

Sierra Vista Historical Society Newsletter

SVHS NEWSLETTER

May
2010
Volume 8 Issue 2

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Marion Margraf, *editor*

Spring doings

President
Tom Shupert
Vice-President
David Santor
Treasurer
Tim Doyle
Secretary
Ingrid Baillie

ARTICLES

NEW OFFICERS

New officers for the 2010-2011 Year were elected at the May 21, 2010 Member luncheon.

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OPPORTUNISTS

Ed Riggs continues the history of 19th century notables in our county. Part One of John Harris Behan.

Continued on Page 3

MUSEUM NEWS

Curator Nancy Krieski talks about the exhibit that the teen volunteers are tackling.

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Amazing Arizona presentation at the Ethel Berger Center, p. 8



Toys, p. 2



Johnny Behan, p. 3

Also inside:
The HHM Heifer
and the T-shirt
project.

Curator's Corner &

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The museum teen volunteers are creating an exhibit highlighting the evolution of toys throughout the 20th century (1900-1999). They would like YOUR participation. If you know of someone who has a vintage toy they would consider loaning for this exhibit, please have them fill out the form that we will be emailing soon with a photo of their item/s and mail or bring it to the museum by June 10th. You can also stop by the Ethel Berger Center to pick up a loan form. These forms are being put into a binder for student use. The students will go through the loan possibilities and decide which ones they would like to include in their exhibit. These ambitious young people are researching, designing, and producing the entire exhibit. I think you'll be impressed! We appreciate your help.

The "Toys of Our Lives" Exhibit Open House will be held, Saturday, July 17th from 1-3pm. Hope to see you all there!

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all who helped in creating and attending the finest gala event in Sierra Vista! The historical society's "Ambiance & History" was a huge success and all who attended want to come back next year. Your many efforts in supporting the museum are greatly appreciated!

The Corner Cupboard

For those of you who remember the Landmark Restaurant, we now have a new addition to our little display that will transport you back to those many times celebrating anniversaries, birthdays, or sports awards celebrations. Jo Ingram has generously donated one of the square orange tables from that iconic restaurant. Now, all we need is one of the chairs to make our Landmark corner complete! We thank Mrs. Ingram for her support of the museum.

Until next time,

Nancy Krieski

I can be reached at 417-6980 or email me at
<Nancy.Krieski@sierravistaaz.gov>



Tombstone 1881: A Sampling of Rogues--A Glorification of Thugs

by Ed Riggs

Besides the prospectors and miners who came to Tombstone to search out wealth in the form of silver ore, others arrived to search out alternate ways to strike it rich. This is one of a series of articles about those who came to Tombstone, Arizona Territory. Some were rogues or thugs, some were not. You get to decide in which category they belong.

John Harris Behan

In Part One, Behan leaves a troubled border state to seek his fortune in the gold fields of California and avoid the Civil War battles in the east. He discovers the potential riches in the new Arizona Territory, makes a move on the stepdaughter of the local sheriff, and finds it easier in the political arena than in the mines to enrich his pockets.

John Harris Behan was born on October 23, 1844 in Westport (now part of Kansas City), Missouri, the first son of Peter Behan, a carpenter born in 1809 in Kildare County, Ireland, and Sarah Ann Harris, born in 1820 in Kentucky. John was the third child born into the family and had 5 sisters and 3 brothers. John left Missouri at 17 or 18, near the start of the Civil War, and made his way west to the San Francisco, California area, working as a miner and freighter.

Behan joined Carleton's California Column of Union Volunteers, fought in the Battle of Apache Pass July 14 & 15, 1862 and then settled in 1863 in the Tucson area before moving on to Prescott, the new territorial capital. He served as undersheriff for Yavapai County Sheriff John P. Bourke (whose 14-year-old stepdaughter was Behan's future wife) in 1866, and was

then elected Sheriff in 1871. He was elected to the Territorial Legislature in 1873 from Yavapai County (Prescott), and in 1879 from Mohave County (Signal) and also served as Yavapai County Recorder. (During the 1870s, the Territorial Legislatures met in January once every two years, with the sessions lasting only 4 to 6 weeks.) In 1874 he attended the meeting in Tucson--by then the territorial capital--of an attempt by Democratic legislative members to organize the Democratic Party caucus. (Even though it was the largest town in the new territory, Tucson had not been named the original territorial capital because of its strong confederate sympathies in 1863.) Throughout his time in Arizona, Behan worked in mines or saloons when not holding a political office or appointment.

In 1869, John married Victoria H. Zaff, 17, born in

California to Harriett Zaff (a widowed German immigrant who remarried in 1860 to John P. Bourke, later sheriff of Yavapai County in 1866-67). They had two children: a daughter Henrietta, born about 1870 who died in childhood of scarlet fever, age 7, and Albert, born on July 7, 1872.

Victoria Behan sued for divorce from John in 1875 in Prescott, naming a 15-year-old prostitute, "Sadie or Sada Mansfield", in the proceedings. Some accounts state that Josephine Sarah Marcus ran away from home (in San Francisco) in late 1874, and was in Prescott at this time. She would have been about 15 in 1875. Other accounts put the runaway in 1879.

