

The Arizona Coach Talker

Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

Volume 20, Issue 2

October, 2006

A Flaming Fall !

The leaves are turningmostly up North, of course but even in the desert, we can feel the fall season in the air! It's the weather we all live for in Arizona it doesn't get much better than this! But we can do 'flaming' right here in the Valley, too.... join us at the Hall of Flame Fire Museum for our November meeting!

~ Hall of Flame Fire Museum ~

The Hall of Flame Fire Museum and the National Firefighting Hall of Heroes, located in Phoenix, Arizona, has almost an acre of fire history exhibits, with over 90 fully restored pieces of fire apparatus on display, dating from 1725 to 1969. Most of the exhibits are American, but there are also pieces from England, France, Austria, Germany, and Japan. The Hall of Flame sponsors the National Firefighting Hall of Heroes, which honors firefighters who have died in the line of duty or who have been decorated for heroism. The Hall of Flame is sponsored by the National Historical Fire Foundation, which was established in 1961 by George F. Getz, Jr. The Hall of Flame has five exhibit galleries. Within Gallery I is a small theater in which visitors can view a wide variety of videos relating to the history of firefighting. Visitors see a 10 minute video which introduces them to the museum's exhibit galleries.

When: Monday, November 6, 2006

**Where: Hall of Flame Fire Museum (602.275.3473)
(6101 E. Van Buren Street – Phoenix)**

Time: 6 - 7:00 P.M. Hospitality and Museum Tours.

7:00 P.M.* Speaker, Phoenix Fire Department, Division Chief, Chris Ketterer. He will discuss fire safety issues, new technologies, and programs that allow citizens to ride along with the Fire Department on calls.

***Following the program will be short reports from officers and committees of the association.**

Please RSVP to Dee Hunt: jazzhunt37@cox.net or 480-429-1747.

President's Notes.....

The season is almost in full swing, and everyone is getting busier by the day. Although we all like to work, and also may NEED to work, remember that we are in the tourism industry and we have a responsibility to be cordial and knowledgeable to everyone with whom we come in contact. YOU are the face of Arizona when you greet our guests at the airport. YOU are the symbol of the Arizona lifestyle when you accompany a group on a horseback ride or a rafting trip. YOU represent Phoenix hospitality at La Puerta or a dine around. YOU sell the Valley AND Arizona, and do your best for the company you represent. It is an important job. It is important to keep up with current events as well as know what came before. It is also important to maintain a good working relationship with other guides. A great way to accomplish both is to participate in the

educational tours sponsored by the Association. If you haven't signed up for the November trip, give it some thought. It likely won't hurt your bottom line to miss a day's work, learn something new, and have some fun, too! What will your epitaph be? "He/she had fun!" or "He/she faithfully put in 14 hour days at T-4 for weeks on end." I enjoy being your president. I'm always available if you have any questions or concerns.

Leslie Ullstrup, AGA President

CONGRATULATIONS !!!!

We have a newly certified AGA guide! Congratulations to Judy Frasier!!

For certification information contact Betsy Todd at 602.943.2900.

In case you missed it...from the Arizona Republic

Canyon railway finds buyer Xanterra Parks & Resorts of Greenwood, Colo., signed a letter of intent to buy the 65-mile Grand Canyon Railway from owners Max and Thelma Biegert of Paradise Valley. An anticipated formal sales agreement is expected in late October, and will then go to the National Park Service for review. When the Biegerts bought the railway in 1988 for about \$15 million, it had been closed for about 20 years. The 65-mile rail line begins in downtown Williams and ends at a historic depot on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Nearly 225,000 people rode the rail last year and 2005 revenues were \$38 million. The purchase is expected to include the railway's depot and restaurant in Williams and the adjoining Grand Canyon Railway Hotel, 162 acres paralleling the tracks in Williams, 160 acres near the Grand Canyon National Park boundary, and two steam engines and 29 cars that the railway has in service. The railway, its hotel, restaurant, gift shops and other facilities have nearly 500 employees. Its success was one of the main reasons the state Legislature created a special district in the Williams area for the hoped-for construction of a \$3 billion theme park to lure visitors passing through to the Grand Canyon and making cross-country drives on Interstate 40. But the future of that project remains up in the air. The railroad dates to the late 1800s, when it was started to haul copper ore from a mine north of Williams. It later was extended to the Grand Canyon when Santa Fe Railroad and the Fred Harvey Co. opened El Tovar Lodge in 1905.

