

the purists, simply raw-in-the-shell. As time permits and space allows, we can develop games for young and older alike.” “We can lay out our club name, roadside signs, and other ads on the sand with stones, as long as we can find a good speller in the family,” offered Henry. One sterling idea led to another and gave rise to more energy for the project throughout the family. There was genuine excitement! Tequila wasn’t loco after all!

“I’ve heard of a terrific local magazine, *The Peak*, where we can begin advertising for the resort,” Heather chimed in. “Everybody tells me that it delivers excellent results for local businesses.” “Let’s get to work!” barked Tequila. “We’ve got to have everything in place by the grand opening celebration! TELL YOUR FRIENDS, TELL YOUR RELATIVES, TELL EVERYBODY THAT THE DOORS WILL BE OPEN AT THE SCOTTSDALE REPTILE RETREAT AT NORTH JOMAX AND PIMA ROADS ON SEPTEMBER 1st!”

*Ron Tartarella is a resident of north Scottsdale. “A Resort for Reptiles?” was one of the winners in last summer’s Write Stuff: Critter contest.*

## Desert Foothills Scenic Drive Memory Park, Part II

### A Description of Proposed Memory Exhibits

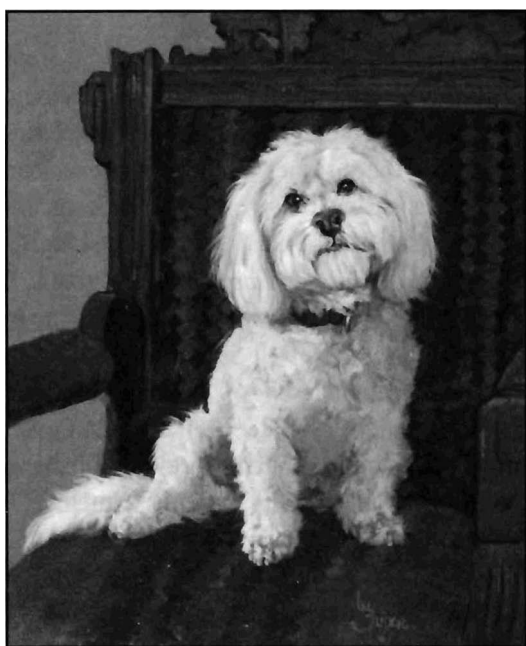
Courtesy of Friends of the Scenic Drive

Much of our area’s past has been lost as a result of rapid growth and development. To preserve our heritage, Friends of the Scenic Drive and the Greater Pinnacle Peak Association, which publishes *A Peek at the Peak (The Peak)*, are developing a Desert Foothills Scenic Drive Memory Park for the benefit of tourists and residents. In the May/June issue of *The Peak*, we provided general information about the park and details about its Introductory exhibit. This month’s articles provide information about the Time and Events and the People and Places exhibits.

### Recap

The park will be created on the site of the current Scenic Drive exhibits and monument sign, which is located on the east side of Scottsdale Road, just south of Jomax Road in north Scottsdale. Since 1994, Friends has led the effort to enhance the site, creating exhibits about the Scenic Drive and Sonoran flora and fauna and modernizing the original large concrete

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*Open to Arizona residents of all ages from August 1 through August 31, 2008.*



monument sign. The park site (less than one-half acre in size) is on a section (640 acres) of state trust land that is included in Scottsdale's Planned McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

The proposed park will provide educational information about the history of the Desert Foothills and Pinnacle Peak areas and historical context for the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive section of modern-day Scottsdale Road, which will be enhanced using voter approved Bond 2000 funds. It is hoped that this effort will encourage residents in other parts of Scottsdale to create similar parks that describe the history of their parts of the city. It is also our hope that the creation of this park will bolster efforts to preserve the adjacent land.

