

TIME LINES



Rodeo Exhibit Will Highlight Arizona Cowboys

Opening to the public on March 5th, *The Finley Boys: Arizona's Royal Family of Rodeo* is a new exhibit that tells the story of three brothers from an east valley ranch who became national rodeo stars from the 1930s through the 1950s. **Luther, Larry** and **Frank Finley** began testing their ranching skills as teenagers at local rodeos, and astonished crowds with their natural abilities. They soon became three of the top rodeo cowboys in the nation, competing at venues like Madison Square Garden in New York and the Cow Palace in San Francisco. The Finleys won several world championships and rubbed elbows with famous cowboys like **Casey Tibbs**, **Slim Pickens** and **Roy Rogers**.

The idea for the exhibit was sparked in 2008 when the museum was contacted by **Meity Finley**, the widow of the late Luther Finley. She offered the museum an amazing collection that includes hundreds of rodeo photographs and plenty of artifacts from the lives of the three brothers. Many of these items will be displayed in the exhibit.

The exhibit will also tell the story of the Finleys' lives outside of the rodeo arena. All three brothers eventually developed other careers that were less injury-prone than riding broncs. Luther earned a doctorate in Engineering and became a professor at ASU. Larry became a bit actor and appeared in over fifty movies and television shows, including *Bonanza*, *The Cowboys*, and *The Man Who Loved Cat Dancing*. The museum has faced an unusual challenge in acquiring the licensing rights to some of these films from the Hollywood studios that control them. It has been an exercise in patience and negotiation, but the payoff will be a display of Larry Finley's acting chops on a video monitor in the exhibit. A variety of fun programming will accompany the exhibit.



Luther, Larry and Frank Finley in 1947

Exhibits

Main Exhibition Hall

The main exhibition, *Tempe: Distinct, Diverse, Dynamic*, dramatically presents the story of Tempe through a variety of media. The exhibition explores the history of Tempe through four thematic areas—*College Town*, *Building Our Community*, *Living Together* and *Surviving in the Desert*. New technology and hands-on activities in the *Kids' Place* gallery provide opportunities for families to learn together.

Changing Gallery

Tom Harter: Picturing Change in Tempe features paintings by Arizona State University art professor and former Petersen House resident **Tom Harter**. His work portrays rural Tempe during the 1950s and 60s, a time of transformation brought on by record population growth and urban development. Paintings by some of Harter's many students are also featured. Through January 30, 2011.

Upcoming Exhibit

The Finley Boys: Arizona's Royal Family of Rodeo will tell the story of three brothers from a local ranching family who grew up to be national rodeo stars from the 1930s through the 1950s. Learn about the Finleys and the history of rodeo through displays and interactive elements that will appeal to all ages. Opens March 5, 2011.



Guests enjoy Christmas treats and admire the Tree of Lights at the reception held for donors, honorees and the families of those being remembered on December 12, 2010 in the museum lobby.



Cast members from the East Valley Children's Theater performed *All I Want for Christmas* in the Community Room on December 10, 2010 to an admiring audience.

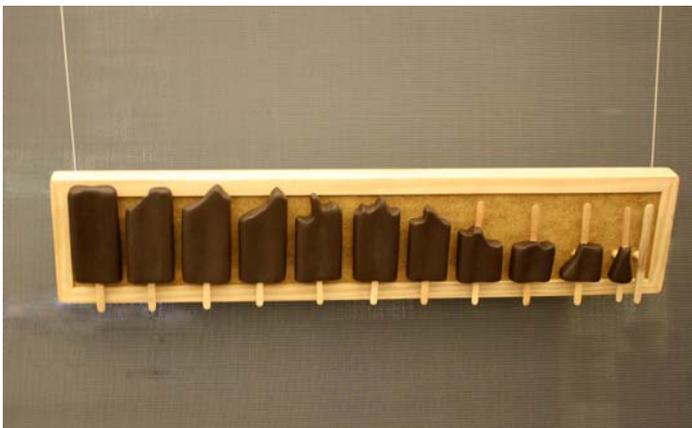
Events at the Museum



A traditional Danish straw heart decorated the foyer of the Petersen House Museum during the Danish Christmas open house in December, 2010. Note the little *nisse* (Danish gnome) in its center.

