



# the Quarterly

Remembering the Southwest Valley

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Salt ≈ Agua Fria ≈ Gila  
Three Rivers Historical Society

## Memories are Made of These

*Ken Wood continues telling us about the great people who contributed so much to our communities and have a public building, street or park named in their honor.*

### *Sam Garcia Library*

On Western Avenue, in Old Town Avondale is the Sam Garcia Library, named in honor of Sam Garcia, a local grocer. He came to Avondale with his family in 1946, when his parents, Marcelino and Concha, opened Garcia's Market. They started the business in their living room but soon expanded to the store on MC-85. Highway 80 in those days. As a young man he helped out at his parent's store learning every facet of the market and eventually taking over the business.



Sam ran a good business; he provided groceries, fresh meat and produce. He felt his career had been rewarding and said, "It's never been a chore, and it's always been fun." He loved people; he cared about his customers. He walked the aisles in his apron and white hat with a pocket full of candy. He rewarded smiles with candy and the children loved him. He loved to see their faces light up. Each year on Christmas Eve, Mr. Garcia would dress up as Santa Claus and give bags of toys to children. He helped so many families when they were in need.

In the community, Sam donated his time and money to community groups such as the Westside Recreation Program, the Salvation Army, Estrella Rotary Club and St. John Vianney

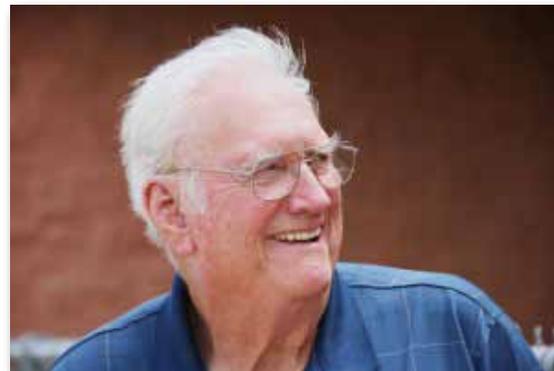
Catholic Church. He always felt that the community supported him as a businessman and it was only right for his business to give back to the community.

A number of years ago he sold his business to Food City. Of course, that didn't mean that Sam rested on his laurels! He continued to work at the Food City on Dysart Road for his son, Sammy, Jr. the manager. He worked there three days a week until illness finally sidelined him. But every day at work he continued to reward the children's smiles with candy!

On a personal note: I remember a time forty plus years ago while grocery shopping at Garcia's Market, that while checking out my fully loaded grocery cart I suddenly discovered that I had forgotten my wallet. Figuring I would have to leave the groceries until I went home and returned with some money, I remember Sam calling out, "Mr. Wood, take your groceries with you and you can pay me later." That's the way Sam did business, always trusting people.

### *O.K. Fulton Gym, Agua Fria Union High School*

An institution in the west valley, O.K. Fulton, is a common bond among Agua Fria Alumni from the many graduating classes starting in 1957. Stories about Coach Fulton or kernels of the wisdom he shared with students unite people in a wide range of age groups. The number of lives he



*continued on page 2*

## *Memories continued from page 1*

has touched are countless.

Mr. Fulton joined the faculty of Agua Fria Union High School in 1957. He became the school's Athletic Director in 1962, a position he held until 1987. He developed a complete and balanced sports program for both girls and boys; he employed Arizona's first certified athletic trainer at the high school level. The Agua Fria boys' basketball team rose to a state championship in 1966 under his leadership; he was named National Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1974. Mr. Fulton served as Vice Principal from 1977 to 1988. More than 50 years later, he is still involved as he serves on the Agua Fria School Board.



While his accomplishments in the field of coaching are most impressive his greatest contribution has been as a mentor and supporter of his students. Though they may have been accomplished athletes, Coach Fulton inspired them to strive to be good citizens and work for college scholarships. He encouraged them to believe in themselves. Even non-athletes thrived on his care and support.

So it was no surprise when Agua Fria built a new gymnasium, they honored Coach Fulton by naming it O.K. Fulton Gym.

On a personal note: My dad, Ronald Wood, serving on the AFUHS School Board for 36 years, proudly said that the finest two teachers he ever hired were O.K. Fulton and Harold Porter. Fulton's intensity while coaching his basketball teams was legendary and he may have set a state record for technical fouls called by the referees. For more than a few games it was suggested that he use the seatbelt that was installed on the coach's chair. This mandate was withdrawn after Coach Fulton, caught up in the excitement of the game, forgot to unbuckle the seatbelt and charged halfway onto the court dragging the chair behind him!

