

**THE THIRD ANNUAL
WESTERN HISTORY SYMPOSIUM
SPONSORED BY
THE SHARLOT HALL MUSEUM
AND
THE PRESCOTT CORRAL OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Law and Justice in 19th Century Arizona Territory

Speaker: Fred Veil

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Museum Center

The common perception that the Arizona Territory of the 19th Century existed largely in a state of lawlessness is a myth, promulgated primarily by 20th Century Hollywood, television and dime novels. While the territory undoubtedly had its share of criminal activity and civil disputes common to the Western frontier, it also had a functioning legal system that appears to have dealt quite adequately with the legal issues of the day. Fred Veil, lawyer and historian, will discuss the development and evolution of the law in the territory, as well as some of lawyers, jurists and lawmen who were responsible for “bringing the law” to the Arizona Territory.

Fred Veil 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 University School of Law. From his early youth, he has had a very strong interest in American history, particularly that relating to the Civil War and the American West. Since moving to Prescott, he has been very active in the Prescott Corral of Westerners International and served as that organization’s Sheriff (President) in 2004. The subject of his talk has been extensively researched and provides an accurate and entertaining account of a territory struggling to gain respectability and ultimately statehood.

The Baca Float No. 5 on the ORO Ranch

Speaker: Bruce Fee

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Place: Museum Center

The Baca Float No. 5 was a Mexican land grant that was recognized by the United States when it acquired the part of Mexico that eventually became the state of Arizona through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Gadsden Purchase. The Float is now part of the 265,000 acre ORO Ranch located fifty-three miles northwest of Prescott. The Ranch, which is owned and operated by the JJJ Corporation, is one of the last “big outfits” that continues to utilize a chuckwagon on its roundups.

Bruce Fee: Western 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 thereafter moved to Prescott where he has since lived. He lived on the ORO Ranch for nine years as the resident artist and bus driver for the Williamson Valley School and is uniquely familiar with the ORO’s rich and interesting history. 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.

The Walnut Grove Dam Disaster

Speaker: Charles Herner

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Place: Sharlot Hall Building

In the early 1880s, a group of New York mining men, convinced that a hydraulic gold mining operation on the Hassayampa River south of Prescott could be successful, constructed a masonry dam 110 feet high at Walnut Grove to provide the necessary water. Early in the morning of February 22, the dam suddenly collapsed, sending a sixty foot wall of water sweeping down the canyon. Approximately sixty persons, caught in their beds without warning and with little chance to escape, drowned in the rushing waters. This presentation details the collapse of the dam and ensuing flood as seen through the eyes of one young New Jersey woman, who survived to tell her story.

Charles Herner: Charles was born in Jerome at a time when the community boasted about 10,000 people, and the mines were still going strong. He grew up in Douglas and attended the University of Arizona, receiving a BA and MA degree in American History. He taught history at Canyon del Oro High School in Tucson for twenty-seven years and had a secondary career in the U.S. Army Reserve. Presently he is working on a full-length biography of Alexander Oswald Brodie, an Arizona Rough Rider and Arizona’ fifteenth Territorial governor.

Lawman and Outlaw – George Ruffner and Jim Fleming

Speaker: Jim Lockwood Time: 1:30 P.M. Place: Museum Center

This is a captivating story of the unusual relationship between Prescott pioneer George Ruffner – cowboy, businessman, miner and, importantly, Yavapai County Sheriff, and Jim “Fleming” Parker - cowboy, saddle tramp, petty thief, rustler and horse thief-turned-train-robber and killer. One time saddle partners, Ruffner and Parker became bitter enemies on opposite sides of the law, spawning a convoluted tale of a botched train robbery, a jailbreak, cold-blooded murder and a relentless pursuit through desert and mountains that has more twists and turns than any B western movie plot. The story ends dramatically on the gallows behind the Yavapai County Courthouse on June 3, 1898 in what would be recorded as Prescott’s last legal hanging.

Jim Lockwood: Jim is a 13 year resident of the Prescott area and a history buff of the American West since childhood. He is the head of the Old West Arizona Rangers Historical Society and has been giving educational seminars and slide presentations on Arizona History, and Prescott in particular, at school, churches, libraries and museums, etc., for over a decade. Jim is also a former newspaper reporter, author, businessman and currently a leather artist and historian.

