

PRESS RELEASE

Prescott Corral of Westerners International

Adventures and stories from Prescott's early days will be told during the first Western History Symposium at Sharlot Hall Museum, an all day event (Saturday) October 23. The program will feature eight talks ranging from the ice age to Artist George Phippen and everything in between. Two concurrent programs to be given at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.

At 10 a.m., Dr. Sandy Lynch will present "Ice Age: Living with Mammoths and Tigers and Bears" in the Museum Center (MC); and concurrently, Fred Veil will give "Charles Henry Veil-Civil War Veteran, Indian Fighter and Arizona Pioneer" at the Sharlot Hall Building (SH).

At 11 a.m. "Healers, Hucksters and Heroes" will be given by Dr. Robert E. Kravetz (MC) and "Jessie Benton Fremont Remembers Prescott" by Dawn Dollard (SH).

At 1:30 p.m., "The People of Fort Whipple" will be presented by Al Bates (MC) and Jay Eby and Scott Burgess will do "Rough Riders Contribute to Statehood for Arizona" (SH).

At 2:30 p.m. "George Phippen, Prescott's Premier Western Artist" will be given by Bruce Fee (MC) and "Liquid Gold Possibilities: The Great Verde Valley, Chino Valley and Holbrook Oil Boom" will be given by Erik Berg (SH).

The Symposium was the brainchild of Fred Veil who coordinated co-sponsorship with Richard Sims and Warren Miller of Sharlot Hall Museum and Prescott Corral of Westerners International, of which Veil is president. He obtained participation by the Skull Valley Historical Society, the Prescott Valley Historical Society, and the Arizona Rough Riders Historical Society.

Mammoths and Tigers and Bears

In Dr. Sandy Lynch's talk, "ICE AGE: Living with Mammoths and Tigers and Bears," she will tell what was it like to be one of the first Americans to cross the Bering Strait and come face to face with Megafauna--mammoths and mastodons, camels, and super-elk. What might be lurking in frozen marshes? The answer: Smilodons--the saber-toothed cat with scimitar stabbing canines. Most ferocious of all was the short-faced bear--larger than any known living bears, with legs that supported chase speeds equal to a Corvette. Ice Age was not a Disneyesque cartoon, and some say, "Humans were the most dangerous of all predators. Why? More importantly, How?"

Dr. Sandy Lynch is the Curator of Anthropology for Sharlot Hall Museum. She is known for the Museum's Prescott Indian Art Market--seven years and still running. Her work can be seen in the museum's exhibit, "The Baskets Keep Talking," the history and ethnology of the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe. Her current interest is installing a living exhibit--a Yavapai ethnobotanical garden that will include walking paths with surprising rock art features salvaged from a large local archaeological site.

Major Veil

The talk, "Charles Henry Veil – Civil War Veteran, Indian Fighter and Arizona Pioneer" by Fred Veil is about Major C.H. Veil, a distinguished Civil War veteran who came to the Arizona Territory with the First U. S. Cavalry in 1866 on assignment "to subdue the Apache Indians." He established and named Camp Lowell (Tucson) and from there and other forts throughout the southern part of the Territory participated extensively in the Indian Wars of that era. After leaving the Army in 1871, he partnered with W. B. Hellings to establish the first flour mill in the Salt River Valley and construct the Black Canyon Wagon Road, thereby providing a more direct route for freighting flour and other products from the Valley to Prescott and the Indian Reservation near Camp Verde. Major Veil also had substantial farming interests in the Valley, such that the *Prescott Courier* on May 12, 1891 credited his farms with giving the Valley "name and fame for agricultural production." Major Veil's award winning story (Westerners International, 2003) will be told by his great grandnephew, Fred Veil, a Prescott resident, in a Chautauqua presentation.

