

Footprints

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Guides Association



JULY 2007

Volume XVIII

Rio Nuevo & Tucson's Birthday

First the restored Presidio opened on May 19, then on June 2 the Mission Complex ground-breaking took place. The Mission Gardens are growing and getting ready to welcome the restored Convento and the Leopoldo Carrillo House at the archaeological site west on Congress Street just west of the Santa Cruz. Now there are several developers seriously interested in building a new community center and downtown hotel.

Now the Tucson Children's Museum is planning to double its size and move to the Tucson Origins Heritage Park by 2011. The City has committed \$10 million in Rio Nuevo funds for the Museum to get things started. Currently 85,000 people visit the Museum annually.

Even though the various construction projects both on I-10 and around downtown threaten to snarl traffic and discourage some from entering the area, by the time these new museums, community center, hotel, retail areas and housing are completed, so the construction will be also.

In the meantime, tourists still come to see the old west and the Sonoran Desert, and events and activities continue and increase each year to offer more and more variety.

Check out the events for the coming months on page 9. People used to feel that Tucson was deserted during the summer and nothing happened but in recent years more and more of us stay around during the summer and enjoy the monsoon and slower pace when there are fewer visitors and less traffic on the streets.

August has a lot going on to celebrate Tucson's birthday month. To find out what is happening go to the special website: www.tucsonsbirthday.org for a day-by-day schedule of events.

Here are a few highlights:

August 1-4 UofA Hispanic Performing Arts Conference

August 4 Presidio Settlement Fiesta

August 17 Birthday Cake and Special Exhibits at De Grazia Gallery

August 18 Walking Tour and Railroad History at the Historic Train Depot

August 18-23 Bustles, Bows & Bonnets Clothing Exhibit at the Jewish Heritage Center

August 19 Free Admission Day at Reid Park Zoo

August 20 Free Birthday Cake at Hotel Congress

232nd Tucson's Birthday Ceremony & Flag Raising at the Presidio San Agustín del Tucsón
Free Admission Day at Pima Air & Space Museum

Fourth of July - Past Events

In 1925, two days of storms flooded Tucson, washed out the Nogales road and brought down telephone and telegraph lines throughout southern Arizona.

In 1926, Flagstaff celebrated the Fourth of July by trucking snow down from the mountains. Hundreds of residents and tourists engaged in a snowball fight.

SAGA Executive Board Members

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Vice President-Jean McNabb	297-3384
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Comments, ideas & articles for Footprints are welcome. Please submit material to address or email above.

Reprints of Articles

Any material reprinted from this newsletter **must** be accompanied by a credit line stating "Reprinted from Footprints, newsletter of the Southern Arizona Guides Assn."

SAGA & Footprints Updates

JULY 17 meeting will feature Alan Kruse with an "Armchair Tour" some of Tucson's historic areas.

SAGA Walking Tours—The walking tours from the Visitor Center have ended for the season but will resume in the fall.

SAGA Executive Board Election—September is the month we send out the ballots for new and renewing officers of the SAGA Board. Please submit your name or the name of a member who is interested in serving on the Board. Several of our members have been serving on the Board for years and a change is welcome. Anyone interested in seeking election as SAGA President, Recording Secretary, or any of the other positions is encouraged to contact our Board Members. Also, names for committee members are being collected. We need people to assist with ideas for programs and speakers, Historic Reenactor Programs, Education and Hospitality.

Following is a description of the SAGA Board & Committee Positions as set forth in our By-Laws:

President – Shall chair all meetings and represent the Association

Vice President - In the event of the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President

Secretary - Shall keep the minutes of the meetings, handle correspondence, and keep the non-financial records of the Association

Treasurer - Shall collect dues, keep the financial records of the Association, and shall be audited at the end of each calendar year

Member-at-Large - Shall act as liaison between the committees and the Executive Board. *NOTE: The Board has also been asking the person holding this position to assist in keeping the Association up to date on other organizations that may link to the SAGA website and/or may partner with SAGA for events, docents and other mutually beneficial endeavors. This person would therefore have contacts in the community with other historic preservation and tourism organizations and tour/transportation operators.*

Historian – This person would keep an album of photos of significant events and a file of miscellaneous photos & news articles about members, workshops, trips, etc. The person holding this position would need to have a digital camera and be at least moderately proficient in its use.