By June of 1880, John Behan had returned from Mohave County and was working at Tip Top in southern Yavapai County in a saloon. He didn't arrive in

Tombstone until September 1880, 10 months after the arrival of Wyatt Earp and other members of the Earp clan. John's ex-wife's remarriage may be an answer to why his son Albert ended up with his father in Tombstone. Victoria Behan remarried sometime after 1880, to Charles A. Randall, a hardware merchant, and died on May 15, 1889 and was buried in Prescott. Three Randall infants, two girls and one boy, share her plot.

John's son Albert Price Behan (probably named for John's younger brother Silas Price Behan) was living with his mother, grandmother and Uncle John Bourke, Jr. in Prescott according to the 1880 census. Uncle John was the younger half-brother of sisters Victoria and Louisa Zaff.

Albert, who had a hearing impairment, developed a lifelong relationship with Josephine Marcus. One story reported is that he and Josie traveled from Tombstone to San Francisco to seek help with his hearing difficulties. They returned to Tombstone, arriving late in the evening a night earlier than expected. When they entered his father's house, they found John entertaining a young lady in

bed. Josie quickly led Albert away and retreated to a friend's house. The story suggests that Josie never lived with John again. Albert later became a U.S. Customs Inspector in Yuma, but maintained contact with Josie until she died in 1944. He returned to Prescott and entered the Pioneers Home there about two years before he died on January 27, 1949. His death certificate lists both of his parents as "unknown".

Silas Price Behan, one of John's younger brothers, was born in 1850 in Missouri and had come to Yavapai County by 1872. He was listed as a store clerk in Prescott in the 1880 census. He remained in the Prescott area after John and Albert departed for Tombstone and was elected to the 1893 Legislative Assembly. He died in Phoenix from pneumonia in 1900 at age 50. His parents and remaining siblings appear to have remained in the Kansas City, Missouri area. Both Albert and his Uncle Price are buried in Prescott.

In Part Two in the next newsletter, Behan, a career politician and former Union supporter, joins with Southern Democrats to make his fortune as county tax collector in Tombstone.



A New Plaque



The Society's 11th historical plaque was dedicated on Friday, March 6, 2010.

This latest plaque (see p. 6) marks the site of the home of early settler Oliver Fry at the intersection of Fry Boulevard and Carmichael Avenue.

The original home, built in 1912, is no longer standing. Society President Tom Shupert used county records, data from oral histories he has taken, and anecdotal material to trace the history of this home.

A map of all the plaques is available at the Henry F. Hauser Museum. Pick one up and treat yourself to a self-guided tour of Sierra Vista's history!



BOOK REVIEW

This book is available in the Henry F. Hauser Museum gift shop. \$3.50

One Blanket and Ten Days Rations: 1st Infantry New Mexico Volunteers in Arizona 1864-1866, Charles & Jacqueline Meketa. Globe: Southwest Parks and Monuments Association (1980).

Our collective memory of the Apache War in southeast Arizona Territory and the surrounding area is largely based on the 1880s campaigns ending the conflict. Action against the bands of Cochise and Geronimo come most readily to mind, mixed with Fort Huachuca, the legendary "Buffalo Soldier" regiments, and their participation in the territorial operations that sapped the Apaches' will to continue the fight.

The Meketas, both professional historians, have provided a corrective to the stereotypical view of the post-Civil War suppression of the Apache bands of southeast Arizona. The focus of this little book is companies A and I of the First New Mexico Infantry Volunteers, posted to

forts Bowie and Goodwin, Arizona Territory, from June 1864 to June 1866. New Mexico Territory volunteer regiments were first mustered in as support to the Regular Army in New Mexico in 1861. The First was re-authorized in 1864 to assist in the Apache campaign. Stationed nearest Sierra Vista was A Company, based at Fort Bowie, on the northern end of the Chiricahua Mountains.

Early Fort Bowie is portrayed as "isolated and in an area described as one of the most dangerous spots in the southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona territories", with quarters reported in 1863 to be "mere hovels, mostly excavation in the side of a hill"--this is not the post we see in photographs! The soldiers of A Company were hard-used, poorly supplied and seldom rested. The title of this book is taken from General Order 12 issued by Brigadier General James Carleton: "In the field, meat and bread, and sugar and coffee, and salt, alone of all the rations will be carried. One blanket apiece will be as much bedding as the men will be permitted to have carried on a scout. To be encumbered with more is

not to find Indians." Typical of A Company's scouts is one in December 1865, where Sergeants Mariano Sena and Melquiades Romero, with 18 men, were attached to 20 troopers of the California volunteer cavalry; after covering 210 miles in the Chiricahuas, they returned two days before Christmas.

The Meketas have summarized much of the sparse historical record about A Company. The surviving details are fascinating. For example, they note that of the 126 personnel of A company, 4 were "Anglo" and 122 "Spanish." Five officers were Anglo and two Spanish. (Customarily, in New Mexico primary language defined ethnic classification, so that all English-speakers are "Anglo" and all Spanish-speakers are "Spanish" regardless of cultural affiliation.)

