

SEVENTH ANNUAL WESTERN HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

SPONSORED BY

THE SHARLOT HALL MUSEUM AND THE PRESCOTT CORRAL OF
WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL

AUGUST 7, 2010

No Better Than Murderers: The Story of the Canyon Diablo Train Robbery of 1889

Speaker: Dr. Paul Hietter

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Museum

In March 1889, four men robbed the Atlantic Pacific train near Canyon Diablo. Yavapai County Sheriff William "Bucky" O'Neill led an epic manhunt that eventually caught the robbers. The chase lasted nearly two-and-a-half weeks, covered a reported 300 miles, and brought O'Neill nationwide fame. The robbery also served as the first test case for a new Arizona law making train robbery a capital offense. The bandits eventually pled guilty, but were not sentenced to death. Instead, they received sentences ranging from twenty-five to thirty years. This presentation explores why this was the case, and in the process explains why a blanket death penalty for all train robberies was not an appropriate response to the crime.

Paul Hietter has taught U.S. and Arizona history at a variety of colleges since 1991, and is currently a residential faculty member in history at Mesa Community College. A graduate of Arizona State University, where he earned his Ph.D. degree in U.S. History, Dr. Hietter has published a number of articles on his area of specialization: crime and criminal justice in territorial Arizona. His presentation is made possible by the Arizona Humanities Council.

Murder on Whiskey Row: Arizona Territory v. William B. Hellings

Speaker: Fred Veil

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Museum

On the night of September 19, 1872, William B. Hellings of Phoenix shot and mortally wounded Edward Grover, a former business partner, on Montezuma Street in Prescott. Hellings was not your usual gunman. Rather, he was a respected businessman, who in partnership with his victim and others had in the preceding year established a thriving milling and mercantile business in East Phoenix. Ultimately, Hellings would be indicted by a Yavapai County Grand Jury. His murder trial before a Maricopa County petite jury, and the events leading thereto, provide a revealing look at the criminal justice system of 19th Century 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. A Past Sheriff of the Prescott Corral, he conceived and organized the Western History Symposium that has been held annually at the Sharlot Hall Museum since 2004. Mr. Veil has presented talks at the Symposium, the Tombstone Justice Forum, the Arizona History Convention, the Prescott Corral and the Skull Valley Historical Society. His paper on the Hellings murder trial won the Don Bufkin Award for the Best Territorial Period Paper at the 2009 Arizona History Convention.

Winning Their Place: Arizona Women in Politics, 1914-1950

Speaker: Dr. Heidi Osselaer **Time: 1:30 p.m.**

Place: Museum

Arizona women enjoyed an unusual level of success in early state politics at a time when few women ran for office in other states. Their personal experiences, growing up under harsh conditions, living in tents or log cabins, hauling water or navigating rivers, prepared them for the rough world of male politics. Domestic responsibilities, church, women's clubs, or civic activities did not simply define their lives. They worked outside of the home, raised families, and introduced legislation that touched the lives of all citizens. Although they faced many obstacles, these female politicians, like Frances Willard Munds, Isabella Greenway, Nellie Trent Bush, and Ana Frohmiller, also broke

through barriers to allow the women who followed them--women like Sandra Day O'Connor and Janet Napolitano--to reach unprecedented heights.

Heidi J. Osselaer received her undergraduate degree in History at the University of California, Berkeley, and earned both her master's degree and doctorate in U.S. History at Arizona State University. In April of 2009, the University of Arizona Press published her first book, *Winning Their Place: Arizona Women in Politics, 1883-1950*. She is a lecturer for the Arizona Humanities Council and her paper, "Nellie Trent Bush: Arizona Politician," garnered two awards at the 2008 Arizona History Convention: the Barry M. Goldwater award for best paper presented and the FAZA (Friends of Arizona Archives) award for best use of archival sources. Currently Dr. Osselaer teaches U.S. Women's History at Arizona State University, Tempe, and serves on the Scholars' Committee of the Arizona Women's Heritage Trail.

Ernest Love, Arizona Aviator in the Great War

Speaker: Alan Roesler

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: Museum

This photographic presentation will portray the life of Ernest Love, who grew up in Prescott, briefly attended Washington School and graduated from Prescott High School in 1914, where he was an All-State guard in football, an accomplished thespian, singer and president of his graduating class. His fame, however, came as a consequence of his military career, wherein stories of his military achievements were regularly published in the Prescott newspaper during 1917-18. This Stanford University educated aviator was later assigned to the 147th Aero Squadron in France, where he flew 22 combat missions before paying the ultimate sacrifice in 1918, during the St. Mihiel Offensive. His name lives on today as the namesake of Prescott's American Legion Post 6 and the Prescott Airport.

Alan Roesler, a League of World War I Aviation Historians member since 1986, served four years as an Issue Editor of their quarterly aviation journal *Over The Front* (OTF), and three years as OTF's Managing Editor and League Board member. He has had five

articles published in OTF, and has been awarded the Thornton Hooper award for excellence in aviation history for two of them. His first book, *An Arizona Aviator in France: The Life of Ernest A. Love, 147th Aero Squadron*, is now in its Third Edition. Also a member of the Arizona Historical Society, he has had one article published in the *Journal of Arizona History*. Mr. Roesler is a retired registered geologist and resides in Mesa.

The Founding of Prescott, AT

Speaker: Albert Bates

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Place: Museum

This talk, based on annual training the speaker provides to Sharlot Hall Museum volunteers, is the story of how a blank spot on all maps in 1863 became the home for Arizona Territory's first capital city less than a year later. The Prescott story began in May 1863 with the arrival of a group of explorers and would-be gold miners led by the famed trailblazer Joseph R. Walker and followed by an immediate gold rush to the previously unexplored region. However, before those activities could occur they had to be preceded by five essential events beginning with the Mexican-American War and climaxing in a chance encounter in New Mexico.

Albert R. (Al) Bates is a frequent speaker on the people and events of Arizona's Territorial days. He is the author of the book *Jack Swilling: Arizona's Most Lied About Pioneer*. Al is an almost-native of Arizona, having lived in the state since 1937. He retired from Phoenix to Prescott in 1991 after a career in computer software development. Before that he was a journalist (BA from ASU) and a corporate publicist. He is a past Sheriff and honorary life member of the Prescott Corral of Westerners International.

Theodore Roosevelt's Arizona Boys

Speaker: Dr. Martin Feess

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Hotel St. Michael

Theodore Roosevelt reinvented the American presidency for the twentieth century with his use of the "bully pulpit" and emphasis on the "square deal." In so doing he enlivened American politics and made the federal government relevant to the common man. This talk is about the cowboy Roosevelt and the special connection that Roosevelt had to Arizona, a territory which provided two hundred Rough Riders who served during the Spanish-American War. The unique relationship between President Roosevelt and his Arizona boys affected Roosevelt's administration and greatly affected Arizona politics. Many of the Arizona Rough Riders were colorful characters. These are stories rich in hope, humor, and humanity.

Martin Feess is a high school teacher and a long-time resident of Arizona. He received his MA in History in 1984 and his PhD in 1999 both from Northern Arizona University. Dr. Feess has won awards for teaching excellence and has taught history part-time for several Arizona community colleges. His book, *Theodore Roosevelt's Arizona Boys*, is about the interactions of Roosevelt and the former Rough Riders in Arizona after the war.