

# TIME LINES



## Be Cool at Wild Wednesdays!

Families can have fun and escape the heat in July at one of the museum's *Wild Wednesdays*. There will be three special Wednesdays in July each with its own theme—July 11, *Farmers and Ranchers*; July 18, *Prickly and Wild: Desert Plants*; and July 25, *Time Travel: the Roaring 20s*. Each week offers crafts and scavenger hunts for prizes that are sure to delight young museum visitors!

On July 11, the museum will explore Tempe's agricultural roots with *Farmers and Ranchers*. Visitors can see how flour is milled and learn to twirl a lariat. There will also be an authentic chuck wagon on hand for visitors to examine. On July 18, during *Prickly and Wild: Desert Plants*, visitors will learn fascinating facts about desert plants and enjoy scavenger hunts in the courtyard and in the museum. *Sammy Saguaro* will pay a visit. In addition, staff from the city's own Water Department will be on hand to share low-water use landscaping tips. Travel back in time to the 1920s when the July 25 theme will be the *Roaring 20s*. Visitors will be able to enjoy music from the era and even participate in a dance "marathon." Other activities will include stories and the ever-favorite scavenger hunt.

Three Wild Wednesdays took place in June and were *wildly* successful with museum visitors. On June 13, the Tempe Police Department was featured. Officers were on hand to talk about what they do and discuss the different areas of the department. The Tempe Police Command Van was parked in front of the museum and offered tours, and McGruff, the crime-fighting dog, greeted young visitors. On June 20, visitors were able to *Join the Circus*. They discovered that Tempe had its own native circus star in the 1920s. **Teodulo Valenzuela**, also known as *Tom Ton*, was billed at the time as "the largest man in the world." Visitors enjoyed the antics of *Lovely Buttons*, the clown, face painting, circus crafts and free popcorn. Believe it or not, visitors took a *Voyage to Mars* on June 27 with the help of the ASU Mars Education Program. In addition to crafts and other activities, visitors helped create a fantasy space mural.

Don't miss out—there's still time to go *wild* in July.



Pictured (top right) child fingerprinting was provided by **Sharon Layman State Farm® Agency** on June 13; (bottom right) Bike Unit Officer, **J.J. Arredondo** talks about his job with a Wild Wednesday visitor; (bottom left) *Lovely Buttons*, the clown (**Julie Varholdt**) demonstrates how to make balloon animals.



## Continuing Exhibits

### A Proud Journey Home: Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese Communities in Arizona

This exhibit explores Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese refugee experiences in Tempe 30 years after the Vietnam War. Featured are oral histories, photographs and objects from these communities. The exhibit was funded in part through an Arizona Humanities Council "We the People" grant. Since it opened, it has received several awards: Diversity Award, City of Tempe; Best Adaptation to Stated Theme Award, Museum Association of Arizona; Award of Merit, American Association of State and Local History. Due to the popularity of this exhibit, its run has been extended.

### Tempe Police: Their Own Story

The size, roles and technology of the Tempe Police Department have changed as Tempe has grown. In addition, the Department's excellent handling of special events makes it a model for other local cities. In this exhibit, officers tell their own story about what it is like to be a Tempe police officer. You can also see the technology changes and learn about the new roles of officers.

Bring your camera for a photo opportunity of you sitting on a real Tempe Police motorcycle. Stand under the 32-foot wingspan of the Tempe Police Department's ultralight that was used in the 1980s. Put yourself in the role of dispatcher as you listen to live radio calls, and much more! The exhibit is open through spring 2008.

**Correction:** In our last issue of Time Lines (Vol. XIV, Issue 2) on page three, we incorrectly identified Tempe native and circus side show performer **Teodoro Valenzuela**. His first name was actually **Teodulo**.

## New Curator of History Returns to the Southwest

By James Burns

After nearly 10 years away I am thrilled to be returning to my adopted home state of Arizona to serve as Curator of History with the Tempe Historical Museum! My journey in the museum profession began when I was just 19. I entered the profession by design rather than by chance, starting as a volunteer at the Arizona State Museum in 1990 when I was an undergraduate at the University of Arizona, from which I graduated with a BA in History in 1992. That volunteer position turned into a paid student job and from there one job led to another. I was hooked on museums and never looked back.



