

ASH FORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

R E C O R D

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2 OCTOBER 2007

DIRECTORS CORNER



Fayrene Hume

Ash Fork Historical Society is moving along into their eleventh year. We have some new volunteers for relief, Rosemary Hume, Liz Dawson and Joyce Gent.

Projects are piling up for the winter months when things are slower, ha-ha! We'll let you know in the Spring how slow it got.

You pioneer families, your family history and stories are important for Ash Fork archives, so take the time and submit something of the 'good ole days' in Ash Fork. If you have something that we could display of Ash Fork history share it. You don't have to donate it, but you can; you can put it on loan. Ash Fork His-

torical By-Laws state that if the Society should disband everything goes back to the family's heirs or if no heirs would go to Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott.

Marshall Trimble has just completed a new book (this is number 20). "Ash Fork History" will be out late December or early 2008. I got to have a sneak-peek and you'll all want a copy. Plans will get underway to have a book signing show and party in Ash Fork

NOTICE: Anyone interested in another School Reunion?

Norma Gibbs Taylor has called to see if a Reunion was in the making for next year. She is from the class of 1958. A couple of her classmates still make Ash Fork their home, Billy James and Kenny Davis.

Is anyone interested in working on an All School Reunion? If not we'll tell

the class of '58 to plan for their class only.

Ash Fork has held School Reunions (from 1929 to date) in 1976, 1982, 1996, 2000. The reunions include everyone as some classes were very small and everyone knew everyone. Some moved before graduation but felt closeness and enjoyed coming back to see everyone. Call Fayrene: 928-637-2413

Monthly meetings are now on the second Tuesday of the month from September to June @11:00 a.m. at the Museum. Come join us. Membership is still \$5.00 per year per person or \$50.00 per person for lifetime membership. Renewal of membership is due in January 2008.

Our Third Annual 'Open House Christmas Party' is December 14, 2007, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Come one, Come all!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Ash Fork Public Library Heritage Project - Page 2*
- *Marshall Trimble receives another award. Story on page 4.*

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11TH ANNUAL PIONEER DAY A SUCCESS

Overall, the 11th Annual Pioneer Day was a success. A total of eighteen booths were set up from food to crafts to demonstrations.

The Historical Society again had a pie table and sponsored a Chili Contest. There were 13 entries to be judged. First Place winner went to Michelle Leverone (who won 3rd Place last year), Second Place Jon Anderson, and Third Place Mary Anderson. Our judges this year were James Kennedy, Charles Gale

and Marion Schiffgen.

There were twelve entries in the parade. Vice-Director Carol Cox was the parade coordinator, as in year's past, and commented that all entries arrived and checked in on time and were lined up for the 9:30 a.m. start time. Carol was assisted this year by Frank Cerdillo.



ASH FORK PUBLIC LIBRARY- HERITAGE PROJECT

So much history, so little time! That is how Marion Schiffgen, Ash Fork Community Librarian felt after collecting 14 years worth of news articles, photographs, letters and other reference materials pertaining to, not only the library, but also the town of Ash Fork.

In 2004, Elizabeth Campbell, an Ash Fork resident and history buff, answered the call for volunteer library historian. The project entailed assembling, categorizing, weeding through the masses of information and then compiling this info in a logical and orderly fashion in archival books for the library reference section.

Elizabeth handled the overwhelming challenge splendidly. Within three years she had completed three books containing the history of the Ash Fork Public

Library and seven books containing Ash Fork history. Although Elizabeth retired from her position in 2007, she will be remembered forever for bringing such fantastic order to our project. Elizabeth also shared much of her collection to be included in the books.

The history of the library is organized year by year, beginning with 1989 when the library was first established. Each year holds newspaper articles, letters, photographs about library programs, building and remodeling projects, collection development and contests, expense reports, book reviews written by staff members and a variety of pictures and certificates awarded to the library and to Marion. It is great fun to look through the articles and see how the library has progressed since its founding.

The Ash Fork history books are compiled

a little differently. The books reference people, points of interest and history of the area and are categorized according to subject. Included are articles about the Beale Trail; the stone industry; the ranches; prominent and even not so prominent citizens; Stone Dam; maps of the area; community projects and events; the list goes on. Many pictures were included in the books as well as interviews with former residents. It is a great wealth of historical information and available to be viewed by anyone visiting the library.