Speaker Fred Veil, Major Veil's great grandnephew, is a semi-retired lawyer who has lived in Prescott since 2000. He is a graduate of Washington and Jefferson College, where he majored in history, and the Duquesne School of Law. From his early youth, he has had a very strong interest in American history, particularly that relating to the Civil War the American West. Since moving to Prescott, he has been very active in the Prescott Corral of Westerners International and currently serves as the Sheriff (President) of that organization. The subject of his talk has been extensively researched and provides an accurate and entertaining account of the life and experiences of an early Arizona pioneer.

Healers, Hucksters & Heroes

"Bleed, blister, and purge" was the slogan used by Arizona Territorial physicians. Medicine of that period was vastly different from what we know today. Military surgeons, charlatans and quacks, adventurous licensed physicians, and health seekers were all involved in the saga of Arizona medicine. In this presentation, territorial medical history is traced from the pre-Civil War period to statehood in 1912. In "Arizona Territorial Medicine: Healers, Hucksters & Heroes," Dr. Kravetz will explain how the risk of the hospital often superseded the risk of the injury or disease. He will discuss arrow wounds, amputations for lead shot shattered bones, herbs and patent medicines, what the doctor on horseback carried in his saddle bag, and much more. He will show

instruments used by territorial physicians, and his presentation will be accompanied by colorful, unique slides.

Dr. Robert E. Kravetz is a medical historian who is curator of the Medical Museum at Phoenix Baptist Hospital. His books, *Healers, Hucksters & Heroes* and *Healthseekers in Arizona*, have become classics in the field.

Jessie Benton Fremont

The talk “Jessie Benton Fremont Remembers Prescott” by Dawn Dollard is about the widow of Fremont, the “Great Pathfinder” and fifth Governor of the Arizona Territory. Mrs. Fremont received a letter from a Sharlot Hall of Dewey in December of 1895 which prompted reminiscences about Mrs. Fremont’s stay in Prescott when her husband was the governor. In her answer to Sharlot (the original of which is in Sharlot Hall Museum Archives), she encouraged the young writer and introduced her to the contact that brought her recognition as a poet and historian. In this Chautauqua-type presentation, Dollard, a Prescott resident, will portray Jessie Fremont as she recalls the people and places and events that pleased or disturbed her about the “wilderness capital.”

Dawn Dollard was born in Washington, D.C. and lived there surrounded by American history, but, with BA and MA degrees in education, she taught English literature. Her husband’s love of Arizona and its history stuck between the lines of Shakespeare. Upon his death, she moved to Prescott from Happy Jack and Mesa and volunteered at the Sharlot Hall Museum. From the very first day of hosting in the Fremont house, she felt a special bond with the women who occupied it in 1878. She has done much research and has been giving living history interpretations of both Lily and Jessie for almost 20 years.

Rough Riders

The talk “Rough Riders Contribute to Statehood for Arizona” by Jay Eby and Scott Burgess is about when the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898 and three troops of volunteers were formed in Arizona, including Troop “A” from Northern Arizona. The “Arizona Rough Riders” would go on to serve their county gallantly under the command of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, who ultimately became the 26th president. This presentation is the story of some of these troopers and their active contributions to the transition of the Arizona Territory to statehood in 1912. The men profiled in this talk were dedicated to the proposition that the Arizona Territory deserved statehood and its citizens should have a voice in determining their own futures. Their service in the war and their association with Roosevelt was an important part of their ability to influence events in Territorial Arizona and Washington.

Presenters Jay Eby and Scott Burgess are active in the Arizona Rough Riders Historical Association and Troop “A,” 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, an organization that actively participates in parades, reenactments and other events locally and throughout the state. Eby, born, raised and educated in Oklahoma, came to Arizona first in 1962 with the U. S. Forest Service, from which he retired in 1997. He is the founder and commanding

officer of Troop "A." Burgess, a native Arizonian, also retired from the Forest Service, is the president of the Arizona Rough Riders Historical Association. Their presentation will be supported by other members of Troop "A," who will set up an encampment on the grounds of the museum.