Don't forget that this Footprints newsletter is also posted on our website and can be viewed in full color in PDF format at: www.aztours.org

This Month in History

July 1, 1876, the Territorial Prison in Yuma opened with seven prisoners in residence.

Petroglyph Sites *(continued from previous page)*

Another site which is almost impossible to find without an experienced guide, is the Spirit Hunter area outside of Sedona. It is a four-hour jeep trip followed by a steep climb to the site. These petroglyphs contain an equinox or solstice and lunar calendar, a very rare find. Red Rock Jeep conducts tours to the area.

For pictographs, there is another area also near Sedona, the Palatki Red Cliffs. The U.S. Forest Service maintains this site which contains both ancient ruins and pictographs described in the guide book as "representing the complete sequence of human occupation in the Verde Valley from the Archaic Period of approximately 5,000 years ago to the earliest Anglo settler of the early 1900s." Pay a fee at the Sedona Visitors Center for a self-guided tour. As is the case with many of these areas, there are several miles of very bumpy, unpaved road before reaching your destination.

There is even a site practically right in downtown Phoenix. ASU operates the Deer Valley Rock Art Center. The facility has interpretive displays, lots of information, tours and, of course, a gift shop. The petroglyphs are a short walk with trails and viewing areas. Check out the website for details: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/shesc/dvrc/>

NOTE: The above website has a very good, short and simple explanation of how petroglyphs and pictographs were made. It is well worth reading. Just click on "Rock Art Basics" in the box on the left side of the home page. There are photos, a basic history of rock art and even a rock art "dictionary" that explains what various pictures mean. Next time a tour guest asks about this, you will sound like a real expert on the subject.

"The heritage of the past
is the seed
that brings forth the harvest of the future"

*(Inscription on the base of sculpture
in the National Archives building)*

Editorial Saving Marist College

At the northwest corner of South Church Avenue and West Ochoa Street is a multi-story mud adobe building which is barely together. After decades of neglect and serious damage during the monsoon of 2005, the historic structure has gaping holes covered with plastic and tarps waiting for someone to come to the rescue.



It will take a few million dollars to repair and restore the building to its original state. It will take a construction company with knowledge and expertise in the restoration of historic buildings, specifically, adobe. It will also take the support of the City of Tucson, the community and some benefactors to make it happen.

Should the money be invested in an old vacant building? Why do we care if it just falls down or is torn down? For one thing this is a historic building. It is a part of Tucson's history and culture. It is also one of only two multi-story mud adobe buildings in existence.

Currently Tucson is spending millions of dollars to rebuild historic structures that were allowed to deteriorate or were demolished. The Rio Nuevo/Downtown Revitalization is in the process of recreating some of Tucson's history in hopes of drawing local residents and visitors to the downtown area. So as we try to resurrect that which we have destroyed in some area, should we destroy or allow another historic structure to pass away? Several other unique pieces of Tucson's history are now gone and all that is left of the place where they stood is some blacktop with parking spaces marked on it. Some are just empty lots.

The fact that the building is owned by the Tucson Roman Catholic Diocese is not the issue. Rather that it is a historic structure that is extremely rare and could be included in historic neighborhood tours to highlight the City's heritage and architectural diversity. It could be a part of the Downtown Revitalization or it could be another parking lot. Which would you rather advertise to potential visitors?

