Lila Atkins

Old Trails Museum Director
& Project Director for
MoMS "Between Fences" Exhibit
in Winslow AZ
June 21 – August 2, 2008

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Old Trails Museum is owned by the Winslow Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) corporation

MUSEUM on Main Street

Arizona Humanities Council
Sharing cultures. Enriching communities.

MUSEUM on Main Street

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

The high desert town of Winslow has primarily two types of fences—those around homes and those around ranches.

We chose to expand our displays to include other forms of demarcation that defined Winslow and in so doing created "fences" of a different nature.

Thereby, our presentation became:

"Lines in the Sand…
Fences, Trails, Rails & Boundaries"

“Involving the Community with the Museum”

Partnering with individuals and organizations made this an *OUR* project not a *THEIR effort.*

First…the site

Old Trails Museum had to ‘borrow’ space to mount the exhibit, and thanks to

***Dan Lutzick,* sculptor,**

we were able to set up in his gallery, one block west of OTM.

Dan also delivered the MoMS crates, oversaw the installation, and hung the oversized photographs and large artifacts for the museum.

Community Partners

Winslow Chamber of Commerce

The CoC held a ribbon cutting, made sure the Mayor was invited, and

served cake and beverages for 100.

Then we were ‘off to the races!’

Winslow Chamber of Commerce Director Bob Hall (left) stands with Lila Atkins and Mayor Robin Boyd for the ribbon cutting and opening of the “Between Fences”. Additional photos on back page.

Oral History Display

Featured members of four families, representing 33 people of various ethnicities.

This project coordinated by Sue Tecklenburg, WHS President.

Community Partners

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In this, we had two loans—one of rails and ties from a local family, and, two large maps courtesy of Northland Pioneer College Library.

NPC Staff attended and said they were open to joining in another project

Community Partners

Ranching

Partnering here was a fifth-generation rancher who loaned this 1930s Clear Creek Range Map, hand colored on linen. It is 5' high. He was so pleased with our effort, he has joined the Winslow Historical Society and continued the loan to the OTM Ranching Display.

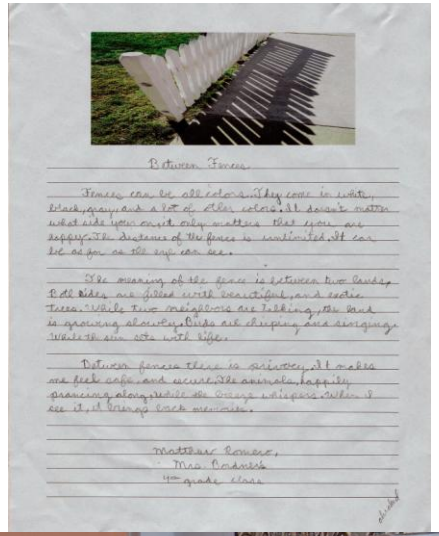
At left, a representative fence made from posts and barbed wire from the same ranch, and the loan of a cowboy's saddle who lives on a small part of the original ranch land.

Community Partners

Bordertown Display

This exhibit denotes a fence of a different kind. Involvement from the community include the mohair rug made by an 83-year old Navajo, Louise Curley just for the exhibit, a trading post miniature, and a short family history from the Chase family, also Navajos. Rene Chase Begay is Campus Coordinator at the Northland Pioneer College in Winslow.

Community Partners



Between Fences

Fences can be all colors. They come in white, black, gray and a lot of other colors. It doesn't matter what side you're on, only matters that you are happy. The distance of the fence is unlimited. It can be as far as the eye can see.

The meaning of the fence is between two lovely Old Aides are filled with heartlight and a smile. Teresa. While two neighbors are talking, the land is growing always. Birds are singing and singing. Water sits with life.

Between fences there is privacy. It makes us feel safe and secure. We animals happily prancing along. While the wind whispers. When I see it, it brings back memories.

Matthew Romero,
Mrs. Bordner's
4th grade class

Mrs. Bordner's fourth grade class contributed 20 essays about what fences meant to them.
Five Winslow high school art students submitted interpretations of fences painted on wooden slats, and a graduating senior submitted two black and white photographs of fences.
All school exhibits were mounted on a chain link fence on loan from a local company!
Display coordinated by Donna Guiher, WHS Board Member.

Community Partners

Newspaper

More than one media source was used, but the paper providing local coverage went all out:

- **Advance publicity**
- **Opening day coverage**
- **Coverage of most weekly entertainment events**
- **Updated weekly schedule of events**
- **Photo contest, example to right.**

“Can you identify this fence?”
This and three other photographs ran weekly with the caption that the first to call the Museum and identify the location would win $25—and they had to pick up the prize at the BF Exhibit!

Community Partners

Local Entertainment for six Saturdays and one Friday evening, thanks to a grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

Arizona Commission on the Arts

Between Fences Performing Arts Schedule

NO ADMISSION

June 21, 1PM
Northland Pioneer College's
'Aguilas de Oro'
Mexican Folklore Dance Club

June 28, 1PM
Mel Bradshaw
Western Artist & Performer

July 5, 1PM
Tommy Dukes
Singer & Guitarist
Arizona Blues Hall of Fame

July 11, 5 - 7PM
Rhoda Linstra
Keyboard & Accordion
(sing along if you like!)

