

Spring/Summer 2015

Volume 5, Issue 1

Old Trails Journal

The newsletter for supporters of the Old Trails Museum and Winslow Historical Society

**You Are
Invited!**

**OTM Spring
History
Highlight**

Wayne
Ranney
presents
*Ancient
Landscapes of
the American
Southwest*

Sunday,
April 19,
2 pm

La Posada
Hotel
Ballroom,
303 East
Second Street

Free
Admission

Book Signing

OTM Spring History Highlight on April 19

The Old Trails Museum (OTM) continues its History Highlight series when geologist **Wayne Ranney** presents *Ancient Landscapes of the American Southwest*. Join us for this free presentation at 2 pm on Sunday, April 19, at La Posada Hotel, 303 East Second Street in downtown Winslow.

Ranney will use photographs, illustrations, and maps to take attendees on a fascinating tour through time of the Colorado Plateau, world renown for spectacular landscapes such as the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, the Painted Desert, and the Petrified Forest. But how did these landscapes come to exist, and what can the stratified rocks tell us about that evolution? Surprisingly, our region was once the site of warm tropical beaches, shifting dunes in Sahara-like deserts, coastlines stalked by large dinosaurs, and rivers that once flowed towards the present-day Rocky Mountains.

Ranney has a Masters of Geology from NAU and is the co-author of *Ancient Landscapes of the Colorado Plateau*, the author of *Carving Grand Canyon*, and a contributing writer to *Sedona Magazine*. He works as a geology interpreter and trail guide for the Smithsonian Institution, Grand Canyon Field Institute, and Museum of Northern Arizona. He sometimes works as a shipboard geology interpreter for groups visiting the Arctic, the Amazon, Africa, and Antarctica.

The 2015 Spring History Highlight, a partnership between OTM and the Winslow Arts Trust, was made possible in part by Arizona Humanities.

2015 High Desert Fly-In on July 25

The 2015 High-Desert Fly-In will take place at the Winslow-Lindbergh Regional Airport, 701 Airport Road, on Saturday, July 25, from 7 am to 12 noon. Admission is free, and residents, tourists, and pilots are invited to Winslow's historic airport to enjoy airplanes, history, food, and more!

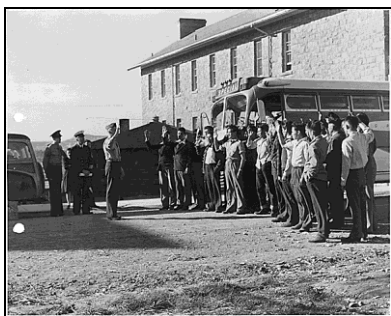
This year's theme is *Kids in Aviation*, featuring the Flying Fun Kids Area inside the historic hangar. Activities will include the *Airplane Stories* exhibit, a *Careers in Aviation* display, a Glider-Making Workshop, and an interactive World Travel Map.

The 2015 event will also include a pancake breakfast by the Winslow Rotary Club; contemporary and medical aircraft and the Just Cruis'n Car Club's "Show-and-Shine" of vintage automobiles on the tarmac; aviation history displays in the hangar, including OTM's *Flying through History* exhibit; displays by organizations currently active at the airport; and an FAA safety seminar for pilots.

OTM will also host its Summer History Highlight for the Fly-In when **Erik Berg** presents *The Eagle and the Archaeologists: The Lindberghs' 1929 Southwest Aerial Survey* on Friday, July 24, at 7 pm at La Posada Hotel. (Cont. on Page 3)

Fall History Highlight to Honor Veterans

On Saturday, August 15 at 2 pm, OTM will present its Fall History Highlight at La Posada Hotel. **Dr. Laura Tohe**, who is Diné, will present *Armed with Our Language, We Went to War: The Navajo Code Talkers*. Dr. Tohe is an author, librettist, and ASU Professor with Distinction in Indigenous Literature.



The original 29 Code Talkers getting Inducted at Ft. Wingate, New Mexico.

During World War II, a select group of young Navajo men enlisted in the Marines and devised a secret code using their language that the enemy never deciphered. A cloak of secrecy hung over the Code Talkers' service until the code was declassified and they were finally honored for their military contributions in the South Pacific. Dr. Tohe's visual presentation will explore the Code Talkers' cultural background, how the code was devised and used, and how Navajo spiritual beliefs were used to treat post-traumatic stress disorder.