No stranger to Tempe, I first lived here from 1992 to 1994 while attending ASU as a graduate student in the public history department (MA 1994). After graduating I spent a year working with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation in Virginia, and a few years in temporary positions with the Museum of Northern Arizona, the Phoenix Museum of History, and Pueblo Grande Museum.

In 1998 I was lured away to the Deep South where I worked for the Louisiana State Museum helping to develop a new satellite facility as Curator of the Cypress Sawmill Museum. I have lived in Atlanta for nearly nine years, working briefly with the Atlanta History Center, and most recently as Director of Curatorial Services for the Booth Western Art Museum since its inception in 2000.

My connection to the Southwest has remained strong while working for the Booth Museum, whose collection concentrates on art of the American West. Their slogan is "visit the West without leaving the South." I participated in the development of an 80,000 square-foot facility, including the exhibitions, which will serve me in good stead as we embark upon redeveloping the exhibitions at the Tempe Historical Museum over the next couple of years.

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## Ice Cream, Awards and Old-Fashioned Fun

What more appropriate way to honor our volunteers than with an "old-fashioned" ice cream social. Volunteers were greeted by staff members garbed in rolled-up shirt sleeves, aprons and "boaters" and surrounded by the patriotic colors of red, white and blue. Ice cream sundaes, root beer floats and lemonade were consumed to Dixie Land tunes. Volunteer Mary Ann Kwilosz got in the spirit and wore an old-fashioned apron. She was rewarded for her effort with a gift certificate to Cold Stone Creamery.

The purpose of the event was to recognize the hard work and dedication of the museum's volunteers. Reaching longevity goals were: **Jean Berry, Lou and Sharon Clunk, Narcie Espinoza, Judy Knoth, Amelia Leong, Alice Lin, Marilyn Moor, Cere and Tujan Netters**, three years; **Paula Angert, Herb Fibel, Peg Jordan, Dan Thompson and Lindsay Samuell**, five years; **Gail Bohling, Betty and Dick Enz, Beth Fisher, Cathy Houk, Peggy Moroney, Barbara Peters, Lori Wiltsie and Jim Wright**, 10 years; and **Jim McBride and Claire Young**, 15 years!

Volunteers were also recognized for meeting hourly service goals as part of the President's Service Award program. Recognized were: Silver Award (250-499 hours) **Linda Bordwell, Lou Clunk, Ellen Cornwell, Herb Fibel, Russell Harris, Judy Knoth, Barbara Peters, Dan Thompson and Claire Young**; Bronze Award (101-249 hours) **Paula Angert, Harry Boswell, Lillian Carr, Sally Clark, Sharon Clunk, Lynn Drury, Betty Enz, Beth Fisher, Mary Ann Kwilosz, Amy Lettick, Penny and Robert McKinley, Dottie Moomaw, Penny Watkins and Richard Wolf**.



Pictured (clockwise from left) are Amy Douglass, Claire Young and Tom Canasi; (top) Herb Fibel, Dan Thompson and Ira King, Jr.; (right) Jim Wright, Herb Fibel and Ruth Wineberg.



**JULY**

**JULY 4**  
**Independence Day.**  
**Museum closed.**



**WILD WEDNESDAYS**  
**Wednesdays, through July 25**  
**10 am – 4 pm**  
**Museum / Free admission**

The museum’s “wildly” popular program continues. Families looking for a cool way to spend their summer days are invited to walk-in anytime during the event and enjoy games, crafts, scavenger hunts, story times and more. Each Wednesday focuses on a unique theme.

Groups need to reserve space in advance by calling 480-350-5100.

- July 11:** Farmers and Ranchers
- July 18:** Prickly and Wild: Desert Plants
- July 25:** Time Travel: The Roaring 20s

**AUGUST**

Museum staff are busy planning the upcoming fall and winter calendar during this month and do not conduct special programs or activities.