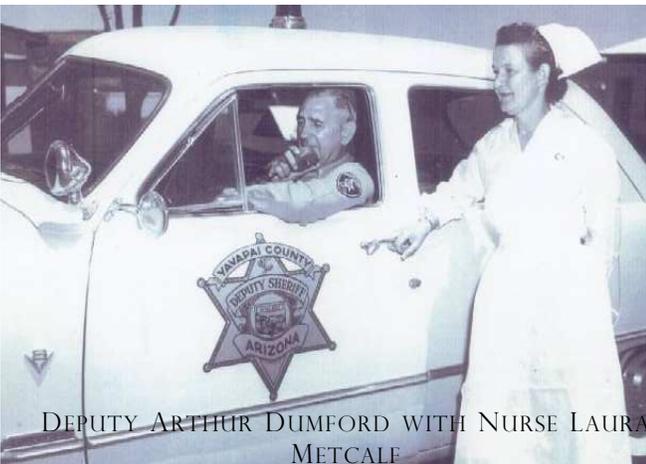
The entire project was funded by the Ash Fork Public Library and the collection of these materials continues. If you have any historical document, photograph or item you wish to contribute to this project, please contact Marion Schiffgen in the library. Items are protected within archival notebooks to insure they will be available for future reference.

THE **Spotlight** IS ON: CHARLES E. & GLADYS NIXON

As told to Fayrene Hume

Charles E. and Gladys Nixon together with son Charles A., originated from Ohio in 1951. They came to visit Gladys' dad, Arthur P. Dumford, who was a County Deputy Sheriff stationed in Ash Fork.

Deputy Arthur and his wife



DEPUTY ARTHUR DUMFORD WITH NURSE LAURA METCALE

Jean were living in one of the rooms where the jail was located in the Ash Fork Fire Station. The next six years the Nixon's made trips back and forth to Ohio, then decided they really liked Ash Fork and the people. "We heard right away if you wore out a pair of shoes, you could never make enough money to buy another pair so you would stay", Gladys said. By the time (1956) Gladys' Dad had purchased the Arizona Hotel, Gladys and Charles moved their trailer in behind the hotel on a vacant lot which later became the office of Justice of the Peace Jack-

son.

Charles' parents Harry and Lillian 'Duck' Nixon came out in 1953 to visit and stayed. They rented from Fred Nelson which is now Margaret Orozco's home on 6th & Eldorito St. So then Charles and Gladys moved their trailer into the yard with Harry and Duck.

Son Charles began first grade

at Ash Fork School and it was time for Charles and Gladys to buy some property and settle down. They purchased a lot from Frank Dickerson on 4th and Laurel in the Dickerson addition and moved their trailer in. At this time they were the only residents in the Dickerson addition until Frank and Peg put in a road and built a home.

In 1962 Charles and Gladys suffered the loss of everything to a fire as their trailer house went up in flames. That is when they began building their home where they are

today, 45 years later.

Charles occupation is masonry work. He has worked all over Arizona. Some of the stone work he did in Ash Fork include the Arizona Bar, Monument at Clinic, Water Company, Oasis Bar, Glover Home and the display at Western States.

Gladys did waitress work for Harry Wallace at H&J Café, Lillian Beigel, Becky Garcia, Pepper Martin, Buck Wong, Monte Carlo and Della Murphy at Murphy's Lunch Box. The I-40 by-pass in 1979 saw some restaurants closing as there just wasn't the business as when everything was on Route 66. For the first time Ash Fork saw waitress work scarce, but they saw new businesses opening along I-40 off-ramps so Gladys hired out as cashier for John and Terry Cauthen at Hillside RV and worked there for 21 years.

Gladys now works at Grand Canyon Railway a couple days a week to keep from getting bored.

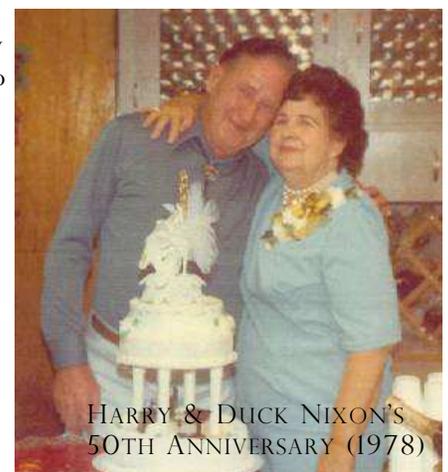
After graduating from Ash Fork High School, Charles, Jr. hired out on the Diamond A Ranch then the K-4 Ranch out of Chino Valley before entering the Army to serve a term. He came back home, married and had a family. He is retired from the Forest Service and Ash Fork remains home. His son

Chad lives in Texas, daughter Cara in Canada, Elaina in Ash Fork and has five grandchildren.

Harry and Lillian "Duck" Nixon remained in Ash Fork until their death. Their family members still making Ash Fork home are; sons Charles, Willie and Tom Nixon and Daughter Shirley Robertson. A daughter Delores in Phoenix and a son Richard lives in Ohio.

Gladys' grandfather Albert P. Dumford rode with the "Rough Riders" on the Mexico border. His daughter, Gladys' aunt Ramona, has property on 7th and Eldorito as a second home.