July 12, 11AM
Winslow Starz Dance Troupe

July 19, 1PM
Homovoli Dance Group
Hopi Dancers, Singers, Drummers

July 26, 10AM - 4PM
Winslow Harvey Girls
Trunk Show of Fred Harvey
Memorabilia

EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

TUESDAY - SATURDAY
10 AM to 4 PM, Fridays til 7 PM

120 West Second St.

Week #1, Mexican Folklore Dance Club, 30 performers

Week #2, Western Artist and Singer, Mel Bradshaw

Community Partners

Between Fences Exhibit Bringing Down The House

Left: Tommy Dukes of the Tommy Dukes Trio performs at the Between-Fences t the Snowdrift Art Space. Tommy is an inductee of the Arizona Blues Hall of Famer. Above: Tommy and mother, Mary McGilberry, who will be 91 in October. Safe to say (that day) that the Between Fences Exhibit was Rockin!

**Week 3, Tommy Dukes Trio—
the crowd insisted on 3 encores.
Ripple effect of his performance
was getting on the daily rotation
for a Blues Segment on WUSM in
Hattiesburg, MS, Dukes' hometown.**

Community Partners

On the fourth Saturday, 17 dancers from the Winslow Stars Dance Troupe took the stage. This was its first time to receive compensation, and the instructor was thrilled as it helped defray cost for regional competition.

Week 4

Below, on Friday evening Rhoda Linstra, musician and teacher played while some sang along and others danced. The young man was from the audience and asked if he could play, and did.

Community Partners

Week 5—The Homovoli Dance Group had 20 of its Hopi members dancing and singing to drums and rattles. At lower right, the lady in yellow was assisted to the stage and went through one whole song with the youngsters. Amazing when you realize she has no kidneys, and this likely would be her last chance to dance.

Community Partners

Week 6—The Winslow Harvey Girls closed the entertainment venue with a 6-hour display of Fred Harvey, La Posada and Harvey Girl memorabilia. This volunteer organization keeps the legacy alive by trunk shows as this and conducting tours.

Community Partners

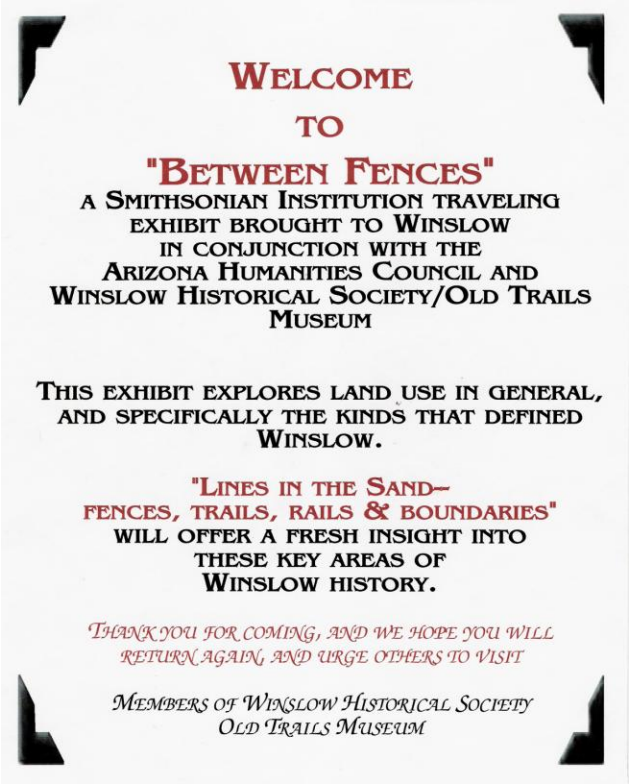
V O L U N T E E R S

Over 500 volunteer hours were logged to make this presentation open and available to the public 30 hours a week. Without them—it just could not have run so smoothly.

With them, the museum was able to maintain regular hours.

Pat Raygor, WHS Board Member and Officer, recruited all volunteers.

A little about “Lines in the Sand…”



After visitors entered through the MoMS gate,

The sign at the left explained the two exhibits, one from the Smithsonian, and one from Old Trails Museum.

Then each was invited to sign in on a craft stick, which became a ‘slat’ in our own worm fence. Volunteers attached the sticks.

At the close of Between Fences, we displayed them for a few months at the museum, and they were a conversation point. Many saw their own names and those of their friends.

Most thought it was great fun—over 850!

More about “Lines in the Sand…”

Display themes on lines of demarcation that defined Winslow:

- **TRAILS—PIONEER AND EXPLORER TRAILS OPENED THE WAY FOR SETTLERS AND DEVELOPMENT.**
- **ORAL HISTORIES—SHOWCASING CULTURAL DIVERSITY. THE ‘LINE’ HERE WAS PREJUDICE.**
- **RAILS—THE RAILROAD WAS THE CATALYST THAT FORMED WINSLOW.**
- **RANCHING—BROUGHT ANOTHER ENTERPRISE TO THIS AREA, AND STILL CONTINUES TODAY.**
- **AIRPORT—RUNWAYS CREATED LINES IN THE SAND, AND OPENED WINSLOW TO THE WORLD.**
- **BORDER TOWN—THEN AS NOW, A CONTINUING EXCHANGE BETWEEN NATIVE AMERICAN AND ANGLO CULTURES.**
- **ROUTE 66—EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT TRAVELED, THIS GRAND HIGHWAY STILL BRINGS TOURISTS THROUGH WINSLOW.**

In Closing..

The MoMS experience gave our museum an opportunity to reach out to the community with expanded local displays and offer an interaction with the revered Smithsonian Institution *in Winslow!*

This project paid many dividends for the time and effort invested.