**PETERSEN HOUSE**  
**Closed for cleaning and conservation.**  
**Sunday, July 29 through Monday, September 3**

**SEPTEMBER**

**SEPTEMBER 3**  
**Labor Day.**  
**Museum closed.**

**PETERSEN HOUSE REOPENS**  
**Tuesday, September 4**



**3<sup>RD</sup> THIRSTDAY NIGHT CAFÉ**  
**Thursday, September 20**  
**6:30 - 8:30 pm**  
**Museum / Free admission**

**Inclusive, Transformative, Representative: Tempe—A Desert Southwestern Urban Community**  
**James Burns**, the new Curator of History for the museum, will discuss the museum’s interpretive plan for future exhibitions and programs. (See bio on page 2.)

**Museum Advisory Board Welcomes Lisa Roach**



**Elizabeth “Lisa” Roach** is no newcomer to the museum. She has volunteered here since January 2003. During this time, Lisa has worked in the museum’s archive and as a docent for both the main exhibit hall and at the Petersen House Museum. These four years and more than 450 hours of service mean that Lisa brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her position on the Historical Museum Advisory Board.

When asked why she wanted to be a part of the advisory board, Lisa replied that she loves the museum. “Museums have always been ‘safe’ places for me”, she stated. As a child in San Antonio she often hung out at the Alamo and other museums. Her dream for the museum is to be more “out there.” When asked to explain, Lisa said she wishes more people realized what a resource and asset we have in the museum, one that many communities don’t have.

Not only is Lisa active at the museum, she is a community activist, serving as chairman of the Clark Park Neighborhood Association, as President of the Guess Birchett Chapter of Questers, and as a member of several other organizations. As one can see, Lisa believes it is important for *everyone* to be an active part of their community.

**Society Continues Support**

The **Tempe Historical Society** has pledged \$9,700 to augment the museum’s renovations project through internships and staff discretionary funds. As the staff prepares to totally redesign the exhibit gallery, a new story line must be created that more closely follows the interpretive framework and includes diverse experiences and points of view. A great deal of research is necessary to support this effort.

The funding from the Tempe Historical Society has enabled the museum to hire highly qualified research assistants. These graduate student interns are delving into historic documents that hold critical information for the story line, supplementing the efforts of the museum staff who must continue to provide services to the public and fulfill other day-to-day responsibilities. Thanks to the Society for this critical support!

**The museum’s web site has a newly designed front page!** Not only is it visually appealing, but it provides shortcuts to key features of the web site. You can find out about a new history book on Tempe or how to order copy prints of historic photographs. Stay in touch with the renovation project, get all the details about this summer’s Wild Wednesdays, or check out the History Detectives program. The front page also features rotating historic photographs from the museum’s collection. Is there anything else that you would like us to feature? Let us know what you think! [www.tempe.gov/museum](http://www.tempe.gov/museum)



# Step Into History

*Time Lines* is a quarterly newsletter for museum supporters and volunteers.

**Editors:**

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Comments, suggestions?  
Call 480-350-5100.

**MUSEUM HOURS**

Monday - Thursday and Saturday  
10 am - 5 pm  
Sunday 1 - 5 pm

**MUSEUM GIFT SHOP HOURS**

Monday - Thursday and Saturday  
10 am - 4 pm; Sunday 1 - 4 pm

**PETERSEN HOUSE HOURS**

Tuesday - Thursday and Saturday  
10 am - 2 pm

Visit the museum's website at  
[www.tempe.gov/museum](http://www.tempe.gov/museum)

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Academically, my interests are varied. I was recently admitted to doctoral candidacy in the Educational Policy Studies department at Georgia State University, and I will soon begin my dissertation research. While it might not seem like it, my doctoral studies coincide nicely with my degree in Public History. Being particularly interested in marginalized populations, the arts, and urban and environmental history, I look forward to re-searching and writing much more about these topics while at the museum.

Further, I hope to bring to the museum increased visibility in the larger museum community. Presently I serve on the board of the Curators Committee of the American Association of Museums and on the program committee for the national conference coming up in Denver next year.

Lest you think all I do is work and visit museums, I should close by telling you a little about my outside interests. I enjoy photography, gardening, mountain biking, reading, hiking, and rodeo (as a spectator). And, I am looking forward to being back in Arizona close to family and friends throughout the state. Please do stop by the museum and introduce yourself; share your thoughts on how we can make the museum even more welcoming, fun and exciting in the years to come!

***The Tempe Historical Museum is a center where the community comes together to celebrate Tempe's past and ponder the future.***