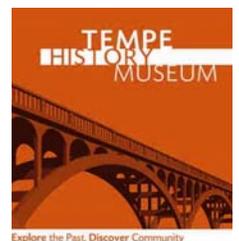


A scale model of the USS Arizona (one of the ships that was sunk by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor) arrived in the museum parking lot for the Veterans' open house on November 4, 2010. This event was co-sponsored by the Veterans History Project and the Tempe History Museum.



Sculpture pieces featured in an art show entitled *Wonderland, the Gift of Imagination* by students from the ASU sculpture program. The exhibit was on view in the Community Room through December 30, 2010.

Clockwise from top left: *Structural Resonance* by **Michael Bortfeld**, *Make a Wish* by **Damian Johnson**, *Death of a Popsicle* by **Brittani Matthews**.



Explore the Past, Discover Community

New Curator of History Joins the Staff

This month, **Jared Smith** becomes the sixth Curator of History for the Tempe History Museum. Jared was born in Hanover, Pennsylvania and later moved to Fallbrook, California where he attended high school. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology with a minor in History from the University of Arizona and his Master of Arts in History from Arizona State University.

Jared was the Collections Manager at the Mesa Historical Museum for nine years. In that capacity, he had extensive experience with museum collections and cataloguing systems. At various times he also served as Curator, Archivist and Historian. Jared stepped in as Acting Director of that institution for eight months while a search was being conducted for a new Director.

Jared co-curated exhibits including: *Hot Irons: The John Hale Branding Iron Collection*; *Searching for Mesa: Finding Ourselves in Our History*; and *Play Ball: The Cactus League Experience*. The latter exhibit is still on display. He also did exhibit fabrication.

Jared has a great deal of experience as a historical researcher in subjects related to local and Southwestern history. For example, he conducted historical research for the Public History Program in the City of Chandler on the agricultural history of that city.

Jared also has participated in archaeological excavations with the Arizona Museum of Natural History and several local cultural resource management companies. Additionally, Jared has worked on historic and prehistoric sites in Colorado, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Pennsylvania.

Jared states, "As the new Curator of History at the Tempe History Museum, I look forward to learning more about the history of Tempe and how that history fits into the overall story of Arizona. I'm pleased to be

able to share my knowledge of regional history, particularly in the area of agriculture, with everyone at the museum and basically to put that knowledge to good use. As my knowledge and understanding of the rich history of Tempe grows, I look forward to sharing those ideas with visitors, community members, researchers, and other folks interested in Tempe's history in ways that help to excite their (see Curator, page 5)



Jared Smith, Tempe History Mu-

Passings

Cecilia Esquer passed away on December 4, 2010. She was a school teacher, civil rights activist and attorney. Cecilia graduated from Arizona State University in 1963 with a degree in Business Education and became a Spanish teacher at McClintock High School. In 1966, she graduated with a Master's degree in Spanish from ASU. Inspired by **Cesar Chavez**, Cecilia graduated from ASU law school in 1976 and was admitted to the Arizona Bar in 1977. She was appointed to the Legal Services Corporation by **President Jimmy Carter** in 1978 and served on the corporation with **Hillary Clinton**. Cecilia debuted her new book, *The Lie About My Inferiority: Evolution of a Chicana Activist*, to a full house in the museum's Community Room in September, 2010. She served on the Oral History Committee and the selection panel for the Curator of History. Cecilia was a great supporter of the museum and will be sorely missed.

The Tree of Lights Shines Again

Now in its ninth year, the *Larry Campbell Tree of Lights* continues to provide important funding for the museum's oral history program. This year, \$1,550 was raised. The fundraiser is named in memory of **Larry Campbell**, a past president of the Tempe Historical Society who originally started the Tree of Lights in 2002. Donors have the option of honoring or remembering a special someone with a light and/or a "take home" ornament.

The tree was located in the renovated lobby for the first time. Approximately 75 donors, honorees, and family members of those people being remembered attended a special reception at the museum on December 12 and received their ornament as a keepsake.

