



the Quarterly

Remembering the Southwest Valley

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Salt  Agua Fria  Gila
Three Rivers Historical Society

The Church at Litchfield Park

The Church at Litchfield Park was born of cotton, made of mud, patterned after a Mexican gambling den, and owes its existence to a deal for a hotel bar.

Boll-weevils in Georgia and U-boats in the Atlantic brought the Goodyear Tire and Rubber

Mr. Litchfield felt in such a small community that the Protestants should get together in a nondenominational church. As a child he was exposed to different churches including the Unitarian church and was never too impressed with the differences between denominations. His religious belief was based on the idea that God is



The Church in 1942, photo by Meredith Stucky

Company here during WWI, looking for a place to grow long-staple cotton vital for the production of corded tires. Mr. Paul Litchfield was the president of the 16,000 acre Southwest Cotton Company ranch and of Goodyear Tire and Rubber in Akron, OH. He was the creator and designer of the company town, Litchfield Park, with wide streets lined with stately palms and sour orange trees, the Wigwam Organization House for Akron guests, stores, a hospital, a school, homes and two churches, one Catholic and the other Protestant.

an all-inclusive Unity. So, his plan for this small community was for one nondenominational church, which with the right kind of preacher could meet the spiritual needs of the Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalians, and the many others.

It wasn't until 1938 that the Protestants were able to come together and build what they called "The Church at Litchfield Park". Mr. Arthur Zieske was elected the first chairman along with Kenneth McMicken, J.W. Padgett, Daniel Owens, George Stewart, Newell Kring, and Corinne Hall.

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In April 1938, Reverent R.C. Sells was called to serve the church as the first minister. Services were held in the Litchfield Park Community Hall, situated on the southeast corner of the flagpole intersection. Easter Sunrise Services were at La Loma, the winter home of Mr. and Mrs. Litchfield.

September of 1939 was the ground breaking for the sanctuary. Getting to this point was no easy task. As goes the written history, Mr. Zieske approached Mr. Litchfield about funding the church. Mr. Litchfield was very enthusiastic but the Board of Directors for the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company back in Akron was less so. The Depression had drained the company considerably, to the point that the Goodyear operation was in jeopardy, so needless to say they weren't thrilled about building a church.

As it happened, the Wigwam was not doing well. They were trying to expand as a public resort but it was Mr. Litchfield's policy that there be no cocktail lounge. So, it was having trouble attracting guests and making a profit. The Board of Directors saw the opportunity for some "horse trading." If Mr. Litchfield would change the policy, he could have his church.

He did and so the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company agreed to build the church.

But, you ask, what about the mud and Mexican gambling den? The original plans for the church are not signed by an architect; they only have Mr. Litchfield's initials. Given Mr. Litchfield's strict moral principles there is some uncertainty about this part of the history. It seems Mr. Litchfield was in a gambling casino in Ensenada, Mexico when he was so intrigued by the interior construction that he spent the evening making a detailed sketch.

This, along with a picture from a newspaper of an early mission building became the plans for the sanctuary.

It was the Southwest Cotton Company crews that dug the soil out for the foundation and used it to make the adobe bricks for the walls. The bell for the tower was brought from San Diego by Mr. Litchfield. In less than three months, on November 6th the cornerstone was laid containing a Bible, the church roll, constitution and by-laws, and a clipping from the paper about the service.

December 10, 1939 the doors opened to all denominations with enough space for the entire population of 200 with room for hotel guests. It was dedicated to "the glory of God and for the good of all mankind."

It wasn't until 1971 that the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company deeded the church and 1½ acres of property over to the congregation as an outright gift. It was the first year as a corporate entity with a constitution, bylaws, and the bicameral form of government by adding the Board of Directors to the already existing Church Council.

Today The Church at Litchfield Park refers to itself as an inter-denominational church. Over the years the ministers have been from varied backgrounds including Methodist, Disciples of Christ, Swedish Baptist, and Presbyterian, along with others that still need to be investigated. After 73 years, Mr. Litchfield would be pleased to know the church sign reads, "A House of Prayer for All People."



Ground was broken on September 10, 1939. Within a year, a sanctuary and bell tower had been erected, conceived by Mr. Litchfield and built by the cotton companys engineering crew.

