Winslow Branding Days on May 23 & 24

In partnership with the Winslow Windmill Project and the Winslow Chamber of Commerce, the Old Trails Museum (OTM) continues its “History Highlight” program series on May 23 and 24 with Winslow Branding Days.

The two-day event kicks off with a free presentation of The Hash Knife Around Holbrook on Friday, May 23, at 7 pm at the Winslow Visitors Center/Hubbell Trading Post, 523 West Second Street. On Saturday, May 24, from 2 to 5 pm in the Eagles Pavilion behind the Visitors Center, the new Winslow Windmill will be celebrated with a dedication, chuck wagon, and branding stories from area ranchers.

On Friday night, author Jan MacKell Collins will relate the diverse history of the Hash Knife brand in Texas, Montana, and Arizona with stories of cowboys and historic images. The latter include family photographs from her ancestors George Hennessey and Frank Wallace, two of the last Hash Knife cowboys to work for the brand before its sale to the Babbitt Brothers at the turn of the last century.

The brand left its mark on Holbrook, Joseph City, and Winslow, and its legacy is kept alive through the Hash Knife Pony Express Ride that starts from the Historic Navajo County Courthouse each January. Collins will sell and sign copies of her new book, The Hash Knife Around Holbrook, after her presentation. (Cont. on page 2)

2014 High Desert Fly-In on July 26

The 2014 High-Desert Fly-In will take place at the Winslow-Lindbergh Regional Airport, 701 Airport Road, on Saturday, July 26, from 8 am to 2 pm. Admission is free, and residents, tourists, and pilots from around the country are invited to Winslow’s historic airport to enjoy airplanes, history, food, and more!

The Journeys to Winslow Fly-In in July 2013 was a partnership between the City of Winslow Airport Commission, Wiseman Aviation, the Winslow Rotary Club, the Just Cruis’n Car Club, the Winslow Chamber of Commerce, and OTM.

The successful event had over 300 attendees, so the partners have decided to make the renamed “High Desert Fly-In” an annual summer happening with a continued focus on the historical significance of Winslow’s airport. OTM volunteer David Andreasen created the fly-in’s official logo (see page 2).

The committee has also asked OTM to curate a reusable exhibit that tells the comprehensive story of the airport. OTM successfully applied for an Arizona Humanities grant to fund the exhibit, entitled Flying through History: The Winslow-Lindbergh Regional Airport. If you have stories or images of Winslow’s airport, feel free to share them with OTM while we develop the exhibit! (Cont. on page 2)
Winslow Branding Days (cont)

At 2:30 pm the following day, Mayor Robin Boyd will dedicate the new Winslow Windmill, soon to be constructed at the west end of the First Street Heritage Park near the Winslow Visitors Center. A team of Dutch oven chefs will be on hand to serve free biscuits and coffee prepared from the chuck wagon.

After area ranchers burn their brands onto the windmill tower, everyone will move to the Eagles Pavilion to hear stories of the ranchers’ individual brands. The ranch names and brands will eventually be on permanent display in a special book at the visitors center.

The Winslow Windmill is the brainchild of David and Ann Hartman, owners of Cross U Management Company. They offered to build an American West ornamental windmill at the public park in order to recognize the historical significance and ongoing impact of the area’s ranching industry.

They then raised funds to install the six-foot windmill on its nineteen-foot ornamental redwood tower from several companies that support the project: Gicon Pumps & Equipment and American West Windmill & Solar donated the windmill and delivered it to Winslow; Gene Hancock and RT Rentals donated the excavation for the concrete slab base; Winslow Ready Mix and McCauley Construction donated cement and labor; and Cross U Well Service donated additional labor and equipment.

High Desert Fly-In (cont)

Winslow played a pioneering role in early air travel when aviator Charles Lindbergh chose the city as one of twelve critical refueling points for Transcontinental Air Transport’s first coast-to-coast passenger service.

In a nod to its historical significance, the city-owned facility was renamed in 1998, and Wiseman Aviation has restored the historic terminal to its original style. Though commercial passenger flights were discontinued in the 1980s, the airport remains active for private aviation, medical transport, and fire suppression.

Exhibit topics will include Lindbergh’s involvement in the airport’s founding, early operations, World War II, the post-war years, and the airport today. OTM will offer docent-led exhibit tours as well as our 2015 historical calendar featuring images and content from the exhibit.

The Winslow Rotary Club will host a pancake breakfast from 8 to 10 am for $5 per person. A variety of vendors will serve food throughout the day in the airport parking lot, where the Just Cruis’n Car Club will also host a “Show-and-Shine” of vintage automobiles.

There will be antique and contemporary airplanes on the tarmac throughout the day for public viewing. Historian Erik Berg and author Robert Kirk will present on the history of the TAT, and the FAA will conduct a safety seminar.