International firm to operate Valley resort InterContinental Hotels Group is coming to Arizona and in its first venture here will operate Montelucia Resort & Spa, which is under construction in Paradise Valley. Crown Realty & Development Corp. is building the \$250 million luxury destination on the site of the former La Posada Resort, 4949 E. Lincoln Drive. The 292-room Montelucia is scheduled to open in early 2008 and will employ between 600 and 700 people. InterContinental is the oldest global luxury brand in the world, covering six continents. According to its Web site, InterContinental owns, manages, leases or franchises through various subsidiaries more than 3,650 hotels in nearly 100 countries and territories worldwide. Its U.S. operations are based in Atlanta.

Old Town cowboy getting makeover City folks say there aren't many real cowboys left in Scottsdale, and maybe they've noticed that even the unreal cowboys are looking forlorn. Old Town's metal Scottsdale cowboy sign, on the street corner since 1952, is getting a much-needed makeover by volunteers Darlene Peterson and Patty Badenoch. The 8-foot cowboy, who is spinning a lasso, is owned by the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce. It has been at the northeastern corner of Scottsdale Road and Main Street for a half century, promoting events and the chamber. During his time, the unnamed cowboy has suffered innumerable indignities. He has been struck by a car, faded by the sun and defaced by varmint pranksters. Even the chamber slighted the cowboy with an arrow pointing toward the chamber office but more immediately pointing to - let's just say below his belt buckle. That faux pas, which caused passers-by to chuckle, will be painted over, and the cowboy's dignity restored.

Tribe and U.S. will save millions A bill passed by Congress would forgive the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation a 1990 government loan the tribe received to build a farming irrigation system, and U.S. Department of the Interior would be off the hook for preparing the last piece of farmland it promised the tribe. The mutually beneficial bill, if signed by President Bush, would save the tribe \$4 million and the U.S. government \$5.6 million, according to Fort McDowell President Raphael Bear. In 1990, Congress passed the Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act, quantifying the tribe's rights to the Verde River. As part of the act, Fort McDowell received a 50-year, interest-free loan of \$13 million, which was spent to build an irrigation system for 82,000 pecan and citrus trees. Considering projected inflationary factors through 2040, the loan is now estimated to be worth only \$4 million. Also in the 1990 act, the U.S. government promised to help the tribe prepare 1,584 acres for farming. However, 227 of the 1,584 acres cannot be used for farming because of their cultural significance. The government promised to develop 227 replacement acres, but the current bill would wash away that responsibility, now not necessary for Fort McDowell Farms, one of nine tribe-operated businesses. In addition to the pecan and citrus crops it grows on more than 1,300 acres, Fort McDowell Farms runs a 620-acre alfalfa farm built earlier. U.S. Rep. J.D. Hayworth, R-Ariz., and Arizona Republican U.S. Sens. John McCain and Jon Kyl urged passage of the bill in their respective houses. Because of the loan forgiveness, Fort McDowell, a tribe of less than 1,000 people, would have money freed up to benefit tribal members, re-allocating it into other programs, such as health care, education, housing, general welfare.

'Disneyland' in Scottsdale? Scottsdale is hoping to create the ultimate nature experience for its high-end tourists when a public-private partnership builds the Desert Discovery Center in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The project would be like no other in the state. Guests of the Discovery Center at Bell Road and Thompson Peak Parkway would be able to lounge in a \$15 million building with a cappuccino in one hand and a virtual tour in the other. They would be able to walk interpretive trails with iPod tours to guide them. If they want to venture farther into the untamed wilderness, a concierge would help them rent mountain bikes and horses or direct them to other destinations around the state. Strategically placed cameras would allow real-time viewing of wildlife. State-of-the-art technology would be used instead of plaques that say "cactus, barrel." A 400-seat amphitheater would accommodate live lectures. The Desert Discovery Center is still very much just a concept, with no set date to break ground. The Gateway access area, home to the Desert Discovery Center, would be the third and most prestigious of entryways to the preserve to be built. The center, including a 20,000-square-foot building, is expected to reach the City Council within a few months. Surveys taken by the Convention and Visitors Bureau found that outdoor activities are Scottsdale's second-biggest draw, right after shopping. And shopping can be done as easily in Santa Fe or Palm Springs.