An Airman Remembers Luke

I was born in Nebraska and moved to Vista, California in 1958 where I graduated from high school. I enlisted in the USAF in January, 1961. My basic training was completed at Lackland AFB in Texas. From there I was sent to Chanute AFB, Illinois to technical school. My chosen field was Aircraft and Missile Electrical Repairman. I graduated in September 1961 and started my first duty assignment in Okinawa. There I worked on C-130As and F-102 fighter interceptors. My next assignment was to Bitburg AB in Germany working on the F-102s. After completing my four year enlistment I left the Air Force and worked in construction. But soon I returned to the Air Force and was stationed at Luke AFB. At that time, Luke had three full squadrons of F-100 Cs, Ds and Fs which were used for fighter pilot training.

While at Luke a buddy and I had an apartment in Avondale. Some of our spare time was spent at the A&W Root beer Drive-In on Hwy 80(MC85). Working at the A&W was a cute little gal, Linda Kiko. After a short courtship, and with new orders for Vietnam, we were married in Encinitas, CA. In Vietnam I was stationed at Tuy Hoa AB and worked on the F-100s.

Upon my return from Vietnam I was stationed at Charleston AFB in South Carolina. We welcomed our first son, Donald, while in South Carolina. I was up for re-enlistment and was eligible for the base of my choice. We returned to Luke and lived in the Goodyear subdivision until base housing was available. This time I worked on F-4Cs and Ds, and A7Ds, fighter bomber aircraft for the pilot training squadrons.

I was then selected for an assignment at Andrews AFB,



Don & Linda Kiko Stults

Maryland, 4 miles from downtown Washington, DC. I was in the 89th Special Missions Squadron which provided the maintenance and upkeep of the airplanes used by the President, Vice-President, the Senate and Congressmen. At this point, we welcomed our second son, Cory. In July 1975, I was selected to be on the crew of Air Force One and I served on the crew for five years, serving three Presidents, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

My next assignment took us to Zweibrucken AB, Germany where we stayed until I retired from the Air Force in July 1983.

Throughout my career, as an Aircraft Electrical Repairman it was my job to maintain all power systems for all the aircraft I worked on. Electrical systems include the flight controls, engine controls, landing gear, air conditioning, heating, lighting, and communication. Following my initial schooling I started at level 3 (apprentice). After years of experience and further training I attained level 9 certification, supervisor, which is the highest level for the Air Force.

I enjoyed my two tours at Luke. I was able to work with some great people many of them experienced civil service employees that helped me learn my job. I enjoyed living off base with my friend, Ken Mullen. I bought my first motorcycle in Arizona as the weather just seems to be made for riding. I did quickly learn that it is not a good idea to ride without a shirt. The bugs hitting you at 60mph really hurt! And, of course meeting my wife there was pretty special, too. She has accompanied me all over the world for 45 years.

By Donald R. Stults, Rockaway Beach, MO

3RHS Fundraiser – "A Taste of History" *The Centennial Trail Cookbook Fundraising Project*

Co-Chairs, Linda Wyman and Sally Kiko, report that progress is being made on the centennial community cookbook, A Taste of History. They extend their thanks to all of you who have contributed your great recipes. The first phase, gathering recipes is drawing to a close. The next phase, typing the recipes into the publishers program will start this month. The ladies will continue to sell advertising to businesses and individuals to help cover publishing costs. Their goal is to keep the price of the cookbook at about \$10 and maximize profits for the 3RHS's centennial trail at Estrella Mountain Regional Park. Ad prices range from \$15 for a patron to full page ads for \$75. To purchase an ad, please call Linda at 623-935-7887. They plan to have the finished cookbook ready by February 2012.

Ken Wood said, "I think everyone in the Three Rivers communities should take part in this once in a hundred year project. This will be a fun book to pass on to family and friends."



Wood Pie tastes better than it sounds. One half of this pie was eaten by Ken Wood and all of it was baked by "someone" we know. You can find out who in "A Taste of History."

Frances Ybarra Amabisca

Educator, Encourager, Motivator



Frances Amabisca, a lifelong learner and educator, changed many lives. Through the years she struggled to get her own education and then encouraged students to not only finish high school but to aim higher. She never lost sight of the fact that each student has a unique set of abilities and unique problems that affect the way they learn. Some had family troubles, some economic issues; others had to learn English first in order to understand the rest of the lessons.