### ***Randall McDaniel Sports Complex, Avondale***

Randall McDaniel, a 1983 graduate of Agua Fria Union High School, starred in football, basketball and track. He was a three-year starter in football and basketball earning All-State honors twice in both sports. On the track he established the school record in the 100-yard dash of 10.65 as a senior. This record was eclipsed only once by David Belford's 10.64. McDaniel went on to be a two-time All-American guard at ASU, and to play 14 years in the NFL with the Minnesota Vikings and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He was selected to a record 12 consecutive Pro Bowls. He has been enshrined in the National High School,



College Football and Pro Football Halls of Fame.

When Randall was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, he selected O.K. Fulton to present him. McDaniel credited Fulton with stressing to him the importance of education and helping to motivate him to work toward a college scholarship. McDaniel said, "Because of Mr. Fulton, I began to see myself as more than an athlete. He told me to take every advantage sports could provide me, but never let it define me. Only you can decide if you will take advantage of the support around here. Are you willing to reach out to those who can help you?"

Recently Randall McDaniel returned home to be honored by the Pro Football Hall of Fame and Allstate Insurance as a Hometown Hall of Famer. He addressed 2,000 students, family and friends at Agua Fria and delivered a message about the importance of education and pursuing your dreams. He has reached out to current Agua Fria athletes to encourage them, talking more about education than sports.

Randall McDaniel Sports Complex carries his name. His roots in this area run deep; three generations of his family have been Agua Fria Owls. He has pursued a career in education and is currently working with second graders in Minnesota. He states, "I believe I can make a bigger difference if a former athlete talks to students about the importance of education."

## **Indian School Road**

Indian School Road received that moniker because of the Indian School that was located in what was then north Phoenix. Most of us "old timers" remember the Phoenix Indian School that opened in September, 1891 with an enrollment of 34 Pima boys. It was modeled after the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania. It offered Indian youth the opportunity to learn industrial skills with the goal of integrating them into white society. By 1935, Phoenix Indian School operated as both a vocational school and as a regular junior and senior high school and had become a coed school. Enrollment peaked in 1961 but diminished as support declined for off reservation schools. The school closed in 1990 and the land has been converted to a city park.

Although Indian schools have been maligned for separating young children from their families and their culture, I have a valued friend who has attributed her success to the Phoenix Indian School. Her teachers recognized her talents and encouraged her to further her education. She became an LPN and worked in Phoenix area hospitals until her retirement.

*Sally Kiko*

# Westside Young Lady Wins Miss America Pageant

Imagine the pride our local communities felt when they read in the newspaper that Jacquolyn Mercer had been crowned Miss America, 1949. Wow! This was before Arizona had television so the newspaper was our link to the world. The Miss America Pageant was held on September 10, 1949 at the Boardwalk Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Miss Mercer was the 23rd Miss America. She was judged to be the prettiest and most talented girl in our nation.

The Miss America Pageant began in 1921 as the Atlantic City Pageant in an effort to keep tourists in town after Labor Day. In 1935 the talent segment was added and the pageant was first televised in 1954. Stringent rules were in place to protect the girls. Each contestant had a chaperone who went everywhere with the girls, even sleeping in their hotel rooms at night. The schedule was arduous, with rehearsals, photography sessions, and interviews. But vivacious Jacque not only endured the rigors but won the title! She came a long way from the X Bar X ranch in Litchfield Park.

Jacquolyn Joy Mercer, a fifth generation Arizonan, was born in Thatcher, Arizona on January 7, 1931. Her family moved to the Salt River Valley eighteen months later. Her parents, Art and Joy Mercer were both educators. Art had been either a teacher or a principal at various schools in Arizona including Liberty Elementary School and Riverside School in West Phoenix. Joy



taught at Thatcher, Litchfield Park, Buckeye, Liberty and Avondale. Jacque attended first grade at Litchfield Park Elementary school and finished her elementary education at Liberty where her father was Principal. She graduated from North High in Phoenix and attended Phoenix College. Her family had lived in Goodyear, Litchfield Park and Liberty.