## Introductory Exhibit

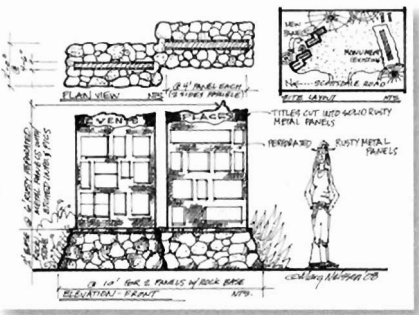
The back of the existing Scenic Drive monument sign will be updated with information that introduces visitors to the



Introductory Exhibit by Horst Berkner

Desert Foothills and the park's exhibits. The additional information will introduce the new exhibits and integrate them with the existing exhibits. The back of the sign will feature the title, "Desert Foothills

Memory Park." Three large plaques will have a simple map denoting the Desert Foothills area, a general description of the landscape, and a brief historical overview. The map will show how the Scenic Drive relates to the Desert Foothills area.



New Memory Exhibits by Marg Nelssen

In addition, there will be the following quote, "It's our hope that the Scenic Drive inspires "other communities to TAKE ACTION IN THE PRESERVATION OF natural beauties in their areas ..." Vince Thelander, May 1966

## Memory Exhibits

Friends is suggesting that several "memory" exhibits be created. These will take the form of plaques mounted on large stone and metal monuments. These exhibits will provide information about three topical areas: 1) Desert Foothills Time and Events, 2) Desert Foothills People and Places, and 3) Desert Foothills Preservation.

The next article provides detailed information about the Time and Events exhibit. In the September/October issue, we will provide similar information about the other exhibits. The Desert Foothills People and Places exhibit will provide descriptions and photographs of personalities and places that played an important role in the area's history, such as Ironwood Golf Course, Mormon Girl Mine, Don Pablo, Jerry and Florence Nelson, and K.T. Palmer. The Preservation exhibit will provide information about organizations, ordinances, parks, and preserves related to desert preservation efforts in the Desert Foothills.

## Your Support Appreciated

Have a suggestion to improve the exhibits? Please contact us. We will be gathering old photographs and completing plans for the park during the summer. Volunteers are welcome.

**Sources:** "Discovering the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive" by Les Conklin, Scottsdale Magazine, 1996, *Cave Creek and Carefree, Arizona, A History of the Desert Foothills* by Frances C. Calson, Encanto Press, 1989, 1996, *Historic Scottsdale, A Life from the Land* by Joan Fudala, McDowell Sonoran Land Trust, 2001, *Carefree, Cave Creek Foothills, Life in the Sonoran Sun*, Foothills Community Foundation, 1990, 1993, *Arizona, A Cavalcade of History*, Marshall Trimble, Rancho Nuevo Publishers, 1989, 2003, "Pinnacle Peak and Desert Foothills Timeline" by Don Hadder, *A Peek at the Peak* magazine, November 2003.

### For Additional Information

☎ (480) 361-6498 (Les Conklin at *The Peak*)

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@ www.scenicdrive.org and www.gppaaz.org

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# Remembering Desert Foothills Time and Events

## Scenic Drive Memory Park Exhibit

By Les Conklin

The history of the Desert Foothills and Pinnacle Peak areas can be divided into several major eras. This exhibit, which will be part of the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive Memory Park, will provide information about the activities and dates related to these eras. There will be a plaque with a photograph and descriptive text for each of the topics proposed below.

### Archaic

Little is known about the earliest inhabitants, who lived here perhaps several thousand years ago. Unfortunately for archeologists, they did not make pottery, which can survive centuries of exposure and burial. Instead, they used lighter, more perishable baskets and skin bags. They lived in small, nomadic groups

and survived by hunting and gathering wild plants. They used temporary and seasonal camps, creating small, simple shelters from brush and poles.

### Hohokam

Shortly before 1000 A.D., small groups from the Salt River began to settle



Hohokam women

the area, bringing an agriculturally-based lifestyle, more substantial architecture, and pottery. By about 1000 A.D., their homesteads were fairly common, and around

1200 A.D., the foothills supported a sizable population. By about 1300 A.D., the scattered, small villages had coalesced into a few large villages overlooking the primary drainages. But the population growth and progress came to a halt, and by 1400 A.D., the entire area had been abandoned.