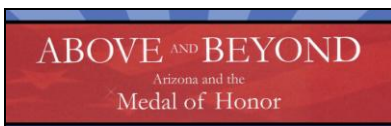
In 1982, President **Ronald Reagan** designated August 14 as Navajo Code Talkers Day. In 2000, President **Bill Clinton** awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers. In 2001, President **George W. Bush** presented the Medal to four surviving original code talkers, and the Medal was also given to the families of the deceased. The Congressional Gold Medal is one of the two highest civilian awards given in the United States.



Code Talkers Henry Bake and George Kirk at work in 1943.

The 2015 Fall History Highlight is scheduled to coincide with the Arizona Historical Society's (AHS) run of *Above and Beyond: Arizona and the Medal of Honor* at their Pioneer Museum in Flagstaff. AHS developed the exhibit to pay tribute to the Arizonans who have received the highest military award given in the United States Armed Forces, including Winslow's own **Jay R. Vargas**.

Above and Beyond features historic artifacts, graphic displays, and multimedia presentations that tell stories of service and heroism from the days of the Arizona Territory through the Vietnam War. Through a special partnership, OTM will loan several items donated by Col. Vargas to our collections to the Pioneer Museum for its exhibit run, including his uniform, medals, and childhood baseball glove.



The logo for AHS's Medal of Honor exhibit

Jay Vargas was born on July 29, 1938, to a Latino father and an Italian mother and graduated from Winslow High School in 1956. After playing baseball in the Los Angeles Dodgers farm system, Vargas, whose two older brothers served in World War II, joined the Marine Corps in 1963. He was sent to Vietnam and in the spring of 1968, (then) Capt. Vargas' company was engaged in fierce combat with the enemy at the village of Dai Do.



Winslow's Jay R. Vargas with his Medal of Honor.

Although wounded by a grenade, Vargas helped free one of his platoons from heavy fire by personally destroying three enemy machine gun positions. He also carried his battalion commander to safety and saved seven other Marines. Vargas sustained wounds three different times but refused to quit until the end of the third day of battle, when the North Vietnamese began to retreat.

In a May 1970 ceremony at the White House, (then) Maj. Vargas received the Medal of Honor from President **Richard M. Nixon** for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty . . ." Col. Vargas's personal decorations also include the Silver Star, the Purple Heart with four Gold Stars, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Above and Beyond will be on display from May 16 through October 25 at the Pioneer Museum, which is open Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm.

2015 High Desert Fly-In (Cont.)

(Cont. from Page 1) Featuring many rarely seen images, Berg's free presentation will describe one of the Southwest's greatest and least known aerial adventures. While working in the Southwest for Transcontinental Air Transport, aviator **Charles A. Lindbergh** became interested in archaeology and recognized that aviation could be a powerful tool for researchers.

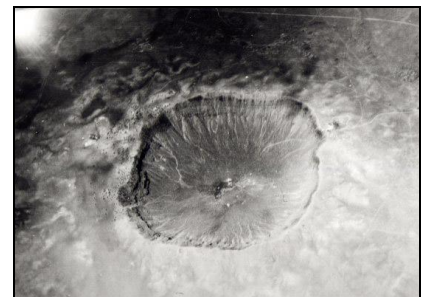
Charles and his new wife, **Anne Morrow Lindbergh**, agreed to fly across remote sections of the Southwest in an open cockpit biplane to photograph archaeological and geographical sites. During the summer of 1929, the Lindberghs explored the Four Corners area and captured nearly 200 iconic aerial images of famous landmarks including Chaco Canyon, Pecos, Canyon de Chelly, the Grand Canyon, and Meteor Crater.

To protect the sites, neither the Lindberghs nor the participating archaeologists publicized the project, and over time the aerial survey was largely forgotten. Today these historic photographs are among the earliest and best images of many important Southwest sites and serve as unique yardstick for measuring changes across the area over the last 80 years.

Erik Berg is an award-winning writer and historian whose work has been featured in *Arizona Highways*, the *Journal of Arizona History*, and *Sedona Magazine*. Raised in Flagstaff, he recently completed a four-year term as president of the Grand Canyon Historical Society. For the latest on the 2015 High Desert Fly-In, find us at www.highdesertflyin.org and on Facebook.



