

ASH FORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

R E C O R D

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1 APRIL 2009

DIRECTORS CORNER



Fayrene Hume

As we look forward to Spring and Summer we have to say well it hasn't been such a bad winter. Some of our volunteers were limited in traveling when the weather was wet, wet.

The Tourist Center/Museum remained open all winter and we had visitors, too. This was the wettest winter in seven years so we are sure to have a beautiful Spring.

The last three years we have hosted an Open House in December, inviting everyone to come in and see some of the things accomplished; join us for a lovely lunch and be in awe as to how beautiful everything is decorated. This year with the

unveiling of the "Hotel Escalante" model, we saw a larger crowd. Great to see everyone. What a job Wayne and Nancy did on the Escalante model.

May 2, 2009 will be our 13th Annual Pioneer Day. The parade will kick things off at 9:30 a.m. Something new this year...an "Antique Appraisal Fair". Have any priceless treasures hidden in the attic or old dishes stashed away in the garage? What could they be worth? Now is your chance to find out. A small fee of \$10 for one item or \$25 for three items will be charged for the items appraised.

Chili Contest—get in the mood and whip up that favorite recipe, you could be a winner. Lots of homemade pies will be for sale. Booths are limited for indoors, so get your participation form quick. Forms for all

events, i.e. booths, parade, chili contest, and pie donations may be picked up at the Museum or Water Company. All proceeds go to the Ash Fork Historical Society.

Donations continue to come in. Switching lanterns from the Pat Shull Family Trust and Don Kizer Family Trust were



L-R RUTH ANN KIZER, NORMA ORR, PATTI BLEDSOE, JEANNIE KERBY

donated by their daughters Patti Bledsoe and Jeannie Kerby. Both Pat Shull and Don Kizer were Santa Fe Conductors and worked in Ash Fork for many years. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Check out our school

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Lots of things have been happening at the Museum. Read Nancy Ulrich's column on page 2.*
- *The Webb Family is spotlighted in this issue. Read the reminisces of Alice Webb Vorholzer. Story on page 3.*

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IN MEMORIAM
CURTIS DALE CAUTHEN
MIKE BEACH
MARY BEDWELL
GEORGE LARUE
JUAN MENA
LUCY REYES

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calendar and take in a ball-game, talent show or Little League—it's good entertainment.

The Fourth grade class will be coming to the Museum very soon to learn some Ash Fork history.

There will be no meetings of the Historical Society in

June, July or August. Return to regular meeting schedule on Sept. 8, 2009 @11:00 a.m. Have a great summer. Do hope we have a very busy one at the Museum, and don't forget to come and enjoy yourself at Pioneer Day.

ASH FORK MUSEUM NEWS

BY NANCY ULRICH



The Hotel Escalante model was completed the first part of December and was moved to the Museum in time for the 3rd Annual Open House. The Prescott Daily Courier did a very nice article for the Open House and several people from the Prescott area made the trip to Ash Fork to view the new exhibit. Then to follow it up, reporter Doug Cook did a lengthy story on the construction and history of the hotel. And better yet—he did a nice article on Fay a couple of weeks later. The publicity has really paid off as many people from the Prescott area have visited us. We were also paid a visit by the overseer of the renovation of the Harvey House in Needles. We tried and tried to learn the name of the architect of our Escalante, to no avail. The visitor told us that it was Francis W. Wilson, the same person who designed the El Garces in Needles and Casa Del Desierto in Barstow. He was based in Santa Barbara, CA.

We were not happy with the lighting above the Escalante, and wished that we

had a couple of the chandeliers from the old hotel to hang above it. Wishful thinking, we thought. About a month ago Don Reger from Prescott called and asked if we would like to have three of the light fixtures from the Escalante. So...wishes do come true! Fay and Lewis picked them up post haste. They need to be renovated, but, oh how happy we are to have them. It will be a challenge to hang them—but we will figure it out. These chandeliers were in the possession of Harold Zettler originally.

Fay went through her magical box of stuff and chose about 15 photos of the hotel and we made a display board for the Open House. Also enlarged a couple of menus from a Harvey House and put them on the board. It was such a hit that it was decided to leave it on display. John and Terry Cauthen gave us a nice glass and oak display case that can be locked, so we put some Harvey House items on display near the exhibit. All in all it is a very nice addition to the Museum.

The Cauthen's also gave us some antique

wood-working tools and a 50 year old cougar rug, head and all. It will be going on the wall by the magnificent elk head.