Fort Whipple

"The People of Fort Whipple" is the story of Fort Whipple, shown from its founding to final decommissioning through pictures and stories of many of the many people who came through its gates between 1863 and 1912. A veterans' hospital today, Fort Whipple formed an important part of frontier Prescott life throughout Arizona's territorial days up to the beginning of statehood. The Fort's importance wasn't just the protection of settlers from Indian attack but also extended to the financial and social sides of life in Prescott.

Al Bates is an "almost-native" of Arizona whose fascination with the story of Fort Whipple began more than 60 years ago when his father was a patient at the Veterans' Hospital on the grounds of the old fort. Since moving to Prescott 13 years ago, Al and his wife Joy have been active in local volunteer activities, especially the Prescott Corral of Westerners International. Al has researched Arizona Territorial history both locally at the Sharlot Hall Museum archives and at other sources in Arizona and New Mexico. Recently, he edited the memoirs of Tom Sanders, one of the earliest Prescott pioneers into a book called *My Arizona Adventures: The Recollections of Thomas Dudley Sanders - Miner, Freighter and Rancher in Arizona Territory*, recently published by the Prescott Westerners. He continues to work on a biography of Jack Swilling, one of the most colorful of Arizona's founding fathers.

Artist George Phippen

The slide presentation "George Phippen, Prescott's Premier Western Artist" by Bruce Fee is about the most noted Western artist from Prescott to gain national acclaim for his paintings and sculptures, which generally depict the life and experiences of the cowboy in the American West. It is estimated that Phippen did some 3,000 works in his career, which ended prematurely when he died of cancer in 1966 at the age of 50. Phippen was a founder of the Cowboy Artists of America in 1965 and served as that organization's first president. He was recognized by his peers as one of the top Western artists of his time. Locally, he was honored posthumously in 1984 when the museum that bears his name was founded. Phippen was a friend and mentor to local artist and historian Bruce Fee, who will discuss the man and his art in this presentation.

Artist and Historian Bruce Fee has lived in Arizona for more than seventy-five years. A Navy veteran of World War II, where he served on submarines, Bruce graduated from Arizona State College (now known as Northern Arizona University) in 1950 and shortly there after moved to Prescott where he has since lived. He studied art under the tutelage of his friend George Phippen, the subject of his talk. Bruce is generally recognized as one of the most knowledgeable historians in the Prescott area and is a frequent speaker on a myriad of subjects of local and Southwestern history.

Liquid Gold

Eric Berg's talk, "Liquid Gold Possibilities: The Great Verde Valley, Chino Valley, and Holbrook Oil Booms" is about several brief, but intensive, oil booms in Yavapai County during the years immediately before and after the First World War. - Many people know about the rich gold and copper discoveries that brought waves of early prospectors to Yavapai County, but few realize that Northern Arizona was also home to oil prospectors. For a short period, the quiet slopes of the Verde Valley, the rolling hills of Chino Valley, and the rocky plains around Holbrook were dotted with the wooden derricks of oil wells while the pages of local newspapers were filled with advertisements attracting would-be oil barons. Dramatic, erratic, and often amusing, the tale of Northern Arizona's largely forgotten oil booms remains one of the more unusual chapters in Arizona's history. This talk is based on the presenter's award-winning article "Big Boom Predicted: Oil Exploration and Speculation in Northern Arizona 1900-1930" from the Spring 2000 issue of the *Journal of Arizona History*.

Erik Berg is a professional software engineer and historian and writer. His interests include mining history as well as the social and industrial development of early Twentieth Century Arizona. In addition to presenting at conferences and writing articles for the *Journal of Arizona History*, he contributed a chapter to the third volume of *History of Mining in Arizona* and wrote a guide to historic sites for the recently published *Arizona Goes To War: The Home Front and the Front Lines During World War II*. He lives in Phoenix.