The Lindberghs in their biplane in 1929.



Meteor Crater from the biplane.

2015 Winter History Highlight a Success

OTM hosted its Winter History Highlight when **Dr. Bill Peterson** presented *From Territory to Today: Northern Arizona's History Through Its Objects* to an enthusiastic crowd of 40 residents and tourists on January 31 in the Ballroom of La Posada Hotel.

The First Territorial Legislature established the Arizona Historical Society (AHS) in 1864 to collect and preserve "all facts relating to the history of this Territory." To celebrate its 150th birthday, AHS has created an exhibit and edition of *The Journal of Arizona History* exploring the state's history using 150 of the most interesting artifacts and documents from its vast statewide collections.

Dr. Peterson, director of AHS's Pioneer Museum in Flagstaff, highlighted some of Northern Arizona's exceptional objects, many of which are on display at the museum. The special edition of *The Journal of Arizona History* was also available for purchase.

Dr. Peterson holds an MA in Museum Studies and a PhD in American Culture Studies, and he has worked in the museum profession since 1991. He relocated to Arizona from South Dakota, where he helped create Deadwood History Inc. He currently serves on the board of the Museum Association of Arizona and has worked in Montana on the Montana Heritage Commission and as President of the Museums Association of Montana.

The 2015 Winter History Highlight, a partnership program between OTM and the Winslow Arts Trust, was made possible in part by the Arizona Historical Society, Northern Division.



Peterson discussed the Mary Colter painting in the AHS Collection.



OTM is grateful that the Winslow Harvey Girls once again acted as greeters!

Supporter Spotlight



Mel Bradshaw performs for the crowd.

The Winslow Historical Society hosted its 2014 Annual Meeting at the Winslow Visitors Center on November 8, 2014. Over 30 attendees enjoyed delicious refreshments, a slideshow of images from OTM's public programs over the last year, and a wonderful performance by cowboy singer and artist **Mel Bradshaw**. The meeting of the WHS Membership included brief reports on museum activities since the last meeting and the election of new board members.

OTM said goodbye to some dedicated Board members and officers: President **Patricia Raygor**, Secretary **Linda Chambers**, Volunteer Coordinator **Vel Marcotte**, and Directors **Curtis Hardy**, **Mike Howell**, and **Frances M. Perkins**.

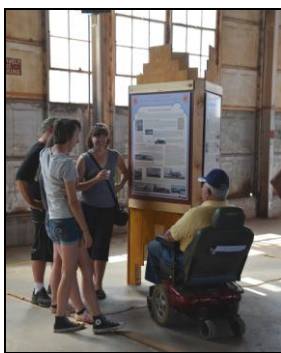


Vel Marcotte presents sister Barbara Arthur with her prize while OTM Volunteer Debbie Roberts looks on.

We also welcomed new President **David Hartman**, Secretary **Kaye Ricks**, and Directors **Marsha Childers** and **Jackie Landis**, who join ongoing Vice-President **Ruth Gant**, Treasurer **Gordon McHood**, and Director **Michelle Hernandez**. We are so grateful to you all for your service!

Some of our supporters were rewarded for their attendance with terrific door prizes. **Marcia Juergens** won the OTM basket, OTM Volunteer **Barbara Arthur** won the book donated by the Winslow Public Library, OTM Volunteers **Donna Guiher** and **John Orstedt** won the basket from the Winslow Arts Trust, and **George Kalisz** and **Doris Nelson** won the "emergency snack tote" donated by Michelle Hernandez.

From the Museum Floor

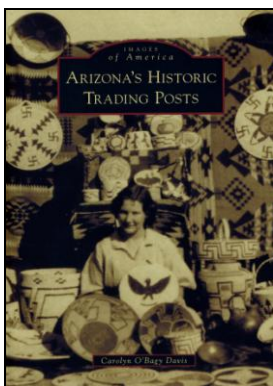


OTM's exhibit at the 2014 Fly-In

Each spring, OTM collects our visitor and program attendance 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 2014 was 3,511, a slight decrease over the prior year. The OTM Volunteers hosted all these visitors, which they did for 2,375 hours – a \$38,840 in-kind value!