Frances was born in Hayden, Arizona on May 30, 1922. Her father, a miner, had come to this country as an orphan and settled in Hayden. Her mother immigrated in 1916. Hayden, a mining town, was segregated in those days. The Company supplied a lot and the utilities, but the miners were required to build their own homes. The Hispanics were located in a separate section called San Pedro.

When Frances started school she spoke only Spanish, the language spoken in her home. Her father had learned enough English to function well at work, but her mother spoke only Spanish. At school, she was punished for speaking Spanish so was highly motivated to master English quickly. She had a neighbor that tutored her in English and Frances then taught her younger sisters English, too. Frances did well in school. Her father was strict and expected good grades from his girls. Since her focus was on academics, she didn't participate in the social activities that were available in high school.

From her earliest years, Frances had wanted to be a teacher. Her mother would always agree with her ambitions but wondered how it would be accomplished. When she asked her father if she could go to college to learn to be a teacher he said yes, but he didn't want her to leave home. Those were different times; young women only left home when they married. After much cajoling, she was allowed to go. Her dad drove her to Tempe and she began college. She was able to finance her education with a working scholarship program. She took classes and worked full time. Her job at college was in the mimeograph office where the professors had anything their class needed duplicated, including their exams. So Frances always had to take a different test than the other students.

While in college, her dorm assistant, Sally Hayden, was very encouraging and a mentor to Frances. The classes Frances took prepared her to teach business courses and Spanish to high school students. However, she was advised to get her elementary certification, too. She was told that it might be hard to obtain a high school teaching job as a Hispanic.

Frances finished her course work in December, but would not officially graduate until May. Not one to waste time, she started graduate course work. Dr. Gammage called her in and asked her if she would like to teach. And, of course, she did. He offered her a job for the spring semester teaching at the Japanese Internment Camp at Gila River. She expressed concern about continuing her graduate classes and he arranged for her to do those on the weekend. So she rode a bus to the camp each Monday and home again each Friday. At the camp she taught eighth grade English and high school Spanish. She was paid \$150 per month. While teaching the Japanese students she learned something quite valuable. On her first day of classes she was dismayed to find that all the young Japanese students "looked alike." By the end of the week, however, they had each become individuals with unique qualities. Later, as a school administrator, she understood when teachers said that all the Hispanic students "looked alike," and could assure the teachers that by Friday they would become individuals.

After graduation, Frances obtained her first job teaching in Thatcher, Arizona, where

Gloria King Named Historian of the Year

Gloria King was awarded the Historian of the Year for 2010 at the June meeting of the Three Rivers Historical Society. Lenore Semmler and Sally Kiko made the presentation citing Gloria's commitment to preserving the history of the region. Gloria, a lifetime member, has always been an actively working member. Even though she is a relative new comer to the



Gloria King left, Lenore Semmler, right

area, she has enthusiastically embraced the community and its history. She is the wife of the late Jim King who was heavily involved in the development of Goodyear and the surrounding area.

Gloria served the historical society as president for two terms in 2008 and 2009. Her philosophy of encouraging volunteers and showing genuine appreciation for their hard work was instrumental in keeping loyal workers. During her presidency she brought back The Quarterly, the society's newsletter, in a beautifully conceived and written, full color publication with great graphics.

As Gloria gratefully accepted the award, in a manner so characteristic of Gloria, she gave recognition and thanks to the many members who have contributed their time and talent to the organization. She named Jean Stewart

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The Centennial Trail Gets Regional Support

who was the founder and first president of the historical society and Frank Ross, another founding member, who helped with legal issues particularly with the incorporation and obtaining non-profit status. Both are still actively involved, in fact, Frank is our current president.

Other MVPs she recognized were Ed King for finding talented people to be guest speakers each month. Lenore Semmler served in that capacity earlier with equal success. She also has served as secretary and continues to promote the society in a variety of ways. Don and Peggy Jones have both served as treasurers. Peggy, as our archivist, spends hours recording and preserving documents, photos, and collectibles for our archives. She video-tapes our speakers, edits the videos and burns them onto CDs. Martin Vaccaro helps with the videotaping and sound system. Ray Shuey recently agreed to serve as our treasurer; this has relieved some pressure on the Joneses. Gloria gave Sally Kiko credit for faithfully serving as secretary for the past few years and for serving as managing editor of *The Quarterly*, and Ed Buonvecchio for using his talents as art and graphics editor of *The Quarterly*. Ed is also serving as chairman of the centennial project, a new trail in Estrella Mountain Regional Park. He has worked diligently to bring together civic organizations, landscape architects and other talented people to work on the trail.