### Apache

In the 1400s, bands of Apaches, fierce, warlike, nomadic people, began drifting into the area. They lived by hunting, gathering wild foods, and raiding their neighbors. The Apaches and their allies, the Yavapai, spent the summer and fall months moving through the desert and foothills gathering roots, stems, tubers, leaves, and cactus fruits. They traded with the Apache bands and Pima

# Mark Your Calendar

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IN THE DESERT WITH  
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OCTOBER

		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			

## Cookout at the Ranch

Saturday, October 25, 2008  
5:30p.m. to 9:30p.m.

MacDonald's Ranch  
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settlements to the east and south for pottery. They roamed the area for several hundred years, until the U.S. Army campaign forced them to abandon it.

## Despoblado

From 1500 to 1700, Spanish expeditions explored Arizona. They bypassed the central region and the Desert Foothills because of the hot dangerous desert and the hostile Apaches. On their maps, they labeled central Arizona "Despoblado," meaning desolate wilderness.

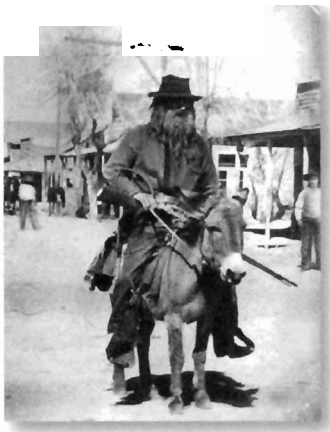
## Military Campaign



In 1865, the U.S. Army established Fort McDowell, the first Anglo settlement in the Salt River Valley. In 1870, soldiers built the first road across the Desert Foothills. Cave Creek was a watering stop on the military trail from Fort McDowell to Fort Whipple (Prescott). A series

of military campaigns in 1872-73 vanquished the Apaches in central Arizona and they were removed to the San Carlos Reservation.

## Mining



Prospector

With the Apaches vanquished, prospectors moved in, and in 1874, the first significant mining discovery was made at Gold Hill. In 1878, the area's first stamp mill was opened at the Golden Star Mine on Continental Mountain. Mining camps sprang up and disappeared in the mountains to the north. Most miners stayed for a time, leaving for other camps when word of new strikes arrived. Mines operated in the foothills

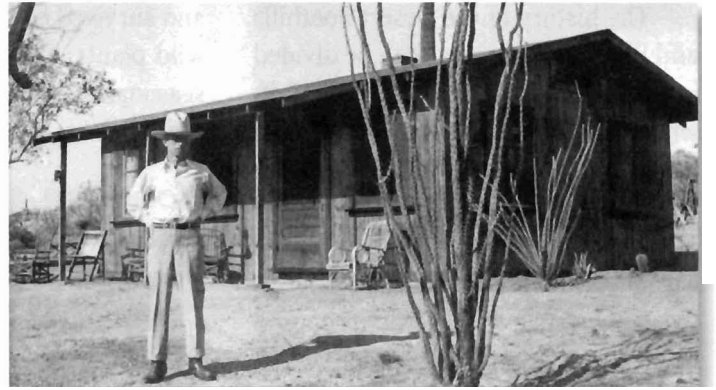
into the 1960s.

## Ranching

In the 1880s, a small community of ranchers settled near Cave Creek Station. In 1887, Cartwright Ranch was established on upper Cave Creek. Others began cattle ranches wherever water was available. Sheep grazed the hills, and in 1900, a sheep shearing business was established at Cave Creek Station. In the early 1900s, DC Ranch was homesteaded by E.O. Brown, covering much of the land east of Pima from Bell Road to Stagecoach Pass Road.