Tallest building in state is bought Chase Tower, the glossy Phoenix high-rise that is the state's tallest building, has been sold to Canadian investors for more than \$103 million. The deal was part of a \$460 million sale of the banking giant's real estate holdings in 10 U.S. cities. JPMorgan Chase & Co. sold the 40-story, glass-enclosed building at 201 N. Central Ave. to a real estate fund run by Brookfield Asset Management of Toronto. Chase occupies and will continue to occupy about 80 percent of the building's 750,000 square feet. Chase will lease and continue to occupy the buildings it sold. Chase signed a lease for at least 10 years in Phoenix. Downtown Phoenix has been a bright spot for the Valley office market. The Valley's overall office vacancy stood at 12.8 percent in the third quarter, according to Cushman & Wakefield's latest numbers. But the brokerage also noted that the downtown vacancy rate was half of that, at 6 percent, indicating strong demand in a city center that is benefiting from the buzz created by Arizona State University's new downtown campus, the light-rail project and bioscience business. The Chase Tower sale comes close to the \$107 million paid for the Hines building near 24th Street and Camelback Road in a deal that closed in December and falls short of the record \$155 million paid for two buildings in the Camelback Esplanade last year. The Hines building, at eight stories and 303,000 square feet, brought about \$350 a square foot because it is newer and is part of a select pool of office space around 24th and Camelback, an elite office address in Phoenix. The Chase building fetched about \$135 a foot. The pool of downtown office space will grow if such new projects as the \$900 million CityScape mixed-used development is built.

News from the Arizona Office of Tourism **(AZOT)**

Arizona Receives \$515,549 in Scenic Byways Grants Acting Secretary of Transportation Maria Cino has selected 309 projects in 45 States to receive a total of \$25.5 million in discretionary National Scenic

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Byways Program grants in 2006. Since 1992, the National Scenic Byways Program has provided more than \$275 million in funding for 2,181 State and nationally designated byway projects in 50 States, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Arizona has received 2006 National Scenic Byways Discretionary funding for ten new Scenic Byways Grants totaling \$515,549. The approved projects include several enhancements on the Navajo Nation, improvements to Route 66, and more. Visit www.ArizonaScenicRoads.com for more information on Arizona's current Scenic Roads.

Cultural Tourism Heats Up Cultural tourism continues to be a hot button for destinations eager to attract these more affluent travelers. Figures from the Travel Industry Association of America show: Cultural travelers tend to stay longer than average visitors, 5.1 nights instead of 3-4; they spend more money, \$631 per trip, than average travelers who shell out \$457; and they're more likely to spend a minimum of \$1,000 per trip when they travel. Destinations are coming up with creative ways to tap into this market. In Seattle, for example, the Mayflower Park Hotel has been offering a September package in conjunction with an exhibit of the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Pacific Science Center. Cultural destinations have long been popular, but in the past decade, more CVBs have targeted this type of travel. A key element for successfully drawing more tourists is to set up calendars well in advance of special events that draw culturally inclined visitors, according to CVB officials. (TravelMole.com, Aug. 22)

Survey: What Hotel Guests Don't Want A new survey finds that while hotel chains have been spending to enhance their products, guests would rather have them take away what they do not want--that is, get rid of the "hassles and smoke." Hotels have been increasing room rates to regain lost profits since 2000 and to cover costs associated with upgraded amenities meant to increase guest satisfaction and keep up with competition. However, the spring 2006 Hotel Amenities Monitor, a study by D.K. Shifflet & Associates, finds that the "copy cat" approach on everything from high thread count linens, comforters and piles of pillows, to even fancier bath soaps and shampoos, has led to significant costs, which must be passed on to guests. These cost increases may drive customers to stay a notch below where they want to be in order to make the hotel stay cost-effective. "In these troubled times with dramatic bad news daily, it appears that just having to deal with less hassle and unwelcome smoke and smells is more satisfying than ever-better sheets and soaps," said Douglas Shifflet, president and CEO of DKS&A. Details at 703-536-0933. (Special to Travel Advance)

Campaign Launched to Strengthen Image Business leaders joined public officials at a Capitol Hill news conference and rally to call national attention to the growing crisis of America's declining image abroad. Recognizing the impact on economic and national security, these leaders called for a nationwide effort to strengthen America's public diplomacy efforts by leveraging the potential of travel and tourism to create "people-to-people" diplomacy. The newly launched Discover America Partnership issued a national challenge to attract 10 million more international travelers to the U.S. annually. For more information on the Discover America Partnership go to www.PowerofTravel.org.