Gloria also cited Bill Arnold, president in 2010, for keeping the ball rolling and working to get new members. Mark Pelletier joined us just in time; as webmaster he has brought us up to date technically. He also serves on the Board. Don and Linda Wyman are enthusiastic members who have helped in a number of ways. Linda is currently co-chair of the cookbook fundraiser and submits articles about the society to the Pebble Creek Post. Ken Wood is an extraordinary promoter; he forwards emails and the newsletter to his friends and encourages them to join. JoAnn Gongaware and Glo O'Donnell have served as photographers.

She stated that for the Three Rivers Historical Society to grow we all need to work together to promote membership by inviting friends and neighbors to join. We need to be a hard working TEAM supporting our current projects.

Three Rivers Historical Society is thankful and inspired by the outpouring of support in this planning and fundraising stage of development of the Centennial Trail. The West Valley Arts Council (WVAC) has assisted with grant writing so that we can apply for various grants that come available. One grant applied for on behalf of Three Rivers Historical Society was for \$10,000 being offered by Tourism Cares Worldwide. Requirements for this grant involved garnering letters of support from civic, cultural and tourism entities.



Preliminary Sketch of Trail with markers

These letters are inspiring to read. As an example, here is an excerpt from a support letter from Julie Richard, President and CEO of the WVAC: "We are pleased to partner with the Society in the development of some of the interpretive features of the Trail. The Council is dedicating the 2012 summer arts-based program, Gallery 37, to help design interpretive features for the trail. Gallery 37 is the Council's 13-year old summer apprenticeship for high school students, many of them at-risk. Each summer up to 20 students design, create and install a piece of public art in one of the communities in the West Valley. The West Valley Arts Council's costs to participate by dedicating a Gallery 37 class, will be born by its own fundraising efforts and will amount to a donation of over \$60,000."

Another excerpt from Sharolyn Hohman Director of Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce states: "While the trail is a wonderful addition to the hiking offerings of the community, without adequate markers and kiosks depicting the geologic history of the Estrella Mountains, explaining the impact of the history of the Hohokam people and their culture, providing information on the first explorers and settlers of the region, the true value of the trail is lost."

Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department director RJ Cardin states in his letter: "The concept of creating not just a hiking trail but one that will include the historical, geological, ecological, and cultural diversity of this region make this an exciting project to support."

The City of Goodyear Mayor Georgia Lord and City Manager John Fischbach show their support with this excerpt: "This project not only provides residents and visitors the opportunity to view this beautiful area of the Sonoran desert, but offers an overview of the region's rich historical legacy."

Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers of Avondale states: "...Avondale has been working on the Monument Hill trail project and believes that the significance of both trails will educate residents and tourists about the state's rich history, cultural assets and recreational amenities. As a stakeholder we are dedicated and enthusiastic about this project."

Mayor Thomas Schoaf of Litchfield Park writes: "Litchfield Park, in honor of the Arizona Centennial, is supporting the efforts of Three Rivers Historical Society and the Centennial Trail. My city hopes Tourism Cares sees the value in the Centennial Trail and supports it with funding."

Gary Sawyer, President of Citizens of Estrella Park wrote: "The new trail will utilize a relatively undeveloped area that has a high potential for increasing utilization of...the park."

Be a part of the Arizona 2012 Centennial: make tax-deductible donations to develop this Trail by sending a check payable to: Three Rivers Historical Society, PO Box 7251, Goodyear, AZ 85338. Be sure to indicate "Centennial Trail" on the check. For another option to support the Centennial Trail be sure to read the article on page 3:

The Centennial Trail Cookbook Fundraising Project.

For more informaton contact Centennial Committee Chair, Ed Buonvecchio at: 623-556-7988 or email at: eddibon@yahoo.com.