CRITTER OF THE MONTH



Credit: Bryan Harry, NPS

Badger (*Taxidea taxus*)

While not a common sight around the Tucson area, there definitely are badgers living in the surrounding desert, even quite close to populated areas. Most of us don't ever see because they are mostly creatures of the night and they are not particularly fond of interaction with people. Although there is one account of a badger that attacked a tractor because the machine ran over the entrance to its den which evidently made the badger angry.

The above tale brings us to the temperament for which badgers are known. They have been called tenacious, irascible and fierce. If attacked, a badger is quite capable of holding its ground against wolves, mountain lions and even bears.

Badgers weigh in at about 22 pounds, with short legs and wide bodies, basically, built like a tank. However they can run 10-15 mph for short distances. They are powerful with one to two inch-long claws on the front feet and can dig a burrow faster than a man can dig with a sturdy shovel. Badgers have been known to dig through black-top roads and up to 3 inches of concrete. But badgers are not ill-tempered, if you don't annoy them, they will avoid you and go about their business which is mostly digging.

Badgers dig burrows for sleeping quarters, giving birth, caring for their young, and to dig out prey. Their prey can be anything including grubs, snakes, bird eggs, rabbits, gophers, carrion or fruit. Badgers are carnivores in the Mustelid family, like weasels, skunks, otters and ferrets. Since they are not picky eaters, they are omnivorous (which means pretty much anything).

Badger mating season is August/September and the babies, called kits, are born around December. Three to seven babies are born blind but by 10-12 weeks old are ready to follow mom into the world and are on their own by age 5-6 months.

Badgers live up to 14 years in the wild and a record 26 years in captivity.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Chinaberry Tree

Also known as Persian Lilac, White Cedar, Cape Lilac, Bead Tree, Pride-of-India, Pride-of-China, Canelón, Paraíso Scientific name, *Melia azedarach*, is a deciduous tree in the mahogany family, native to India, southern China and Australia.



The Chinaberry grows to a height of 45-50 feet with flowers that bloom from March-May. The smooth, yellowish fruit ripens in September or

October.

On the plus side, this tree is drought tolerant, a fast grower, gives shade and the small flowers are attractive and somewhat fragrant. Birds are fond of the fruits.



On the minus side, the tree competes with native species because it is very resistant to insects, the leaf litter raises soil pH which inhibits seed germination of other plants. While the berries can be eaten in small quantities by birds, both the leaves and berries are highly toxic (a neurotoxin) and can cause death in both people and animals within 24 hours of ingestion.

Because of the toxic nature of the leaves, they can be ground and used as an insecticide. An extract of the bark and fruit is used to kill parasitic roundworms. In times past, people would put some leaves in storage areas with grains and produce to discourage insects.

As a member of the mahogany family, the wood is of high quality and has been used to make musical instruments. The berries stay on the tree all winter and become very hard. Historically, people would string the berries on silk thread to make rosaries. Beware when the hard berries fall to the ground and become hazardous to walk on like ball bearings underfoot.

So, why are we featuring a non-native tree?

Peoples immigrating to this country during the 1830s brought seeds of the Chinaberry and began planting them in the southern states. From there they spread and are now quite common here. To see a Chinaberry tree, visit the courtyard of the Case de Cordova at the Tucson Museum of Art.

J. Knox Corbett House Turns 100



J. Knox Corbett arrived in Tucson in 1880. He married Lizzie Hughes, daughter of Sam Hughes. The couple decided to build a house in what is now the El Presidio neighborhood, known in those days as Snob Hollow.

Construction began on the Mission Revival style home in 1906 and was completed in 1907. The house was designed by architect David Holmes and built with local labor and materials from the Corbett Lumber Company. Although the two-story stucco covered brick home was elegant in many areas, there were many things done to keep the costs down. Plain pine flooring was used in the pantries and closets where visitors wouldn't see it, but beautiful white maple flooring, probably from Sumter North Carolina, was installed in the public rooms. Corbett's family still lived in Sumter and at the time the house was built he owned a hardware store, a lumber store and he supplied cement to the town.