Growing up Jacque was active in 4-H and enjoyed acting in high school. Her drama coach in high school demanded that her students learn basic ballet, fencing, and breathing exercises. All these lessons were critical to the talent portion and helped her win the title of Miss America. While in high school, Jacque, as a member of the school newspaper staff called on Gene Botsford Studio in Phoenix to solicit advertising. The owner suggested that Jacque pose as a fashion model. She became quite successful as a clothes model for mail order catalogues.

While reigning as Miss America, Jacque married. However the marriage was short lived. She went on to advocate for a rule against marriage for reigning Miss Americas. Later she married former ASU and All-American Football player, and advertising executive, Dick Curran. They had two children. In 1960, Jacque authored the book "How to Win a Beauty Contest." Jacque died on February 2, 1982.

## Three River's Yard Sale October 19

Funds are always needed for the projects of Three Rivers Historical Society and this year we are also raising funds for our Centennial Trail at Estrella Park. Therefore, a fall yard sale has been scheduled for Saturday, October 20th. It will be held at Peggy Jones home at 2708 N. 122nd Drive, Avondale.

Now is the time to clean out your cupboards, closets, drawers, shop and garage and donate those items to us to sell. You can drop off your useable items at the Jones home on Friday, Oct. 19th. We could also use your help in setting up and price items on Friday and at the sale on Saturday. And don't forget to come and shop! Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors.

## Become a Member of Three Rivers Historical Society

We are seeking to increase our membership. It is through our membership dues that we are able to continue to publish "The Quarterly," our newsletter, and pursue projects like our Centennial Trail in Estrella Mountain Regional Park. Consider joining our organization and allowing us to tap into your talents. Our centennial trail will need many people with a variety of skills to get the job done. See the back page of this publication for the information you need. Just fill in the blanks and come join us!

Check out our web site at:  
[threerivershistoricalsocietyaz.org](http://threerivershistoricalsocietyaz.org)

# Volunteer "Tammywackers"

Each Saturday volunteers arrive at the site of the Centennial trail behind the nature Center at Estrella Mountain Regional Park. There is a lead person from either Three Rivers Historical Society or Estrella Park guiding the volunteers on the monumental task before them. You see, the site of the Centennial Trail is infested with the invasive salt cedar or tamarisk. Before we begin developing the trail we have to rid the area of the tamarisk and replace them with native trees and bushes.

It's a daunting task. When we first began several volunteers would work for about three hours and at the end of the morning it was difficult to see the progress. But each week we see a decrease in the tamarisk and an increase in the brush pile ready to be taken away. Our volunteers have been families, college students, local residents, "Friends of the Park," Boy Scouts and leaders from Troop 30 and teens from Avondale. The day the Scouts came to help we made great progress. Some of the leaders



*Gloria King selling our best seller at Centennial Kickoff*



*Donna At Hohokam Culture Node*



*Eric fells*



*Ranger Mark at Flora & Fauna Node*



*Ken Wood. Here's proof that Sharon Wood doesn't always do the hard labor!*



*Ray, always ready when the camera comes out and our most reliable worker!*



*BSA Troop 30*



*Denise works...*



*Ed with his Saturday victims*



*EMCC Athletic Club*



*Portrait of our President, Sally Kiko*



*...they work!*

*Continued from page 4*

manned the chain saws and the boys dragged the branches to the brush pile. With a combined number of 53, the Scouts and their leaders, a large number of tamarisks bit the dust that day. On another Saturday a group of 105 students assembled by City of Avondale's Youth Services Division arrived with their leaders and helped us prepare the trail for our Earth Day Event. We would not have been ready for the event without their hard work. A sincere and heart felt thank you to the Boy Scouts and their

leaders, to students from three schools in Avondale and their leaders, and to all other volunteers that have come to help with this huge task.

One of our regular volunteers has young children who look forward to the Saturdays that they "go up to work on the mountain" as they play "adventure" as their mother does the heavy work. They are just as excited about what we are creating up there as we adults!