Let's Go to the Oasis Drive-In

I remember going to the Oasis Drive-In. Ken and I were dating, but since I was only 16, my folks thought I should take my sisters along. So off we all went to see a movie. The Oasis was located on Dysart Road just south of Van Buren. It was owned by Howell Theaters and had a capacity for 400 cars. It first opened in about 1956 and the charge to get in was \$1 per car. Of course, lots of people packed as many passengers as they could into their sedans and trucks. They brought blankets and pillows for the little ones who were usually in their pajamas.



It's probably a stretch to think that Natalie Wood (above) watched movies at the Oasis, but fun to imagine who could have been in the car with her.

Ken & I popped a big bag of popcorn and brought a jug of Kool-Aid. We drove in, rolled down the window and placed the speaker on the edge of the door with the window open if it was hot, on the edge of the rolled up window if it was cold. As dusk settled in the screen began to show ads for food and drinks at the snack bar and previews of "coming attractions." Older children would be allowed to swing on the swings near the snack bar until the movie started. Young couples snuggled together – some to neck during the show. Sometimes they were the show!

One night during monsoon season, a windstorm came up during the movie. Our car was toward the middle of the lot. It was very dark and the wind was very strong. Suddenly the legs of the huge screen began to bend backwards and all of a sudden the entire screen went down! WOW!!! Every car made haste to return the speakers to the post and head for the exits. That night the storm

and subsequent collapse of the screen was more awesome than the movie! Later, a new screen was erected and movies resumed at the Oasis, continuing until it closed in 1981.

An even earlier theater in Avondale, The Avon, was on Western Avenue near Central Avenue. This theater, designed in the Art Moderne style opened in July of 1946. My dad, Walter Bensburg, was hired in 1949 to sweep out the theater after the shows. This was his first employment in Arizona after a brief stint picking cotton. He also made and sold soft ice cream cones at a cost

of 25 cents. The Avon usually had a double feature (two movies), a newsreel, and cartoons. For the Saturday matinee they also had a serial and we kids eagerly awaited the fate of the hero from week to week. The Avon closed in 1954. The theater building was remodeled to accommodate retail and has been a grocery store, a drug store, a school and is now a reception hall.

Frank Ross and Paul Aragon remember a "Tent Show". The show alternated between Surprise and Avondale. In Avondale, the tent would be erected on Western Avenue at about 5th Street. It was owned by Fred Brunk. Frank and Paul think it was in business from about 1942 until the Avon came in 1946. The tent held about 50 people and usually showed a movie but occasionally would feature local talent. Paul remembered Marty Robbins singing and "passing the hat" to pay the young musician.

By Lenore Semmler

We Have a Winner!

Gay Sanders Turner is the winner! She was the first to correctly name all of the Avondale School teachers in the 1946 photo that ran in the last issue of The Quarterly. Russell Killip, the son of Goodyear's first mayor, William Killip, named quite a few of the teachers. Thank you both for being readers of The Quarterly and entering our contest.

I asked Gay to tell us a little about herself. She wasn't on our mailing list and received her copy of The Quarterly by email, forwarded by one of our most enthusiastic supporters, Ken Wood. Gay and her family moved to Goodyear in 1944. They lived in the Westwood Manor (Park Shadows) and she remembers walking down to the corner of Western Ave. and Litchfield Road to see if the construction was done on the Drug Store. It had a soda fountain so I'll bet they were waiting for a nickel Coke or ice cream cone (also a nickel). Her mother worked at Goodyear Aircraft Corporation as an accountant. The whole town of Goodyear was being built to support the influx of workers at GAC who were working hard to modify the aircraft needed for the war effort.

Gay attended Avondale Elementary School, graduating in 1945. She fondly remembers the Principal, Lattie Coor, making sure they all learned to square dance. She next went to Litchfield

High School and ended up getting permission from Mr. Tidwell to combine her junior and senior course work so that she could graduate a year early in 1948 with her brother. By this time the war had ended and GAC had closed. Her mother found work in Phoenix, but had to ride the non-air conditioned bus to and from work each day. Mr. Tidwell was instrumental in Gay receiving a scholarship to Arizona State College in Flagstaff.

At college in Flagstaff, Gay met her husband, Charles Turner, a Peoria native. They married in 1950. Charles joined the Navy during the Korean War and Gay wasn't able to finish college at that time. However, 20 years and 5 sons later she did so, with a BA at the U of A in 1971, nurses training at Cochise College in 1976, and a MA at Western New Mexico University in 1989. She and her husband finally settled in Bisbee, AZ where her husband taught high school art.

