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and Macy's, for promoting the program.

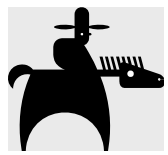
Historian Patrick Grady shares interesting background on ...

Place Names

VERMEERSCH ROAD - Leading back to Gateway Desert Awareness Park, this half-hidden street is named after Jules Vermeersch. Jules received his homestead patent in 1934 on 40 acres up near the top of Fleming Springs Road. He even had several mining claims in the Cave Creek Mining District. He ran a very successful machinery/equipment distribution business in Phoenix. Jules was quite a real estate speculator in Cave Creek, Avondale and the Phoenix area for a number of years.



If you haven't been to Gateway Desert Awareness Park, check it out. Plants are identified as one walks pleasant trails that meander through washes and vegetation.



CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS

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MUSEUM HAUNTINGS

The Museum Ghost is baa-aack.

She says:
 I love the holidays! The Museum looks so festive and children fill the halls for their special December 3 holiday celebration!

Visit our ghost on twitter:



Find great holiday treasures and gift ideas at the Museum Store!



Shop the Museum Store

Books*Jewelry*Gifts

open during Museum hours

**~NOT-TO-BE-MISSED ~
 UPCOMING MUSEUM
 EVENTS!**



★Saturday, December 3:
 Thieves' Market Fundraiser—
 visit the Museum's booth for great deals!

★Sunday, December 4:
 Free Family Holiday Party with crafts,
 games and surprise visitor! ★

🎁Coming Up in the New Year🎁

★Saturday January 21:
 Antique Appraisal Days ★

★Saturday, January 21:
 Children's Program—Miner's Diets

Thanks to all our Business Members

CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS



Lon Megargee
Cave Creek Cowboy Artist

Cave Creek has a reputation as a haven for artists, as evidenced by Hidden in the Hills. This may well be the legacy of Lon Megargee, who is generally considered Arizona's first cowboy artist. His brief time in Cave Creek may have helped to establish the foundation for our beautiful desert foothills as an inspirational environment for artists.

Lon Megargee had a larger than life adventure in our State and around the world as cowboy, artist and husband to seven wives! Through all of his struggles, with women and finances, he maintained this robust and virile image along with a sense of humor, all depicted in his art. He earned his spurs by working on ranches all over Arizona — his uncle's ranch in Phoenix; the Bull Ranch in Wickenburg; the Three Bar in the Tonto Basin at age 17 (1900); then for Billy Cook's spread over in the New River area, where he became the foreman and a champion bronco buster by age 24. He went into the cattle business, starting his El Rancho Cinco Uno, eventually owning 600 head.

The story goes that he lost it all in the drought (probably about 1909; the same drought that did in the Linville Ranch along Cave Creek). Somehow he met Governor Hunt, who saw some "doodling" of his and suggested Lon submit some sketches for proposed murals at the State Capitol. While Lon had no formal art training, he apparently had done some pencil drawings and even worked with charcoal from his campfire. With the Governor's encouragement, Lon went off to Los Angeles to learn to paint. He was commissioned



Great Way to Welcome the Holidays

Doris Baines (right), with Karen Friend, displays her book **Christmas Traditions and Legends**, following her recent program at the Museum. Her book is available in the **Museum Store**.... just in time for Christmas!

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in 1913 to paint 15 murals for the State. A number of those are still on display at the State Capitol.

His career gathered momentum over time with covers for western magazines ("Western Story Magazine" in the 1920s, in particular), illustrations, more murals (Westward Ho in downtown Phoenix and the Jokake Inn, now the Phoenician). He also did portraits of cowboys and Indians and images for the Stetson Hat Company. He lived part-time in Taos, New Mexico in the 1920s, moving back to Phoenix later that decade, whereupon he built Casa Hermosa (known today as the Hermosa Inn) in the early 1930s. He lived there until 1941, when yet another messy divorce apparently compelled him to sell.

However, this was Cave Creek's good fortune, for he moved here sometime after that, eventually building a home off Spur Cross Road on Grapevine Road in the mid-1940s. It was from our town that he painted his famous A-I Beer ads for the Arizona Brewing Company. His "Cowboy Dream," painting was one of the more popular, selling over 20,000 posters. Lon depicts a cowboy taking a snooze, lying with his head on a saddle, his hat slung over his face; and a nude woman on a horse in the clouds above—classic Megargee.



It was during this time that he met Hermine Summer Breitner. An editor and writer, she had moved to Cave Creek in 1945, with her husband and two children.

(Continued on page 5)

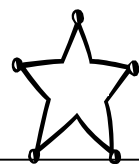
♪ Oh what fun it is to buy in the one-stop ♪

Cave Creek Museum Store

Enjoy the holiday display of gift ideas in the center of the Museum Store

Remember! Museum members receive a ten percent discount at the Museum Store.





CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS

Docent's Corner

IT WAS A BRUTALLY HOT SUNDAY AFTERNOON in the southeastern Montana territory. The infamous date was June 25, 1876 when Northern Cheyenne, Lakota (Sioux) and Arapaho battled the esteemed United States Seventh Cavalry. A decision to divide the U.S. battalion into three "columns" was ill-advised for this iconic confrontation, as was leaving behind three rapid-firing Gatling-Guns due to formidable ravines. One-third of this military-triumvirate would not see June 26, and they sadly entered American lore. The Lakota called this bloody conflagration the "Greasy Grass Fight." You may know it as the "Battle of the Little Bighorn!"