For the post-Civil War struggle to end Apache resistance to Euro-American expansion, this is a fascinating read.

Reviewed by Charles R. Morrison



Society Luncheons

February

Cochise College, its history and future, was the focus of the talk given by Dr. J. D. Rottweiler, president of the college, at the February general membership luncheon. The theme of his presentation was change. According to Dr. Rottweiler, higher education has changed drastically since its beginning. Cochise College was founded in 1962, the third junior/community college in Arizona. He emphasized that community colleges serve their communities, changing with the changing needs of those communities. New technologies, ones that Dr. Rottweiler termed "disruptive," such as the telephone, automobiles,

television, computers, and mobile phones, keep changing the way students are educated. He went on to list statistics about Cochise College, which has two full-service campuses (Douglas and Sierra Vista) and four outreach centers in other towns. Dr. Rottweiler closed with the college's mission statement: "Cochise College provides accessible educational opportunities that are responsive to a diverse population and lead to constructive citizenship, meaningful careers, and lifelong learning."

Ingrid Baillie

is David Santor, vice-president is Tom Shupert, and secretary is Teresa Mueller. Tim Doyle continues as treasurer. Thanks and admiration to outgoing secretary Ingrid Baillie.

Speaker at this luncheon was Rebecca Orozco, Director of the Center for Lifelong Learning at Cochise College. She is a third generation resident of Cochise County. She recounted the life of her great-aunt Susie Cundiff, born in Missouri in 1890, who trekked west with her large family through Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, California, and ultimately Arizona, where she homesteaded on her own in 1912 in Sulfur Springs Valley. A thoroughly engaging talk!

Marion Margraf

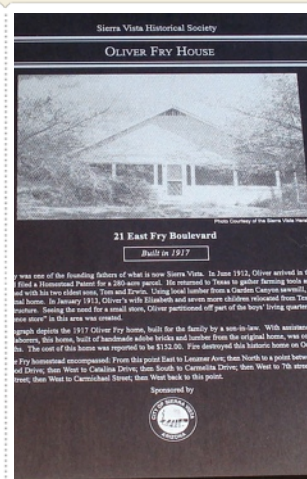
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May

New officers were elected at May's SVHS Member luncheon. The new president



Outgoing SVHS 2009-2010 officers Santor, Baillie, Shupert, and Doyle



The latest plaque. See p.4

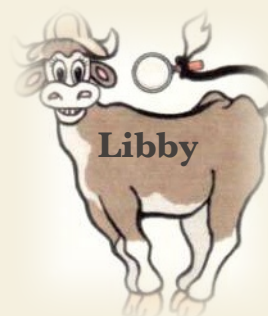
The Hauser Heifer Contests

The Henry F. Hauser Museum mascot has a name! Fifth-grader Dontae Mattias suggested that the Hauser Heifer be named Libby. Her nickname, of course, will be Libby. (There is an echo of the name of our airfield in that, of course.)

The T-shirt committee chose 18 of the 30 designs of Libby as she marches through history that were submitted by local high school students: nine adorn the front of the shirt, nine appear on the back.

The young people whose submissions were chosen were acknowledged at the unveiling ceremony at the Ethel Berger Center on Saturday, April 17, 2010. Some of the artists appear in the photograph below.

Proceeds of the sale of these T-shirts go to the Henry F. Hauser Museum building fund. They are available at the museum gift shop.



From L to R, front: Ray Thomas, Rameal Nabeeh, Angela Lambiase, Sara Joiner, Dontae Matthias, Sarah Blomstrand, Annemarie Dahlke.

Rear: Nancy Krieski at podium; Susan Ostrander, T-shirt committee chairperson; Laurie Giangregorio, Buena High School art teacher; Debbie Mills.





On Saturday evening, May 22nd, the Society hosted ***Ambiance & History***. This fundraiser for the new Henry F. Hauser Museum offered participants a gracious evening. As attendees strolled through the Sarah Gibbs Garden behind the Sierra Vista Library, they sampled wines from area wineries and food from local restaurants. A guitarist and flutist played. A live art auction concluded the evening. More details will appear in the Fall issue of this newsletter.



Saturday, March 20th, Don Garate, National Park Service Chief of Interpretation/Historian at Tumacácori National Historic Park, delighted a large turnout at the Ethel Berger Center with his living history presentation of Don Juan Bautista de Anza, a significant 18th century denizen of what would become southern Arizona.

Anza was born near the present-day border with Mexico of Vizcayan Spanish parents. His father was killed in an Apache raid. Anza enlisted in the army at a young age; his military career took him to Tubac, Terrenate, Santa Fe, and Tucson. In 1772 he led an expedition to Alta California. Subsequently appointed Governor of New Mexico, Anza was able to negotiate a peace between the Comanches and Utes.

Mr. Garate is the author of a biography of Juan Bautista de Anza.



SVHS Historical Society Treasurer Tim Doyle (l) gets together with Byron Myers (r). The Society will soon have its own webpage. 😊

Calendar

Th	June 17	1:00 p.m.	SVHS Board Meeting at Oscar Yrun
Sa	July 17	1:00-3:00 p.m.	"Toys of Our Lives" Exhibit Open House