"Litchfield High School in the '40s, "the war years," was a special place at a special time. Those of us who lived in Goodyear had all moved there from other places and formed new friends at school. There were only about 150 of us, so we felt as if our school friends were our family and in some ways, we still do."

By Sally Kiko

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she remained for two years. Next, she was hired by Mr. Tidwell for a teaching position in Litchfield Park. She got her “foot in the door” by teaching half a day in high school and the other half at the elementary school teaching “Americanization” class. It seemed she had to “prove herself” as a minority teacher. Her subsequent years were at the high school where she did more than just teach, she did a lot of promoting. She talked the Hispanic “camp” kids into going to high school, and then talked some more to keep them in school until graduation. One of her Hispanic students was getting excellent grades and wanted to be a teacher. Frances went out to the fields to talk to her father about college. Belen Soto Moreno went on to be, first a teacher, and later a school administrator at Avondale School.

About this time, Frances met the love of her life, Earnest Amabisca, and married. However, her husband was killed in a car accident after only two years of marriage. Seeking a change, she accepted a position with the Shell Oil Company in Venezuela as Director of Personnel. Her job was to train Venezuelan women both English and business skills so that they could replace the European women who were working for Shell. She was the perfect person for the job. She could use her own experiences and the skills she had learned to encourage and educate these women, giving them an opportunity to grow and prosper. In fifteen years she had replaced all the European women with bilingual, skilled Venezuelan women. With her task completed she returned to the United States.

Upon her return she began working at the Avondale School District as the Director of the Migrant Program. Not one to

rest on her laurels, she had been continuing her education with graduate work at the Universidad de Mexico, Universidad Central de Venezuela and the University of Michigan. While working at Avondale and caring for her elderly parents, she earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration from Arizona State University. When she was promoted to Superintendent of Avondale School District, she became one of the first female, Hispanic superintendents in Arizona. She retired from Avondale in 1987.

And, did I mention that she and her sister, Carmen Portillo, are avid sports fans, supporting ASU sports, the Cardinals, the Suns and the Diamondbacks. They didn't just follow the scores in the newspaper; they were in the stands cheering on their favorite teams. They were often accompanied by her nephew, David. Attending a sporting event was her way of encouraging him to do his best in school.

And, of course, when she retired she didn't stop teaching! Now her students were a little older; they were the priests, deacons, and seminarians of the Congregation of Holy Cross that were at St. John Vianney Parrish. They came to Frances to improve their Spanish and maybe even learn to roll their “r”s. Needless to say, they learned much more than just Spanish from Frances, they learned much about life, too. To all of us, whether we were a colleague, a student, a friend, or family member, Frances was always there to teach, mentor, encourage, cheerlead, comfort, and help us to grow to be a better person. Dr. “A,” as she was affectionately known passed away on September 12, 2010. Do you suppose that now she is teaching a class of discouraged angels how to be the best they can be?

Bradshaw Mountains

Our Mountains to the North

On a clear day, if you look north of the valley, you can see the Bradshaw Mountains. In the winter, their peaks may be frosted with snow. The Bradshaw's are considered one of the richest of the mountain ranges in Arizona. In the 1860s, prospector Bill Bradshaw discovered silver ore in these mountains. He established the Bradshaw Mining District that included many mines namely Gazelle, Hum Bug, Crown King, Tiger, Minnehaha, Oro Belle and Tip Top. At their peak the mines in the Bradshaw's produced millions of dollars in gold and silver. To move all this valuable ore to market a railroad was built.