The house was a showplace among the "Mansions of Main Street" where a number of other prominent Tucson businessmen had also built homes. J. Knox and Lizzie Corbett occupied the home from 1907 to 1936. After that, children and grandchildren lived in the house until the 1960s.

The house was furnished with rich mahogany furniture and European imports. There was also an elaborately carved buffet decorated with animal motifs and handmade brass hardware. Lizzie Corbett purchased the elegant furnishings for her new home while visiting San Francisco and Los Angeles. The house has a full basement which once housed a water cooling tower, one of Tucson's first air conditioning systems. Upstairs, in a small attic room, gin was brewed during prohibition.

In an interview with one of the Corbett's descendants, Elizabeth Treat Lazear spoke of her memories of the home - the oval mahogany dining table and hand-carved chairs that could seat

over a dozen guests, the grand piano, the fireplace mantle with special art objects and hand-painted items done by the family, a patio filled with exotic plants. The ornate concrete patios and walls still stand today. A few particular items of interest described by Elizabeth were a huge cauldron supported by a tripod in the center of the north lawn, the master bedroom with its walk-in closet which also served as a dressing room, and the luxurious master bath with a tub and indoor plumbing. These were accoutrements ahead of their time, especially in the "wild west."

The J. Know Corbett House is now part of the Tucson Museum of Art Historic Block and is open for tours during regular Museum hours, included with the admission price.

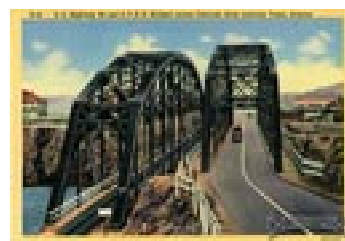
The Ocean to Ocean Bridge

Dedicated in 1915, the bridge crosses from Yuma, Arizona to Winterhaven, California and was the last bridge on the Old Spanish Trail highway that linked the west coast with the east. The bridge was built at a cost of \$73,800. It was closed to vehicles in 1988 due to old age but was restored at a cost of \$1,200,000 and reopened in 2002. Traffic must cross the bridge on an alternating basis due to its narrow structure.

Before the Ocean to Ocean Bridge (or Old Highway 80 Bridge) was built, there was a ferry at the Yuma Crossing on the Colorado River for travelers to and from California. With the completion of the bridge, the last barrier to driving an automobile coast to coast was removed, it was now literally possible for early American motorists to drive from Ocean to Ocean.

In 1877, a transcontinental railroad bridge (still in use) over the Colorado was completed, from granite knob to granite knob.

For a bit of nostalgia, see the lights of the old highway sign on the bridge light up at sundown. There is a good view from the Riverfront Park.



Ocean to Ocean Bridge & the Railroad Bridge built side-by-side



The Guide Ed News & Tips Page

Featuring News, Updates, Reference Information & Opportunities for Tour Guides, Planners & Tour Operators



Tourism Trends

The current "hot" tour is the "Experiential" tour where guests actually participate in hands-on activities and events. Instead of merely bird watching, tour guests can assist researchers with bird banding. Rather than lounge at a posh resort, vacationers pay to help pick up trash at wildlife sanctuaries. There is actually a tour where people pay top dollar to try and "sneak" across the border from Mexico to experience what it is like to be an illegal immigrant which shows that with some imagination and a lot of hype, you can sell some people just about anything.

Educational Opportunities

"Natural History of the Sonoran Desert" workshop at the Desert Museum to be held October 20-21. The price for this 2-day educational program is \$140/members; \$180/non-members. The workshop will cover plants, animals, climate, botany, geology, landscape, invasive species, water issues, endangered species and recovery programs. For more information contact the Desert Museum at 883-3086.

Test Your Knowledge of the Presidio & Tucson History

When was the first detailed map of Tucson drafted?

Where was the Dodge Boarding House located?