## Homesteading

In 1928, the land south of Black Mountain was opened to homesteading, and new residents moved in. In 1934, homesteader K.T. Palmer built a rustic cabin on 640 acres of



K.T. Palmer and his Pinnacle Peak homestead

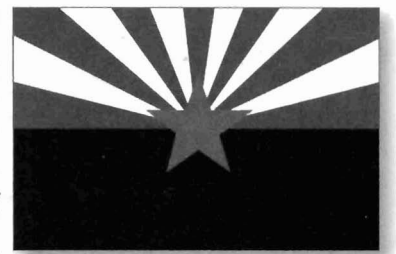
government land on the western slope of Pinnacle Peak, then an extremely remote area with very few dirt trails and no electricity or other services. Around WW II, smaller Government Land Office (GLO) plats, which included parcels adjacent to the Scenic Drive, were created, and parcels were sold off, many to GIs after the War.

## Tourism

The Desert Foothills always attracted visitors and campers. Beginning in the 1920s, dude ranches began enticing Easterners to the remote Cave Creek area. During the late 1930s and early '40s, the construction of Bartlett and Horseshoe Dams brought workers and boom times. In the 1950s, western destinations such as Pinnacle Peak Patio, Reata Pass restaurant, and Curries Corner curio shop sprang up. Today, area resorts attract tourists from around the globe.

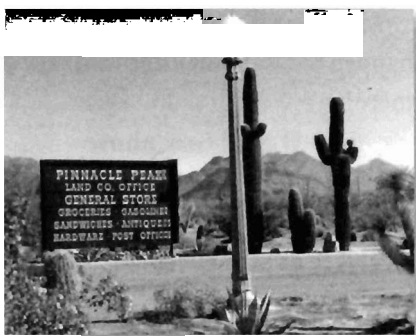
## Government

Cave Creek Station was established in 1877. Arizona became a state in 1910, and the Desert Foothills fell under the jurisdiction of Maricopa County. The village of Carefree was established in 1958. From 1982 to 1984, Scottsdale annexed 95 square miles in four annexations. In the late 1980s, Phoenix annexed up to Carefree Highway. Fearing annexation by their larger neighbors, Carefree and Cave Creek incorporated in 1984 and 1986, respectively. Today, Cave Creek, Carefree, Scottsdale, and Phoenix all share part of the Desert Foothills.



## Rapid Growth

The paving of Cave Creek and Scottsdale Roads around 1960 opened the area up to the many people coming to the Valley at the time. Successful drilling for water led to development of the first neighborhoods in the

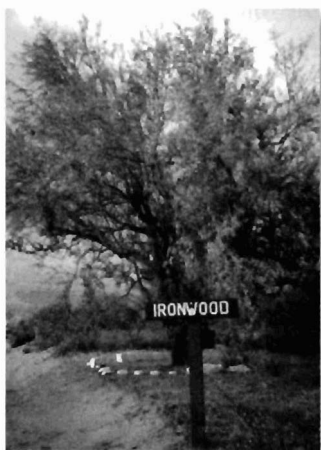


Pinnacle Peak Village development

Pinnacle Peak area in the 1970s. During the 1980s and '90s, master planned communities and smaller subdivisions were developed, including The Boulders, Terravita, Belasera, Winfield, Whisper Rock, Lone Mountain Vistas, Troon, Desert Highlands, Estancia, Sincuidados, Desert Mountain, and Legend Trail.

## Preservation

From the 1960s, residents have reacted to oncoming development by forming a variety of groups to preserve the desert and quality of life. These groups have had a positive impact, influencing civic action, ordinances, and government policies. As a result, large investments have been made in parks, preserves, open space, scenic corridors, and ordinances to protect native vegetation and landscapes. The Desert Foothills Scenic Drive, created to protect the desert adjacent to Scottsdale and Cave Creek Roads, was one of the first preservation efforts in the Desert Foothills.



Scenic Drive preserved roadside plants

*Les Conklin is a member of the GPPA/Friends of the Scenic Drive committee that is developing specifications for new Desert Foothills Scenic Drive "memory" exhibits. GPPA board members Horst Berkner, Barbara Copeland, and Marg Nelssen are also serving on the committee. We thank executive director Evelyn Johnson and volunteers at the Cave Creek Museum for their continued support and assistance.*

### For Additional Information

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