There will be also displays in the hangar on the history of aviation in Winslow and the Southwest, as well as displays by currently active organizations including Wiseman Aviation, Guardian Air, and the US Forest Service.

The High Desert Fly-In Committee welcomes participation by individuals and organizations in and around Winslow. Go to www.highdesertflyin.org for the latest updates as well as links to the 2014 High Desert Fly-In on Facebook and Twitter!
Winter History Highlight a Success

OTM's seasonal program series continued with the free presentation of *Hopi Quilting: Stitched Traditions from an Ancient Community* on February 21 at La Posada Hotel. The 2014 Winter History Highlight, a partnership program between OTM and the Winslow Arts Trust, was made possible by support from Arizona Humanities.

Author Carolyn O'Bagy Davis presented to forty enthusiastic attendees in La Posada's Ballroom. Davis explored the long tradition of quiltmaking on the Hopi Mesas in northeastern Arizona using vintage and contemporary images of Hopi quilts and quilters. She also displayed an extensive trunk show of Hopi textiles that illustrated their unique quilting tradition of combining traditional Anglo patterns with Hopi kachinas or clan motifs.

For centuries, Hopi men have grown cotton and made blankets and clothing. With the coming of Anglo missionaries and government officials in the late 1880s, quilting was introduced to the Hopi people and quickly became integrated into the fabric of daily and ceremonial life. Today, many 4th and 5th generation quilters, both male and female, give quilts as gifts at dawn baby-naming ceremonies, graduations, when family members leave for military service, and even as burial shrouds at the end of life.

After her talk, Davis signed copies of her latest title, *Desert Trader: The Life and Quilts of Goldie Tracy Richmond*. A fourth-generation descendant of Utah pioneers, she is the author of twelve books on quilting, archaeology, and Southwestern history. Founding president of the Tucson Quilters Guild and a member of the Arizona Quilter’s Hall of Fame, Davis has also curated several museum exhibits including the Arizona Historical Society’s Centennial exhibit, *100 Years—100 Quilts*.

Vintage Quilt Raffled at Annual Meeting

OTM hosted the Winslow Historical Society’s 2013 Annual Meeting on November 16 at the Winslow Visitors Center. Each year the free event celebrates our members, who are a reflection of OTM’s community support and the backbone of our fundraising efforts.

Thirty people attended the event, which kicked off with a dessert reception and socializing. The program began with powerful spoken-word performances by Kaylee Smith and Nathaniel Renney-ErBST, members of Winslow High School’s Speech and Debate Team. WHS President Patricia Raygor then presided over the official meeting, which included brief reports from Secretary Linda Chambers, Treasurer Vel Marcotte, and Director Ann-Mary Lutzick, who gave a *Journey Stories* final report.

The WHS membership elected three new Board members -- Ruth Gant, Mike Howell, and Gordon McHood -- and thanked outgoing members Donna Guiher, Dave Hartman, and Mary Heldt for their service. The Board also honored OTM volunteer John Orstedt and granted Randy Hummel an Honorary Lifetime Membership for their outstanding service to the museum.

Several attendees won terrific door prizes donated by OTM, the Winslow Public Library, La Posada Hotel, and current board members Frances Perkins and Michelle Hernandez. The final drawing of the day was for the beautiful quilt and pillows donated by longtime museum supporter Ida E. Hunt. The raffle winner was Winslow resident Jackie Landis, who is a member of the local Material Girls Quilt Guild.

Landis said: “I love the beauty of it, and being a quilter makes me appreciate it even more because it’s hand-quilted and cross-stitched. And it’s unbelievable how many people have called and told me how happy they are that the quilt is staying local!” OTM will use the $850 in ticket sales to buy supplies for textile preservation and display.
Supporter Spotlight

With sadness we report that Richard C. Randall, the Winslow Historical Society’s President Emeritus, passed away on February 17 at the age of 95. WHS President Patricia Raygor attended and sent flowers to the funeral on behalf of OTM.

Randall worked as a locomotive engineer for the Santa Fe Railroad and was also known for his volunteer work with community organizations such as WHS/OTM. He last joined OTM as the “honorary rider” in our 1940 Ford Seagraves fire truck when the museum entered it in the 2012 Christmas Parade (left).

In “donations” news, Texas resident Robert V. Muse III gifted a large collection of Native American artifacts to OTM in early 2014. He received the objects from his mother, Irene McCauley Muse, who was born and raised in Winslow.

Irene was the daughter of Charles and Caroline McCauley and the sister of Charles Dewey “C.D.” McCauley. Charles worked for the Santa Fe and also became a prominent area rancher, a family tradition that C.D. advanced. Many of their descendants still live in Winslow.

Irene married Texan Robert Van Muse while he was in Winslow as a trainee for J.C. Penney in the 1930s. Irene collected the objects during trips back and forth to the Utah border before the family moved to Texas in 1936. She died in 1989 and son Robert inherited her possessions. OTM thanks him for his generous donation of these remarkable objects, which we plan to have identified by regional experts.