The museum staff would like to thank the Tempe Historical Society and all of the donors who supported the Tree of Lights this year. Thanks also go to the string quintet from Corona del Sol High School who provided beautiful music for the reception.

Antique Seminars in Thirteenth Year

The Hayden's Ferry Chapter of the Questers has been conducting the Antique Seminars since 1997. Proceeds from the seminar classes have provided rugs, reproduction wallpaper, furniture and more for the Petersen House Museum.

This year, the seminars will run Tuesdays, February 1 through 22 from 7 to 9 pm in the museum's Community Room. Advanced registration is \$40 for the series or \$15 for individual classes. Seminar topics are:

- **February 1:** Pullman Cars; Indian Treasures
- **February 8:** Pedal Cars; Antique Garden Art
- **February 15:** Black Memorabilia; Cameos
- **February 22:** Silver; Jelly Compotes

For more information call Betsy at (480) 350-820-2525 or Ruth at 480-839-1729.

JANUARY

PERFORMANCES at the MUSEUM

Red, Green and the Blues: Les Izmore

Saturday, January 8, 7 pm

Community Room / Free

Did the Holidays leave your bank account in the RED? All your GREEN long gone? Sounds like you've got the BLUES. Join us for a colorful event featuring blues duo **Les Izmore** for a discussion and performance of blues tunes. Find out how these tunes are a part of our local history.

Tempe Historical Society LUNCH TALK

Willie, Waylon, Buck and Merle: Nashville Outlaws and the American West

Wednesday, January 12, 11:30 am – 1 pm

Bring your lunch and join **Karin Enloe**, a history professor at Glendale Community College. Her presentation explores the way some popular Nashville music artists used the Old West to promote their careers. This sparked a renaissance in outlaw imagery during the mid-1960s through the end of the 1970s. Coffee is provided.

THIRD THIRSTDAY NIGHT CAFE

Bringing History Books to Life

A Series of Local Author Events

Tough Life? So What! Move Beyond Struggle

Thursday, January 20, 7 pm

Community Room / Free

Join the museum for a cup of coffee. **Dr. Donald R. Campbell** wrote this book to inspire and motivate those of all ages who doubt their inner strength in the midst of facing life's continuous challenges. Dr. Campbell is a member of the Maricopa County Community College District governing board.

FEBRUARY

PERFORMANCES at the MUSEUM

A Concert Celebrating Black History Month

Saturday, February 5, 6 pm

Community Room / Free

Join us and celebrate the contributions of the local African American community. Featuring:

- Art from ABC (**Artists of the Black Community**)
- A reading of **Martin Luther King's** speech, *I Have a Dream* by **Elmer Green**
- Gospel music from the **Brighter Day Worldwide Deliverance Ministries' Praise Team**
- **Teneia Sanders'** original folk and soul tunes
- Nu jazz from **Spooky Cool**

Tempe Historical Society LUNCH TALK

Songs of the Cherrycows: Cowboy Folk Music and its Changing View of the West

Wednesday, February 9, 11:30 am – 1 pm

Community Room / Free

Greg Scott will provide a multi-media presentation of the songs of some of the last open range cowboys in Arizona. Using period instruments, recordings and photographs, this talk will focus on the songs which marked the end of a colorful era in Arizona history. Sponsored by the Arizona Humanities Council. Coffee is provided.

THIRD THIRSTDAY NIGHT CAFE

Bringing History Books to Life

A Series of Local Author Events

SOLD

Thursday, February 17, 7 pm

Community Room/ Free

Join the museum for a free cup of coffee. There will also be a book signing and discussion of this work of historical fiction by **Maurice Ward**. Imagine coming home from work one day to find your teenage son stolen from home and being held hostage by persons unknown. What would you do?

MARCH

Tempe Historical Society

Exhibit Opening and Fundraiser

Friday, March 4 (time TBD)

Plencner Plaza (in front of the museum) / Entry Fee

Listen to **Marshall Trimble**, enjoy some barbecue and visit the VIP opening of *The Finley Boys: Arizona's Royal Family of Rodeo*

Sponsored by the Tempe Historical Society.