The Nixon's state they have seen changes in Ash Fork over the years; some ups, some downs, but still



HARRY & DUCK NIXON'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY (1978)

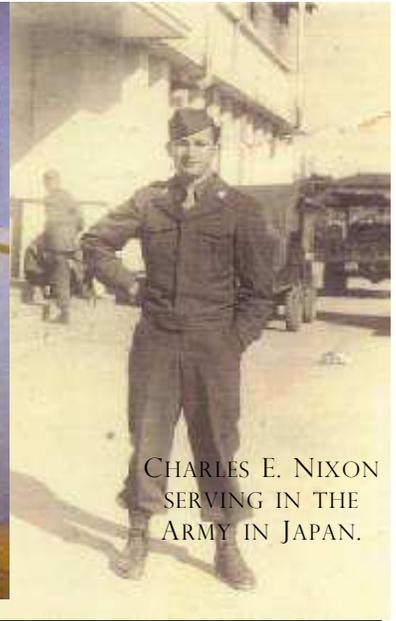
like it - "it's home".



GLADYS DUMFORD NIXON - HIGH SCHOOL PHOTO



CHARLES AND GLADYS - 50TH ANNIVERSARY



CHARLES E. NIXON SERVING IN THE ARMY IN JAPAN.



Marshall Trimble, Ash Fork native and Arizona State Historian, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Governor’s Council of the Arizona Office of Tourism on July 12, 2007.

Trimble was honored during the Governor’s Tourism Award Luncheon held at the Biltmore Resort & Spa in Phoenix.

He received a standing ovation when his award was announced. ‘It was a special category that was created’ as the judging committee thought he didn’t necessarily fit into the category he was nominated for but his accomplishments definitely warranted recognition.

Trimble grew up in Ash Fork and has never forgotten his roots. He gives back to Ash Fork any chance he gets. He has been State Historian for over 10 years having been appointed by then Governor Symington and subsequently appointed by Governors Hull and Napolitano. Trimble is a person that if he sees something he can do, he just does it. Congratulations!

Ash Fork “Settler’s” Cemetery We’re proud of the TLC the cemetery is receiving. More volunteers are giving extra time to see the cemetery is clean and well kept. Some projects in the making (as soon as we raise enough funds) is: new fence, a storage unit (for equipment and tools); and a mower are needed.

If you have a plot at Ash Fork Cemetery, you will feel good about the care it is getting. We know families have moved far away, but back home things are taken care of.



The American Legion Post 57 is constructing a Memorial Monument to honor men and women who served in all branches of the military. Again completion will come as funds come.

Hats off to the many volunteers who are giving so much time for these projects and those who furnished equipment. Pay a visit to the cemetery when you can.



ASH FORK MUSEUM

The Museum is the proud recipient of a 1946 Crosley Farm Truck. It was donated to us by Frank Shipley, brother-in-law to Lewis Hume. It is partially disassembled, so will make a good project for this winter when the tourist traffic slows down.



We had over 1,100 visitors the month of July, which is a record by about three hundred. Among the visitors were two gentlemen from Dubai, which was a first. They were fascinated by the western trappings and the jail.

This Spring a man and his grandson stopped while Ann McCullough was on duty. He was telling her about spending a couple of nights in a metal jail cell in Ash Fork when he was a teen runaway. He and a friend were nabbed by the Ash Fork Deputy Sheriff and they were held until arrangements could be made to ship them home. He remembered E.J. Theroux and how well he fed them. When Ann took him into the museum and showed him the very jail cell he had occupied he was flabbergasted. He

wrote the entire tale in our guest book. The grandson was impressed too!

We were also given a seven foot Totem Pole by Ed and Ruth Wilker. It was carved with the intention of being a display in an Indian Memorial Park in Winslow. For some

reason the Indians didn't approve it so Ed Wilker rescued it and it has been in his backyard for 40 years. He

is a regal fellow, with beautiful teeth and a full mustache.



BY NANCY ULRICH

Beautifully weathered, he stands guard at the end of Jack Campbell's' Indian artifact cabinet.

Unfortunately, we were flooded AGAIN about five weeks ago. Luckily Fay was on duty, so she opened the west side doors and let the water out. The water was only 2" deep instead of the usual 4". The state highway crew brought in some more cinders for the yard, and bermed up the northeast corner where the most water comes in. Lewis Hume fired up the old grader and made a ditch on the north side. Nine people mopped until they were blue in the face. We're still trying to get the floor clean. There is serious need for flood control around the entire property.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

ANGEL CERVANTES
JULY 20, 1933 - MAY 12, 2007

HAROLD ZETTLER
AUGUST 2, 1927 - JULY 10, 2007

ANTONIO "TONY" ALFONSO MENA
SEPTEMBER 3, 1915 - SEPTEMBER 10, 2007



ASH FORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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.”

Ash Fork Historical Society

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