When was the last standing portion of the Presidio demolished?

How old is the oldest pithouse discovered in downtown Tucson?

How much does the "Tucson Meteorite" weigh and where was it found?

How many soldiers were initially stationed at the Presidio?

When was the wooden stockade replaced by adobe brick walls?

How many towers or torreón did the Presidio have?

What was the Convento and when was it built?

How large was the Presidio?

How many adobe bricks did it take to reconstruct the portion of the restored Presidio?



What's News

Around The Town

Restaurant Summer Schedules

To keep up to date on local dining spots summer hours, check out the Tucson Citizen's website and click on "Taste Plus" where you will find a list with all the details.

Hamburger fans in the Northwest will soon be getting their own **In-N-Out Burger**. Construction work is under way at the Arizona Pavilions West shopping center near Interstate 10 and Cortaro Road. The opening is set for late this summer.

Kenney's Mexican Cuisine at 345 W. Drachman opened Saturday, June 23 amid the new construction project at what had been a traffic circle and will be a T-shaped intersection at the nexus of Drachman, Main and Oracle.

The Drawing Studio has moved from 214 N. Fourth Avenue to the old Johnny Gibson Gym Equipment building at 33 South Sixth Avenue.

Biosphere II Property Sold

Much of the property once a part of the Biosphere research and educational center will become yet another tract of big development homes. However, the Biosphere itself is now a part of the UofA research departments and will, for now at least, remain intact as they conduct research within the dome.

Tucson among top future retail markets

Tucson has been named one of the top retail markets to watch by Sperry Van Ness, one of the nation's largest commercial real estate brokerage firms.

Tucson's ninth-place ranking is based on economic factors that affect future retail investment in real estate.

Phoenix ranked sixth. Number 1 was Albuquerque, N.M., followed by Charleston, S.C.

Public Lands Info Center

Wondering where to buy books to help plan a camping trip into Arizona's White Mountains? Need a map of the Coronado National Forest to trace a backcountry route? Want to get a permit for a hike in Sedona's Red Rock Country before you head in that direction? Find a landscape you want to explore but aren't sure who has jurisdiction?

You can find all of these things and more at the Arizona Public Lands Information Center at 222 N. Central Ave., Suite 800, in downtown Phoenix. Public Lands Interpretive Association, a not-for-profit organization, created the center in response to the need for a single source of information from the several public land managing agencies regarding recreation and land use. Bringing together guide books, brochures, maps and interpretive materials from the Bureau of Land Management, the National Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies, the center is a one-stop information location. For information: call (602) 417-9300, or go to: www.publiclands.org.

New Public Art at El Rio Center

A mural created by local teens was dedicated at El Rio Center (1390 W. Speedway) on June 22. The project is entitled "Agua Corriendo," which means "Running Water." The mural contains messages about learning, growth and nurturing the neighborhood. More than 60 young people participated.

Tanque Verde Road Bridge Art Work

Ugly old concrete is how the understructure of the bridge was described. Soon it will be transformed with 380 glazed tiles. Professional artist and teacher, Brenda Semanick and some of her former students are working to provide a more pleasing look. There will be three 7 foot-long lizards and some traditional Hohokam designs included. The project cost is \$25,000 provided by the Pima Assn of Governments.

New Passport Center at Main P.O.

Open 8am-7pm weekdays; Saturday 8am-3pm; walk-in or call for appt. 388-5230.

What's Happening

TUCSON: JULY 28 ASDM

Going Bats

Special program about the 28 bat local species. Learn the facts and dispel the myths. \$36/member; \$40/non-member; Register at 883-3086.