Graduating at the bottom of his 1861 West Point class, and twice court-martialed, thirty-six year old George Armstrong Custer, the leader of 210 souls on this fateful day, was the youngest brevet Major General in the history of America. Flamboyant and fearless, this confident military leader recruited a newspaper reporter into his column of fighting men to document the impending "glorious military victory." Joining this doomed column were Custer's two brothers, a brother-in-law and a nephew. In less than an hour, it was mercifully over. Mutilation unceremoniously followed.



Guns exhibited in the Pioneer Wing exemplify firearms used by early settlers.

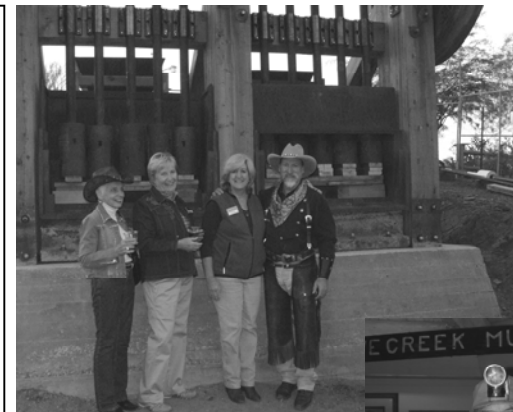
Why such an ignominious result for the Cavalry? Among many controversial explanations, two are salient: out-numbered and out-gunned. The collection of Native American combatants numbered between 1000 and 1500. Armed with a plethora of diversified, deadly weapons, 25

percent of the Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho were armed with the Winchester repeating rifle according to Gregory F. Micho, author of the *Encyclopedia of Indian Wars*. In addition to the Colt single-action revolver, General Custer's men were armed with the 1873 *Trapdoor Springfield rifle*. This rifle was the standard issue, **single-shot**, for the U.S. Cavalry. Single-shot Springfield verses the "Winchester" repeating rifle? Oh my!

The rifle that "Won the West," the Winchester; and the 1873 Trapdoor Springfield; the *Kentucky Long Rifle*, similar to one used by Daniel Boone; the "Hawken, Mountain Man's Rifle," similar to one used by Christopher Houston "Kit" Carson; and other historic rifles, are to be observed, revered, and celebrated at the Cave Creek Museum. They're here and ready for your inspection!

See you at the Museum soon! Give it your best shot....

Kraig Nelson, Docent



Celebrating the Stamp Mill's Progress at the Miners' Dinner. Above: Nancy Black, Dian Flach, Karen Friend and Mike Ewing.

Right: Al Zerman wears one of his many hats—this one with a miner's lantern.



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CAVE CREEK MUSEUM NUGGETS



Holly and Al Zerman (right) show tools to Grace and Paul Schoonover, and Geri Voss.

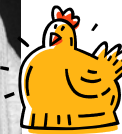
Miners' Dinner 2011

A classic Arizona evening of comfortable temperatures and clear skies set the scene for a perfect evening of dining, visiting and assessing the latest advances in the Stamp Mill Exhibit. The impressive mill now has its giant stamps in place.

Bob Doerzbacher enjoys Dutch oven good vittles.



Sue Beastall, Burt Heikens and Joe Dollison visit a spell.



Mike Ewing's melodies set the a western tone.



Smiles abound: (left) Joni Chattman and Chris DiChiara; (right) Stephanie Bradley and John Voss enjoy the event.



Wild West Days: Icons of the West

Cartwright's was the setting for splendid dining and top entertainment. Among the performers were (pictured left, left to right) State Historian Marshall Trimble, Wild West Editor Bob Boze Bell, Guide Johnny Ringo, and State Balladeer Dolan Ellis.

John Wayne Anderson (right) revived the "Duke".

Part of the event proceeds benefited the Museum. In addition, the evening brought an unexpected windfall when a poster, autographed by the event performers was auctioned. The high bid of \$1000 went entirely to the Museum.



(Lace continued from page 1)

called lappets were the most elaborate element, draping down along side the structure but never actually tied.

Lace was so valuable that it was a target for smuggling and theft. Thieves slit open leather backs of hack coaches to take the lady's 'head', that is, her fontange and lappets. Police asked ladies to sit in the carriages with their backs to the horses.

The glorious era of lace ended in the late 1700s with the demise of aristocratic society, but its appreciation for its beauty and elegance continue to this day.

You might want to try your hand at tatting. A booklet accompanying the Museum's exhibit describes the art craft of tatting, nearly a lost art in the age of machine manufacturing. —Nicole Honga and Stephanie Bradley

(Lon Megargee continued from page 3)

dren. In 1952, Hermine, then divorced, became Lon's seventh and final wife. She was 41; Lon was 69. Shortly thereafter, the Megargees moved back to Phoenix for four years and then to Sedona in 1956, whereupon he built yet another home. Lon Megargee passed away there in 1960. A 1981 "Southwest Art" magazine article described Lon as an "Arizona Legend . . . His paintings reflected the spirit of the west as no other artist had before. They affirm his legacy as the Cowboy-Expressionist of the southwest." Another writer wrote that "His use of color and organization of form were outstanding, revealing a mastery of storytelling skills."

The Museum has several of Lon's prints in its collection. Take the time to see the artistry of a true cowboy artist. —Patrick Grady, Historian