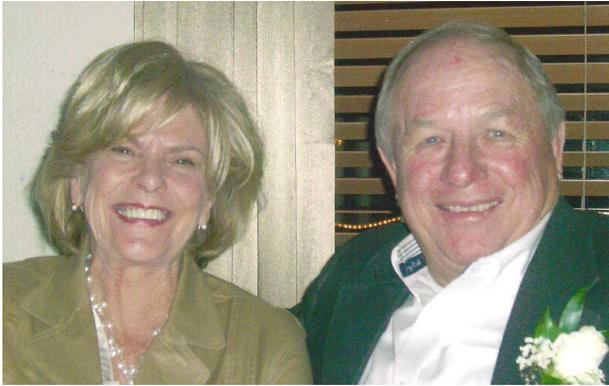
Also new, a large bank of file drawers that were used by Yavapai County to keep all of the important papers for county business. The labels date from the 1870's on up. We have several old county maps also, which we will eventually put on display.

Wayne and I would like to thank everyone for helping with the model. It was difficult using 100 year old pictures that don't show any detail and we relied on our friends to remember many small details. We didn't know what the cactus garden fence was built from, but a chat with Lewis Hume, Sr. cleared it up. Redwood posts with pipe rails. So we used redwood with bamboo skewers for the rails. Brad Zettler recalled that the deck around the balcony had gravel on it—we

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THE **SPOTLIGHT** IS ON THE WEBB FAMILY

This is the Webb Family history from 1925-1947 submitted by Alice Webb Vorholzer. Intertwined are many quotes from "Memory Lane", by L.D. Webb written in 1978.



ALICE WEBB VORHOLZER & ROBERT C. VORHOLZER

Our father Lewis Dunbar Webb, Jr. was born 1-19-1912 in Lytle, Texas. The family moved to Phoenix, AZ in March 1924, when the state was only 12 years old, and then made the move to Ash Fork in 1925. The Webb's were real pioneers, the men working for the Santa Fe Railroad. Dad's father, Lewis Dunbar Webb Sr. was a section foreman at Pinaraveta, AZ and also at Bouse, AZ. The first person Dad met when he started school in Ash Fork was Francis Cox, brother to Don, who said, "welcome and we are glad to have you here". That was the beginning of some very close friendships and very good times. Dad was one of the two graduates from Ash Fork High School in 1930, the other graduate being Bonnie Barton. Dad was affectionately known as Amie, so called for the Preacher Amie

McPhearson, due to his strong opinions and soapbox statements! Not only was he a good scholar, but Dad also loved participating in High School sports, being on the

1927 baseball team, and the 1929-30 basketball team. The teams traveled and when they played Camp Verde and it was too late to return to Ash Fork, Mr. Wingfield had them stay in the bunkhouse at his Ranch. They also traveled to Pearce in southern Arizona, perhaps for a State Tournament? They won the Highway 66 conference in basketball, and Dad managed the Ash Fork town team in 1936-37 with a 11-2 record.

Dad also loved the Grand Canyon, which included a three-day trip with Ash Fork High School boys, hiking it many times and riding the mules down.

He was also at the opening day ceremonies of the Boulder Dam. "Franklin Roosevelt pushed the gold button in Washington, D.C. that started the generators for the first time at the Dam".

Dad and Roy McCoy spent a lot of time at Lake Mead fishing. He and Roy also hunted often, spending days out. "Each would get a deer, and they always took Pete Lockett with them, as he became the camp cook. They would kill one deer for camp meat and one deer to bring home." Dad has passed the love of nature on to many of his children.

The Webb men also loved music and dance. Ray Webb was always whistling and dancing, and I remember one time when I was a teenager, my Mom and Uncle Ray were dancing on the sidewalk in downtown Flagstaff. They were so glad to see one another, but I was totally mortified, just knowing that people were staring at those two weirdo's! Some of my fondest memories of my Uncle Everett was listening to him play the flat top steel guitar. He had a real love of country music, and a good voice too. He fancied himself a songwriter and even had one or two published. Some of Dad's favorite moments were spent dancing with his grandbabies, and some of my favorite times were spent listening to Dad play the harmonica. He had a real talent for it and my brother Douglas has inherited the talent and is carrying on the tradition.

Dad's sister, Gladys Webb, married Ash Fork teacher, Guy Richey in June of 1930, and sister Lena Mildred Webb married Ash Fork

teacher Neil Goodman in June of 1932. Both girls married in Prescott, AZ, Gladys just after her 16th birthday, and Mildred just prior to her 16th birthday. Both men taught school with my Aunt, Marian Estelle O'Donald McCoy. Dad's sister Ruby Webb was a licensed beautician, married to a barber by the name of Bob Martin and together worked/owned a shop downtown.