TUCSON: TUESDAYS in JULY Roy P. Drachman-Agua Caliente Park

Wake Up with the Birds

Free leisurely walks at 7:30am for beginning & intermediate bird watchers; 615-7855

TUCSON: MONDAYS Thru AUGUST 13 Children's Museum

Monsoon Monday Nights

After hours 5-8pm for just \$1, families can visit the Museum for fun activities and exhibits; 792-9985

TUCSON: FRIDAYS THRU AUG 3

Creepy Crawlies at Tohono Chul Park

Meet spiders, scorpions, snakes & lizards up close every Friday from 9-11 a.m.; Park admission is \$5; 743-6455

SATURDAYS, JUL-AUG: TUCSON—ASDM

Summer Saturday Evenings

The Arizona/Sonora Desert Museum has begun their Saturday evening programs; starting at 5 p.m. with reduced entrance fees, special activities & events; lots of docents on hand with creatures of the night & the restaurants are open; 883-1380; www.desertmuseum.org

THRU SEPT 30: TUCSON—ASDM

Songs of the Sonoran Desert

Special exhibit in the Ironwood Gallery of photographs by George Steinmetz. The images were taken from a motorized paraglider over the desert. See areas that are usually inaccessible.

TUCSON: FREE FIRST SATURDAYS

Arizona Historical Society Museum

Learn about Tucson's past at the main museum at 949 E Second St; open 10am-4pm; 628-5774; www.arizonahistoricalociety.org

TUCSON: FIRST TUESDAYS

Tohono Chul Park

Free Tuesday Every Month

Enjoy the birds, plants & flowers at the park—open 8am-5pm; Tea Room serves lunch daily; 742-6455



Email updates on events, special programs & other items of interest are sent out periodically. If you want to receive these updates please be sure we have your correct email address and that you have the SAGA email address listed as a "safe/approved sender" in your email provider program.



Travel Tips for Vacation Time

For the latest information on passports & regulations: www.getapassportnow.com

American Airlines has launched a website (www.aa.com/women) dedicated to female travelers with information on business and leisure travel, promotions and discounts at hotels & resorts, and an area where women travelers can share tips.

Frontier Airlines has gone "cashless." Only credit cards are now accepted for in-flight cocktails and pay-per-view movies.

Concerned about germs & other unpleasant things in your hotel room? Take along some Purell Instant Hand Sanitizer (liquid or wipes) and Clorox Disinfecting Wipes. The TV remote is the first thing you should clean. Next, fold the bedspread at the foot of the bed—those don't get laundered for each new guest. Also consider that the carpet is not cleaned more than one a month so you might want to bring along slippers or flip-flops.

Traveling with a pet? Check out these sites for everything you need to know: www.petflight.com; www.pettravelcenter.com; tripswithpets.com



SAGA MONTHLY MEETINGS —7:00-8:30
3rd Tuesday of each Month
Pre-meeting gathering 6pm at Chuy's

The **July 17 meeting** will feature our own Alan Kruse with an "***Armchair Historic Walking Tour***" to see some of the highlights of Main Avenue and the Barrio Viejo. The emphasis will be on Tucson's history and architecture from 1860 to 1910. Some of the characters we will meet are Sam Hughes, Edward Nye Fish, Albert Steinfeld, the Owls, and Lalo Guerrero. John Spring, one of Tucson's first teachers, will be making an appearance as he weaves some his own story into the tour.

NOTE-No evening meeting in August or December

Meeting Location: Tucson Ward VI Council Office, 3202 East 1st Street—that's one block south of Speedway, just east of Country Club (1st Street runs East/West between Country Club & N Anderson Blvd). The meeting room is free and there is plenty of parking.

For those that want to grab a bite to eat before the meeting, we will meet at Chuy's (offering happy hour specials from 2-7pm) at about 6:00 pm. Its within walking distance/just across the parking lot from our meeting location . Come join us for a drink and/or some dinner or appetizers.

September 18: Living History Portrayals & Advice on Becoming/Choosing a Character

October 16: Fascinating Culture of the Apache People *by Jack Lasseter*

November 20: American Indian storyteller Gil Payette tells a tale & offers some insights

Southern Arizona Guides Association
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