*the biggest!*



*BSA Troop 30*



*Ranger Mark-left, Don from Canada-center, Ken Wood right- and Mothers and Sons who just showed up one Saturday,!*



*One of twelve ceramic art pieces created for the Flora & Fauna kiosk by Gallery 37 Students this June.*



*The Trail site on Centennial Trail Kickoff event on February 17, 2012 looking toward the culverts shown on the photo below.*

In Sally Kiko's words, today, July 16, 2012:

*"I went to the trail this morning to take some pictures to show to the board tomorrow. I've attached them! Isn't it amazing! A couple of months ago it seemed like an impossible task. Thanks to the faithful volunteers!"*



*BSA Troop 30*



*The Trail site on July 16, 2012. It actually looks wet!*

# The 1940s – Dominated by World War II

The 1940s were turbulent years. The United States entered World War II following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The war brought about many changes to society. With most of the young men at war, women were hired to do many manufacturing jobs that men had previously done. Single women and moms became “Rosie the Riveters.” With the men at war, many women learned that they could earn a living, do household repairs, and make the many decisions that families make on a daily basis. Women were also allowed to join the military in a limited way. The Army Air Corp used the WASPs to ferry planes from factory to bases, but they did not receive equal pay or military benefits. The 1940s also brought the Holocaust, the systemic state-sponsored persecution and genocide of Jews.

With the end of the war came the creation of the United Nations to negotiate and manage future world conflicts. This is when the Cold War began, too. NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed by the major western powers for collective security. Israel once again became the homeland of the Jewish people.

During the forties black athletes became popular heroes and began opening doors for future generations. Jackie Robinson signed a contract to play first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers, breaking the color barrier in baseball. It wasn't long until other great black athletes followed in track, football, and basketball.



Technology made large gains in the 1940s. Jet engines, radar and nuclear fission were advanced due to the war. The world's first computer, Colossus, was built. Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in flight, and the first transistor was developed.



Movie stars of the forties included Clark Cable, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Humphrey Bogart, Abbott and Costello, Gary Cooper, Spencer Tracy and James Cagney. The music of the day was built around jazz and the big band styles. Popular musicians included Rosemary Clooney, Count Basie, Artie Shaw, Cab Calloway, Frank Sinatra, Perry Como, Dean Martin, the Dorsey Brothers, Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Kate Smith, The Ink Spots and the Andrew Sisters. The cartoon, Betty Boop, became popular in the forties.

In 1940 a new house had an average cost of \$3,920, and the average annual income was \$1,725. A gallon of gas was 11 cents and you could buy a new car for \$850. A man could purchase a suit for \$24.50 and his wife a pair of nylon stockings for 20 cents (they had seams up the back, no spandex so they sagged and required a garter belt or giridle to hold them up!)

In the 1940s kids relied on toys and games for entertainment since there was no television or electronic games. Popular toys of



the day included toy trucks, cars and military vehicles, erector sets, Slinky, doctor/nurse kits, model airplane kits, Radio Flyer wagons, pedal cars, paper dolls, Candy Land and Chutes and Ladders.

And perhaps most important, in 1946 both Goodyear and Avondale incorporated.

## It's Time for Another Readers Contest!

Okay, it's been a couple of months since we've had a reader's contest. I have selected three items that were a vital part of life not so long ago. There will be a valuable prize...a \$25 gift card for the first reader that e-mails Sally Kiko at [kskiko@cox.net](mailto:kskiko@cox.net), correctly names all three items and sends her a short story about that item; something funny that happened when you were using it, perhaps. Get your thinking caps on...here we go!



## On the Occasion of Arizona's 50th Birthday Eugene Pulliam, Publisher of Phoenix Newspapers Wrote:

*"The land that is Arizona, youngest of the states but two, was already old with fossils when the Rockies and the Sierras thrust their backbone above the ancient sea. In no other place in America have so many tireless centuries of wind, sun, flood and irritable time itself etched great pinnacle against the sky, gouged out vast canyons in the earth, painted the sands a thousand hues, raised up the great mesas and laid out the vast valleys."*

## Historic Flag Donated to the Historical Society

A recent e-mail from former resident of the area, Bryan Dorman, stated that he had the 48 star American Flag that had been presented to Chief William Lynn upon his retirement from the Goodyear Police Department. He was looking for a place to preserve the flag and its history. He was assured that the Three Rivers Historical Society would be honored to preserve it and tell the story of Mr. Lynn. Bryan Dorman grew up in the Avondale/Goodyear area and was a friend of William Lynn, an early Goodyear Policeman. Bryan tells us that when Mr. Lynn retired from the Goodyear Police Force in 1958, the Town of Goodyear presented Mr. Lynn with a 48 star American Flag that had flown over either Goodyear Town Hall or the Goodyear Post Office. Bryan mailed the flag and it will be stored in special case that will preserve the flag until the historical society has a museum where it can be displayed.