Public Opening of *The Finley Boys: Arizona's Royal Family of Rodeo*

Saturday, March 5, 10 am – 2 pm

Plencner Plaza, Community Room / Free

Visit the grand opening of our new exhibit about 3 local brothers who were rodeo champions from the 1930s through the 1950s. Join us for rodeo demonstrations, arts and crafts, games and rodeo skills competitions. Enjoy the live cowboy/bluegrass tunes of the **Hey Boyz**.

Tempe Historical Society LUNCH TALK

Flamenco Dance and Spanish Bullfighting:

A Confluence of Movement Traditions?

Wednesday, March 9, 11:30 am – 1 pm

Community Room / Free

Bring your lunch and join **Adair Landborn** for a talk on the cultural practices of flamenco dance and Spanish bullfighting, key identifiers of Spanish culture, which spread their influence to many parts of the world. Sponsored by the Arizona Humanities council. Coffee is provided.

(continued on page 5)



Explore the Past, Discover Community

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

Editors:

Mary Anna Bastin
Amy Douglass

Thanks to Jerri Copenhaver and Dan Miller for their editing assistance.

Comments, suggestions?
Call 480-350-5100.

Tempe History Museum Hours

Tuesdays - Saturdays, 10 am - 5 pm
Sundays, 1 - 5 pm
Closed Mondays and major holidays.

Subscribe to *Timelines* and receive email notifications when new editions are published online. Find out how at www.tempe.gov/museum.



Thanks to the Donors Who Contributed Artifacts in 2010

Margo Berger - Jean Berry - Jerri Copenhaver - Patricia R. Faux - Jerri Glover - Darlene Justus - Dan Masters - Bent Nielsen - Greg Nosek - Hazel Owens - Carter Rogers - Edward Smith - Jared Smith - Virginia Thompson - Pastor Brenda Valdez - Kathy White - Lynn Williams - Bebe W. Winterberg

Curator (continued from page 3)

desire to learn more about this historic community.” Jared goes on to say, “I think it is more important than ever to encourage a deeper understanding of our community histories and to remind [museum] visitors why this history is so important and what it might teach us with regard to the world as we know it today. In addition, there's a tremendous amount of history that is fascinating, surprising, and very important that lies right under our noses in Tempe and its neighboring communities. We can't afford to let that history fade away. I'm very pleased to be a part of the Tempe History Museum team who will be telling those stories and keeping that history in the spotlight.”

With his varied skills, experience and enthusiasm for history, Jared is going to make a great addition to the Tempe History Museum team. The staff is looking forward to working with him.

Quarterly Calendar (continued from page 4)

Spring Break at the MUSEUM

Free Plays and Storytelling

March 13 - 19

Community Room / Free

Enjoy live performances and stories with your family:

Unstoppable Me

Cookie Company – Phoenix Theatre

Saturday, March 13, 2 pm

Grandma Lives with Us

A Book Reading by Nazli Currim

Monday, March 15, 11 am and 1 pm

Storytelling & writing about growing up in the Barrio

Stella Pope Duarte

Tuesday, March 16, 11 am and 1 pm

Storytelling about St. Patrick's Day

Peggy Moroney

Wednesday, March 17, 11 am and 1 pm

Stories from the Sonoran Desert

Conrad Storad

Thursday, March 18, 11 am and 1 pm

Cesar Says

Zarco Guerrero and the Guerrero Musicians

Friday, March 19, 7pm

THIRD THIRSTDAY NIGHT CAFE

Bringing History Books to Life

A Series of Local Author Events

Sing Down the Rain

Thursday, March 17, 7 pm

Community Room / Free

Join the museum for a free cup of coffee. There will also be a book signing and discussion of *Sing Down the Rain*, a book about a cultural and spiritual tradition of the Tohono O'odham, a group of American Indians who live in south-east Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Written by **Judy Moreillon**; illustrated by **Michael Chiago**.

PERFORMANCES at the MUSEUM

Arizona Student Film Festival

A Screening of Past Winners

Friday, March 25, 7pm

Community Room / Free

The Arizona Student Film Festival is open to students in 3rd grade through college. Students write, direct, shoot and edit their own works. All entries are showcased at the annual Arizona Student Film Festival. Prize winners are selected in 3 categories. Visit the Museum for a screening of past winners.