Dad worked as a fry cook and pantry chef at the Harvey House, built in 1907 and closed in 1948. "During the depression we would always make extra bread and soup for the people who were broke and looking for a job. Every day the line would form and the people would step forward and receive a big piece of bread and a bowl of soup until it ran out. They were all very grateful and this was probably all they had to eat. When Roosevelt was elected President, he put into effect the N.R.A. (National Recovery Administration) requiring everyone to hire one more man to their workforce, thus my job at Medgely Food Markets."

In the late summer of 1937 Dad went to work for the railroad, following in his father's footsteps. He began his career with

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the Santa Fe as a hostler helper, and left in 1947 as an Engineer. His brothers, Raymond Lee Webb and Everett Samuel Webb both worked for the Santa Fe RR in Ash Fork, Williams, Kingman, Winslow and Gallup, New Mexico. His brother Earl Madison Webb was in the military, being at Pearl Harbor for the actual bombing during WWII. Earl did love to tell those "war stories", too. Dad's youngest brother David died in his teens, after he was injured in an auto accident near Ash Fork that left him paralyzed. Due to the generosity of A.C. McCoy, Lewis Sr. and Alice traveled by rail with their son David to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Only to learn that his paralysis would be permanent. He died in 1935. Dad also had a brother, Alfred Lewis, who died as a young child in Lytle, TX.

My aunt, Estelle O'Donald, from Canyon, TX taught at Ash Fork schools, met Roy McCoy of Ash Fork and married in Gallup, NM in 1934. My father played baseball on the town team with Roy and my mother came out to Ash Fork from Texas to be with Estelle when she delivered her first child, Leeanne. They met, and then mother came out again as Leeanne swallowed a safety pin and underwent surgery for removal. A budding romance began between Mom and Dad, with a long distance relationship until Dad went to Texas and claimed his bride, Mildred Irene O'Donald, in Plainview, TX on 2-17-1937. Upon arrival in Ash Fork an old fashioned chivalry took place, with Dad hauling Mom in a wheelbarrow through the streets, and the "good old boys" sneaking in the house with the help of Uncle Ray Webb who had the key and filling the bed with rice. Good fun, good food, gifts and great friends ended the celebration. They then made Ash Fork their home and bore and began to raise six children in a little white framed home on Park Ave. where the Ash Fork Post Office now stands. Due to Dad's employ-

ment with the Santa Fe, Mom was able to make sure that we knew our Texas family as we had a pass to take the train to Amarillo every summer. Most of us kids still remember how scary it was going from our sleeper car to the dining car, etc., with the noisy couplings and open-air racket! Their children were:

Lewis Dunbar Webb III, born in Jerome 12-17-37, died in Tucson;

Donald Otis Webb, born in Williams 1-20-39;

Alice Jean Webb, born in Williams 11-3-40;

Douglas Delano Webb, born in Williams 3-26-42;

Ida Marie Webb, born in Ash Fork 12-6-43; and

Michael Clarke Webb, born in Ash Fork 9-27-47.

The L.D. and Mildred Webb family left Ash Fork and many friends and relative in December 1947 and moved to Tucson where opportunities awaited and L.D. was in the grocery business until his death in 1981. "We will never know what the future would have been for us if we had not moved. We can only say truthfully that we have never regretted the move. We are proud of what our family has become, however, we can never forget our love for and our pleasant thoughts of Ash Fork and the country surrounding it. Our sentimental journeys we have made to Ash Fork and surrounding areas have renewed our love for and our pride in being a part of the history of an area we love so much. May God forgive us if we forget how grateful we are for His love for us and allowing us to cherish that part of our lives."

Remembrances of Alice Webb Vorholzer:

Although I was only seven when I left Ash Fork, I have many great memories. Most of the memories are associated with Mom and Dad's pride in their home and family, Dad's garden of green beans and toma-

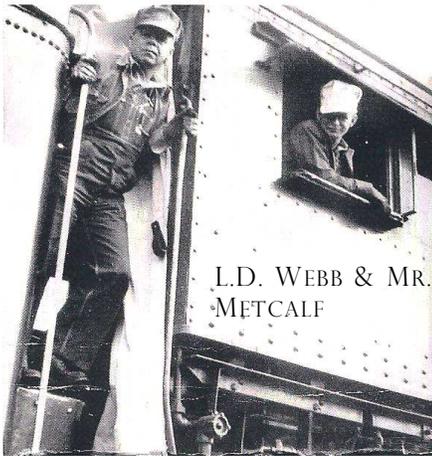
toes, Mother's tulip bed down the whole side of the house, which was a source of pride and enjoyment to many of the townspeople. I remember Mother's proclaimed happiness of all her small children and hanging diapers out, even in the snow, and also the memories of the love and companionship of our McCoy family. Nona McCoy and I are the same age and attended first grade and half of second grade together at AFPS. I was extremely shy at that age, and Nona came by and walked me to school and back each day. I'll always remember Della McCoy's tears of sadness the day we left Ash Fork with the train rolling out and our waves of goodbye. I remember walking down the hill with my siblings to meet Dad after his run/shift and fighting over whose turn it was to carry his railroad lantern home. On Saturdays, there were five pairs of polished shoes, starched clothes and curled hair in preparation for Sunday morning church services at the Baptist Church. Sunday evenings after dinner we sat on the front porch steps and made decisions on what kind of ice cream and/or candy bars we wanted. After the votes were in Dad and the boys would walk down to Beigel's Drug Store and come back up the hill with our orders. Yum!