OTM's off-site activities include our two exhibits on display at La Posada Hotel during 2014, *Journeys to Winslow* (5,920 visitors) and *Flying Through History: The Winslow-Lindbergh Regional Airport* (4,795 visitors), which is enjoying an extended run through June 2015. We also hosted 440 attendees at our off-site programs, which included our seasonal History Highlights as well as our participation in the annual High Desert Fly-In.

Our online "visitors" increased significantly over the last year, which we suspect is due to the growing amount of historical content on the OTM Website. We had over 10,899 unique visitors (up from 7,600) make over 33,934 visits (up from 18,000), and 18,442 (up from 4,750) visitors to our collections on the Arizona Memory Project. OTM also has 463 Facebook followers to date, who stay informed about our activities and public programs in real time.



O'Bagy's new book

Now on sale in the OTM Store is **Carolyn O'Bagy Davis'** new *Images of America* title, *Arizona's Historic Trading Posts*. OTM was a stop on her research trail, and several images from our collection are in the book. Much of the content came from traders who shared their personal stories and photographs, offering a glimpse into a vanishing time in the Southwest. We plan to invite Carolyn back to speak soon! (She gave a talk for OTM on Hopi quilting in early 2014.)

Thoughts from the Director

I'm so pleased that the WHS Board approved our first-ever OTM Scope of Collections Policy last month. This is an important accomplishment for two reasons: the document itself, and the spirit of cooperation it represents.

First, the document: A Scope of Collections Policy is essential to the health of a collecting institution like OTM. According to the American Alliance of Museums and the American Association for State and Local History, a good policy includes a broad description of what a museum has in its collection, as well as parameters for what the museum *hopes* to collect in the future. In defining OTM's ideal collection, our new policy includes guidelines for format, geography, time period, and topical area *as they relate to Winslow's history*.

Second, the spirit of cooperation: Along with taking advantage of the profession's recommendations, I liberally borrowed ideas from similar institutions' policies, and OTM will be willing to share our policy with others as well. I also sought feedback from an expert colleague in the field -- thank you, Jonathan Pringle from NAU's Cline Library! As we go forward and implement the policy, it will also be important to help potential donors find the best repository for their items if we think OTM is not it.

As it states in our new policy, "OTM staff and volunteers are bound by our mission to ensure that the OTM Collections receive the best possible care, conservation, and curation, and that they are accessible for research, display, and interpretation to the public." It's our goal that the OTM Scope of Collections Policy will help us better match our collections to both our mission and our organizational capacity, ultimately helping OTM better fulfill that mission.

Winslow Historical Society 2015 Board of Directors

President

David Hartman

Vice-President

Ruth Gant

Treasurer

Gordon McHood

Secretary

Kaye Ricks

Directors

Marsha Childers

Anne Doyle

(Flagstaff)

Michelle Hernandez

Jackie Landis

Winslow Historical Society 2015 Membership Renewal Form

(All contact information is kept private by the Old Trails Museum.)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone & E-mail: _____

Membership Level: _____

Enclose this form with a check payable to the Winslow Historical Society and mail it to:
Old Trails Museum, 212 Kinsley Ave, Winslow, AZ 86047

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!

Membership Acknowledgments

(Winslow resident unless noted)

Lifetime Members

- Allan Affeldt
- Robin & Teresa Boyd
- Bill Dagg, Groveland, CA
- Judy Douglas
- Roberta Gilman & Robert Wilson, Santa Barbara
- David & Ann Hartman
- Mary Heldt
- Randy Hummel (Honorary)
- Tess & Lawrence Kenna
- Dan Lutzick (Honorary)
- Patricia Raygor
- Paul Ruscha, LA & Winslow

2015 Patron Members

- Carolyn O'Bagy Davis, Tucson
- Darlene Kennedy & Robert Zaccaria
- Roger & Donna Muhlenkamp, Flagstaff
- Dr. John & Judy Sears
- George & Adele Shaw, Grand Junction, CO
- Doris A. Tyler, Show Low
- Winslow Chamber of Commerce



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E-MAIL:
info@oldtrailsmuseum.org

WEBSITE:
www.oldtrailsmuseum.org

OTM is online at
www.oldtrailsmuseum.org,
Arizona Memory Project,
& Facebook.



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 12 noon and 1pm to 3 pm (closed from 12 noon to 1 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.



212 Kinsley Ave
Winslow, AZ 86047

COMPANY NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, ST 22134