The Goodyear Police Department got off to a rocky start. In 1947, a man named Meridith Bovea applied in person at a town council meeting for the position of Town Marshall. After some discussion the Council hired Mr. Bovea and he began his regular duties in June, 1947. A special meeting of the Town council was called on August 11, 1947. A discussion was held about the Marshall's failure to return to work after a scheduled week's leave of absence. It is said that he left with the town's gun and bullets as well as the siren and lights that were on his personal car.

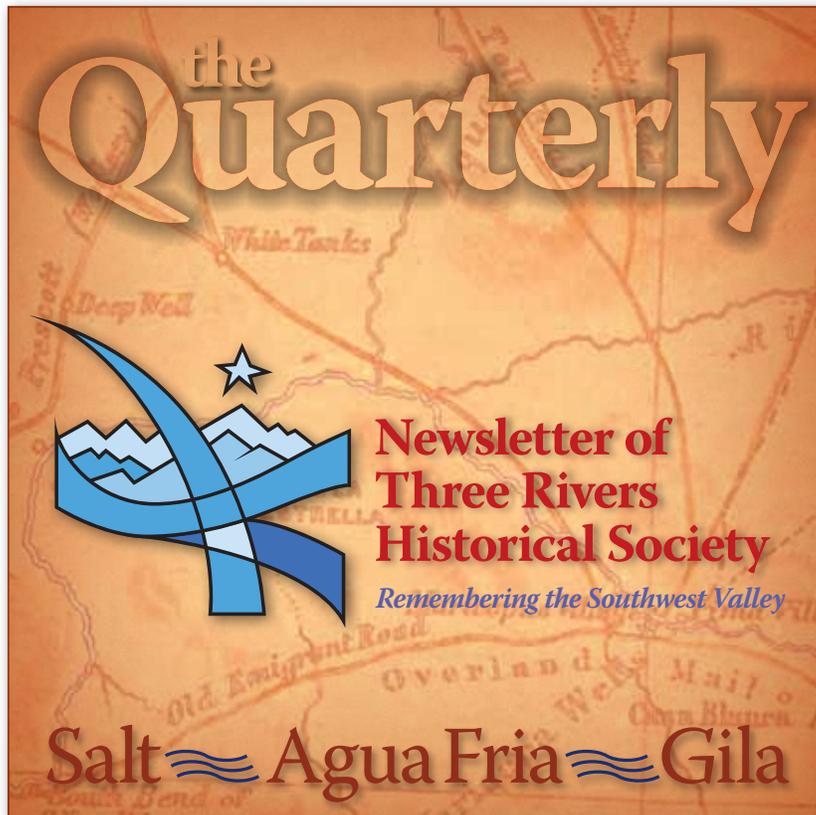
William Cleveland Lynn moved to the area in 1945 and worked as a night watchman at the Wingfoot Trailer Manufacturing Plant in Litchfield Park. He was hired by Goodyear to be Town Marshall in 1948. His salary was \$200 a month. Mr. Lynn, who lived on Santa Cruz Drive, was more than a local lawman; he was always willing to help the folks. He delivered social security checks, took out the garbage, mowed lawns, and watered flowers for those who needed assistance. His son, Bill Lynn said that he had never known his father to draw or use his gun while he was Chief of Police. He told his son that because of his smaller build he had learned to talk rather than fight!

Chief Lynn was joined on the force by Bob Brownlie in 1949. Bob was hired to help patrol the town. Mr. Lynn retired from the Goodyear Police Department in 1958. He died in 1972 at the age of 84.

Perhaps this story brings home the point that some of us may have an item or items that have historic significance to us but may not mean anything to our children and grandchildren. The historical society is always happy to preserve and store those treasured photos, artifacts, documents until they take their rightful place in a museum. We are concerned that the heirs, not realizing the historic value of something, may either donate it to a charity or even throw it away after the death of a parent or grandparent. So, please consider donating those items now or identify them and designate that they be donated to Three Rivers Historical Society in your will. Help us preserve our history!

July, August, September, 2012

## 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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*The Quarterly*

Editor: Sally Kiko

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### **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](mailto:kskiko@cox.net)