Amos and Charlie - An Historical River Story

Speaker: Brad Dimock Time: 1:30 P.M. Place: Sharlot Hall Building

For most people today, whitewater boating and whitewater rafting are synonymous. But in early 1938 there was no such thing as a whitewater raft. This is the story of the first, inflatable custom built rubber boat that changed the sport of river running forever. Introduced in 1938 by Amos Berg, the raft named *Charlie* proved its worth on an extended trip down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. In images, quotes and stories, author, river runner and historian Brad Dimock tells the story of Burg and *Charlie*, the man and the boat that founded an industry.

Brad Dimock: Brad has spent thirty years on the Colorado River as a boatman, running nearly every type of craft known, from the cumbersome Powell boats of the 1800's and suicidal Hyde sweep scow of 1928, to the modern dory, raft, and motor rig. In 1998 Dimock began publishing books about the river and those who ran them. He co-wrote *The Doing of the Thing, The Brief, Brilliant Whitewater Career of Buzz Holmstrom* (1998), and authored *Sunk Without a Sound; The Tragic Colorado River Honeymoon of Glen and Bessie Hyde* (2001). Both books have won the National Outdoor Book Award, and the latter book, in addition to winning the Arizona Highways Nonfiction Book

Award, was chosen as the 2004 One Book Arizona selection. Dimock's public speaking is of a style honed around thousands of campfires.

The Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

Speaker: Scott Kwiatkowski Time: 2:30 P.M. Place: Museum Center

The Yavapai Indians are one of the most under studied and misunderstood group of native peoples in the American Southwest. They are indigenous to Central Arizona, having been documented in their aboriginal territory since 1583. Although they differ from the more recently arrived Western Apache in their native language, DNA, and many customs, they have been mislabeled as Apaches by whites and other Indians alike for several centuries. In part because of this misidentification, the Yavapais were subjected to repeated acts of violence from 1860 until they were confined to the Rio Verde and San Carlos reservations in the 1870s. Beginning around 1900, many of the survivors began returning to their ancestral homelands, even though no formal reservations had yet been set aside for them there. Establishment of the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe (YPIT) in 1935 from part of the former grounds of the Whipple Barracks Military Reservation was a cooperative effort between local townspeople, politicians and Tribal members. During its short existence, YPIT has gone on to become one of the area's largest employers and several of its members have distinguished themselves through military service, sports, and the arts.

Scott Kwiatkowski: Scott is the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe's Anthropologist. He is a registered professional archaeologist who received his M.A. in Anthropology from Arizona State University. During the past 20 years he has directed more than a hundred archaeological research projects throughout Arizona. He is a former editor of the *Arizona Archaeological Council Newsletter* and is a governor-appointed member of the committee which advises AZSITE, Arizona's official database of archaeological sites.

The Life and Times of Tom Mix

Speaker: Dick Bowerman Time: 2:30 P.M. Place: Sharlot Hall Building

The name Tom Mix is synonymous with early Western movies. During his 25 year movie career, which spanned both silent films and "talkies", Mix made 336 Westerns, and at one time commanded a salary that was four times that of the President of the United States. But Mix was more than a mega movie star. Born in Pennsylvania in 1880, he ventured west and worked as a cowhand and wild west show performer before making his first movie, "Ranch life in the Great Southwest", filmed in Prescott in 1910. He was also rodeo competitor and a regular participant in Prescott's Frontier Days event. Skull

Valley historian Dick Bowerman will discuss Mix's life and times with particular emphasis on his extensive Prescott connections.

Dick Bowerman: Dick, a native of Arizona, is a retired schoolteacher, who has lived in Skull Valley for 25 years. A history buff, Dick has researched and presented other programs of local historical interest to such organizations as the Prescott Corral of the Westerners, Sons of the American Revolution, Prescott Camper Coach Club, and the Skull Valley Historical Society, including talks on King Woolsey, William Kirkland, Gail Gardner and Virgil Earp. He is a board member of the Skull Valley Historical Society.

Other Participating Organizations

In addition to the Sharlot Hall Museum and the Prescott Corral of the Westerners, the Skull Valley Historical Society, the Prescott Valley Historical Society and the Arizona Rough Riders Historical Association are also participating in this event.