Another memory is looking forward to meeting the troop trains as Mother and Aunt Estelle's brother was fighting in Italy; so Mom's part in the war effort was to bake cookies and buy oranges for the troops on the train. I can still see the outstretched hands and the joy in Mom's face as we greeted those soldiers. WWII was never far from our parents thoughts, with brothers serving. I remember sitting around the radio while listening to the War news. Very sobering times and our Mom's did lose their brother in Italy, earning a Purple Heart for single-handedly capturing 44 enemies. I remember vividly the day the war ended. Mother and Aunt Estelle and we kids standing on the corner of Park & 5th cry-

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ing and hugging and the train whistles blaring, Uncle Roy and Uncle Mac McCoy on the fire truck going through town with the sirens screaming. I also



remember the hobos riding the rails, getting off and coming to the back door...always the back door, asking for food in exchange for a little work. Mother knew that she could trust them and she was always ready with a hand out! She always said that they were just down on their luck. My brother Don remembers a permanent freight car and loading ramp near the tracks downtown where he and brother Dunny used to get in so much trouble with Mom for playing there. Don also remembers a huge house fire that lit up all of Ash Fork and the fun of sledding down the hills after a snowstorm. My sister Marie remembers the beautiful flowers in the yard of Dr. John Cartmell's home/office and the exciting day that

baby brother Mike was born. The Webb family did have one scare; a rampage of Scarlet Fever and we were quarantined to our home and brother Doug remembers sitting on the porch when the house was being fumigated. He also remembers playing on the half-built new jail walls and jumping off, going trick or treating with his two older brothers Dunny and Buddy, and I suspect Ray McCoy was with them. Doug also remembers picking crab apples off the tree down by the McCoy's house, and of course going down to the Harvey House.

I was fortunate to attend the Ash Fork Centennial with my Mom, Aunt Estelle, and some of my McCoy cousins. Both Dad and Uncle Roy were recently deceased, but it was such a special moment for me to meet many of their friends and place the faces with the names that I had heard of all of my life. We stayed at A.C. McCoy's Court for old times sake and the return of a flood of memories. We spent time with the Zettler's, I met Donald Cox and his brother. We went by the Slamon place and also went to say hello to Alma Pouquette at the White House Hotel. The Schwanbeck's remained very close friends, with Ray visiting most any time he came to Phoenix and/or Tucson, even after Dad passed away in 1981. I also met Marshall Trimble and enjoyed him being honored as the Grand Marshal of the Centennial Parade, and met Fayrene and Lewis Hume and borrowed a rake, etc. from them to spruce up

the Webb cemetery plot.

Ash Fork and Northern Arizona is very special to the Webb family and we try to get up there occasionally. Both of our Webb grandparents are buried in the Settler's Cemetery along with their son David. Uncle Ray Webb is buried along with his wife Dorothy in the Williams Cemetery and Ruby and her husband I.C. VanNorsdall are buried in the Winslow Cemetery. Everett is buried in Tucson, as are both L.D. and our mother Mildred, Gladys in St. Johns, and sister Mildred in Safford, AZ. Earl Webb is buried in Baldwin Park, CA. We kids are now the oldest generation!



1934 ASH FORK: ROW 1: DAVID LESLIR
ROW 2: ALICE AND LEWIS D. ROW 3:
RAY, RUBY, GLADYS, EVERETT, MILDRED,
L.D., EARL

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didn't have a clue as to the roofing materials. Many locals have stood by the model and memories come flooding back and the stories spill out. Our mission is to preserve the history of Ash Fork and help our residents recall the times

gone by. Both models seem to do just that.





ASH FORK HISTORICAL
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ASH FORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

“MISSION STATEMENT”

“THE ASH FORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL GATHER AND PRESERVE INFORMATION AND ITS’ NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE HISTORY OF ASH FORK; HELP PRESERVE OLD BUILDINGS; SERVE AS A RESOURCE CENTER FOR HISTORICAL STUDIES; AND WORK HAND IN HAND WITH THE TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM.”

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