OTM prospers thanks to donors and volunteers who are so generous with their possessions, time, and talents. If you’re interested in working with a great group of people and learning more about Winslow’s history, please contact us!

From the Museum Floor

The Autry National Center of the American West’s Route 66: The Road and the Romance exhibition will be on display at their Griffith Park location in Los Angeles from June 8, 2014, through January 4, 2015.

They’re forming partnerships with businesses and organizations all along the historic road to promote Route 66 and to provide potential travelers with road-trip information. OTM will be featured on their website (theautry.org) and our rack cards will be in their café. Thanks to the Autry for making this a route-wide project!

OTM is also getting some help from Oklahoma Correctional Industries. OCI is digitizing our collection of Winslow High yearbooks for free, and they will also provide a set of the DVDs to the high school and the Winslow Public Library. These digital versions will be accessible on our collections website once it’s up and running!

Each spring, OTM collects our visitor numbers to report to Winslow City Council, which provides the museum with critical funds for staff, utilities, and building maintenance. OTM’s in-house visitation in 2013 was 3,770, a slight increase over the prior year. The OTM Volunteers hosted all these visitors, which they did for 2,375 hours – a $47,500 in-kind value!

Our online “visitors” are also on the rise. We had over 7,600 unique visitors make over 18,000 visits to the museum’s website in 2013, and 4,750 people visited our collections on the Arizona Memory Project. OTM also has 372 Facebook followers to date, who stay informed about our activities and public programs in real time!
Thoughts from the Director

At the end of this past winter, my husband Dan and I were lucky enough to take a trip to London and Paris. It qualified as a “trip of a lifetime” for me, since my last trip to Europe happened before I graduated from high school in 1983.

Since both of us are self-proclaimed museum fanatics, we visited over thirty art and history museums during our two-week trip. Each and every museum was not only worth our time but made lasting impressions.

I thought about this again when I read Lindsay Van Thoen’s blog post from March 26 of this year: “Museums make you happier and less lonely, studies find” (Google the name or title to read the post in full). She cites the following six reasons why museums improve your mood (which I’ve paraphrased) and backs each of them up with an actual scientific study:

1. Museums make you less anxious while you appreciate arts and culture.
2. Museums reduce stress as places to relax and unwind.
3. Museums have the same effect on your well-being as a raise.
4. Museums have a greater impact on well-being than playing a sport.
5. Museums make you less lonely when they act as community centers.
6. Museums are good for the local economy.

I’ve known about the last reason for years and plan to revisit and write about it in a future column, but the prior five were a bit of a surprise. I know that spending time in museums, including Old Trails, and learning about the world around me makes me happy. But I didn’t know there are possible physiological reasons for that effect. Anyway, going to a museum sure is a great way to spend the day, no matter where in the world you are.

Memberships

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Student Membership (max age 22): $5 for biannual newsletter, special member events, 10% discount in the OTM Store
Individual Membership: $15 for biannual newsletter, special member events, 10% discount in the OTM Store
Family/Group Membership (up to 4 people): $30 for biannual newsletter, special member events, 10% discount in the OTM Store
Patron Membership: (1 to 2 people): $100 for Basic Benefits plus calendar, newsletter and website recognition
Benefactor Membership (1 to 2 people): $250 for Basic Benefits plus calendar, newsletter and website recognition, choice of historic photograph
Lifetime Membership (1 to 2 people): $500 for Basic Benefits plus calendar, newsletter and website recognition, choice of historic photograph, autographed copy of Winslow

With you, we have a future; without you, we’re history!
Support the Old Trails Museum

The Old Trails Museum is owned and operated by the Winslow Historical Society (WHS), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

OTM is funded primarily by the City of Winslow, with additional support from memberships, donations, and sales. We welcome donations of cash as well as of equipment, supplies, and services.

Become a member to enjoy Old Trails Journal, invitations to special member events, and 10% off in the OTM Store on Navajo and Hopi arts and crafts, regional history books, and our annual Winslow history calendars.

Please join us in our efforts to keep the Old Trails Museum thriving. With you, we have a future; without you, we’re history!

Visit the Old Trails Museum

The Old Trails Museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm. Winter Hours are November through March from 11 am to 3 pm. Admission is free. Photography, group tours, and researchers are welcome.

OTM is located in the heart of Winslow’s historic downtown business district and across the street from the Standin’ on the Corner Park. There is free parking downtown, and our exhibits are wheelchair-accessible.

Housed in the 1921 First National Bank building, OTM has retained the original marble-faced counters, mosaic tile floor, and vault, which provide a historic backdrop for the museum’s exhibits and archives.

Our Mission...

Founded in 1997, the Winslow Historical Society receives, preserves, and interprets information and artifacts representing the history and cultures of the Winslow area, in order to engage and enlighten all visitors to the Old Trails Museum’s exhibits and programs.