Frank Murphy proposed to build a railroad from Mayer to Poland, on the north side of the mountain, and another line to Crown King. It seemed like an impossible task because of the rough terrain. He garnered 350 men by advertising in Eastern newspapers, promising \$1 per day, twice the going rate. The railroad became a branch of the Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix Railroad. The men crossed rough arroyos and dug out room for tracks on the steep slopes. The Poland rail ran along Big Bug Creek for about 8 miles and included a 200 foot long tunnel



and two trestles. Once while dynamiting they exposed a rich body of ore and most of the workers quit to mine the valuable ore. At that time, gold was worth \$30 a ton! He quickly replaced the workers and the first train steamed its way to Poland in April, 1902. The rail to Crown King may have been even more difficult. It had twelve switchbacks that were so tight that folks in the caboose could see the engine! The line to Crown King which went along the Black Canyon Stage Route part of the

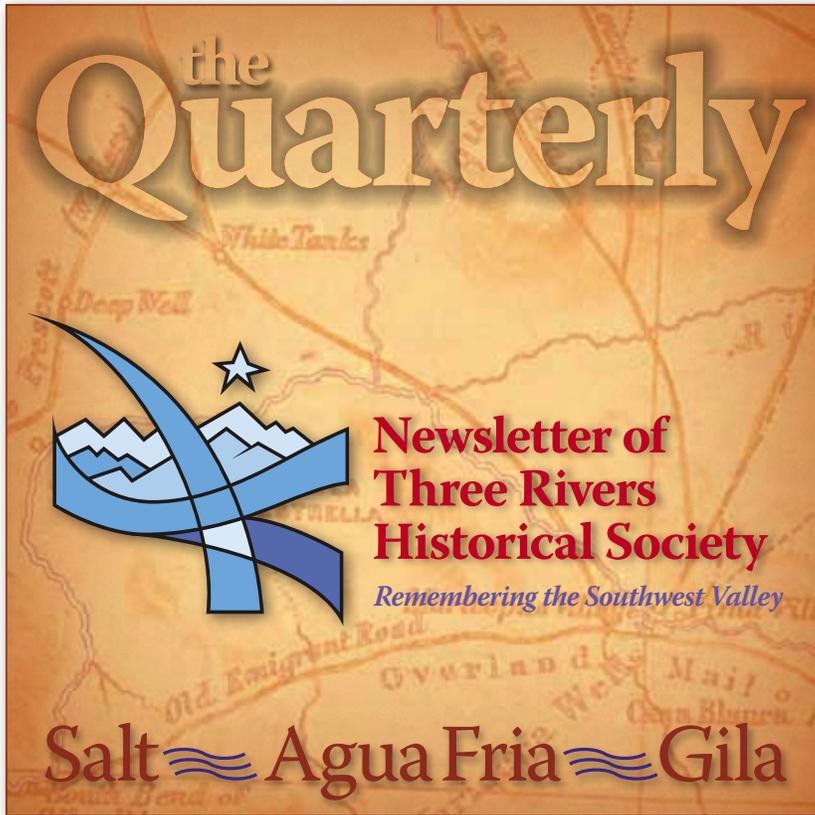
way was completed in 1904 just in time for the Bradshaw mines to get its gold and silver ore to market.

By 1911, many of the mines had closed and they no longer needed a daily train. But World War I brought a new demand for minerals and railroad traffic was once again needed. However, when the war ended the mines closed again. The price of metals had fallen, the freight costs had soared, and the mines were about to play out. In 1926 a final train trip was made for the friends and residents of the area. Crown King remains an active town and is a center for the ghost towns that are all that remain of towns that were an important part of Arizona history.

Sally Kiko

October, November, December 2011

Yes, I want to join Three Rivers Historical Society!



- Student \$5*
- Family \$25*
- Contributor \$100*
- Lifetime \$500
- Single \$15*
- Business/Professional \$45*
- Benefactor \$250*
- * *Yearly Fee*

Join _____ Renew _____ Call me to volunteer _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ (Evening) _____

Cell _____ e-mail _____

Check enclosed in the amount of \$ _____

A receipt will be issued to you.

Make out your check and mail to:

Three Rivers Historical Society,
P.O. Box 7251, Goodyear, AZ 85338

Three Rivers Historical Society is a 501 (c) 3
non-profit organization



Three Rivers Historical Society

Remembering the Southwest Valley

P.O. Box 7251, Goodyear, AZ 85338

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Lenore Semmler

Ed Buonvecchio

The Quarterly

Editor: Sally Kiko

Graphics Editor: Ed Buonvecchio

3RHS Meetings

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 3pm, at Goodyear City Hall, 190 North Litchfield Road, Suite 117, Goodyear, Arizona. Notices of date, location and guest speaker are e-mailed. Be sure we have your correct address. E-mail Sally at: kskiko@cox.net