Phoenix makes new Monopoly board According to the Phoenix Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Phoenix landmark, Camelback Mountain, finished 11th in nationwide voting and will be part of the new Monopoly board, sitting on the red space occupied by Kentucky Avenue in the original Monopoly board. It will be flanked by Disney World and Waikiki Beach. Times Square and Boston's Fenway Park were voted No. 1 and No. 2. More than 3 million online votes were cast and Phoenix topped Seattle, Philadelphia, Miami, Denver, Minneapolis, Nashville, St. Louis, Houston, Atlanta, Cleveland and Dallas. Hasbro, maker of the new Monopoly Here & Now edition is taking the 1935 board game and giving it modern venues and values. In addition to the new properties, there will be new appraisals and players who land on Times Square with a hotel will pay \$20 million. The final landmarks chosen: Atlanta-Centennial Olympic Park; Boston-Fenway Park; Chicago-Wrigley Field; Cleveland-Jacobs Field; Dallas-Texas Stadium; Denver-Red Rock; Honolulu-Waikiki Beach; Houston-Johnson Space Center; Las Vegas-Las Vegas Blvd; Los Angeles-Hollywood; Miami-South Beach; Minneapolis/St. Paul-Mall of America; Nashville-Grand Ole Opry; New Orleans-French Quarter; New York City-Times Square; Orlando-Disney World; Philadelphia-Liberty Bell; Phoenix-Camelback Mountain; San Francisco-Golden Gate Bridge; St. Louis-Gateway Arch; Seattle-Pioneer Square; and Washington, D.C.-White House. (Travel Advance, Sept. 13)

Border Security Plan Delayed A plan to tighten U.S. borders by requiring passports or tamper-resistant identification cards from everyone entering the country by land from Mexico and Canada has been delayed. House and Senate lawmakers agreed to push back the program by 17 months, until June 2009, saying they wanted to make sure new ID cards being developed by the Bush administration will better secure borders against terrorist without slowing legitimate travelers from Canada and Mexico. The new IDs will be required for Americans and all others entering the U.S. The delay would only apply to travelers entering the U.S. over land borders from Canada and Mexico. It would not affect rules for people coming into the country by plane or cruise ship, who will have to show their passports to Customs officials as of Jan. 8, 2007, to gain entry. The border plan was wrapped up in an overall \$34.8 billion spending plan for the Homeland Security Department. The House and Senate each aim to approve it later this week, before lawmakers recess for the elections. (AP; CNN.com; ModernAgent.com)

Arizona Office of Tourism Receives International Marketing Award The Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) recognized the Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT) as an innovative leader among state tourism offices, presenting the director with a prestigious Mercury Award for international marketing during the annual Education Seminar for Tourism Organizations (ESTO) conference Aug. 22. The Mercury Award was started by the National Council of State Tourism Directors to recognize TIA members for excellence and creative accomplishment in state tourism marketing and promotion, and to showcase outstanding work and the continued development of truly imaginative and exciting destination marketing and promotion programs. AOT's winning project was the Grand Canyon IMAX Road Show in the United Kingdom, where nearly 8,000 consumers in six cities were given the opportunity to view the most watched IMAX film of all time in April 2005. The promotion was an effort to "reclaim the Grand Canyon," an objective set forth by Governor Janet Napolitano. For more information about the Mercury Awards, visit www.tia.org.

Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain Named #1 Resort in U.S. The November 2006 issue of Conde Nast Traveler celebrates the 19th annual Readers' Choice Awards. The results are derived from the largest independent poll of consumers' preferences, the Readers' Choice Survey, second in size only to the U.S. Census. With more than 21,000 travelers voting this year, the lists show an even greater global variety and depth. In the category of "Top Resorts in the United States," Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain took the top honor, followed by the Inn at Palmetto Bluff in South Carolina and the Inn at Spanish Bay in California. The complete results of the awards can be found in the November issue, on newsstands October 24th.

Phoenix Drawing Large Conventions Well before it opened, the Phoenix Convention Center expansion has had an impact. The National Rifle Association, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars are among the large users that have committed to the new facility. And while those groups are estimated to attract about 70,000 people, renovations are allowing constant usage and a better flow of groups and visitors according to a report by the *Business Journal of Phoenix*. The ongoing renovation when finished in 2008 will expand the convention center from 580,000 square feet to 2.5 million square feet. Meeting space will also make a whopping leap – from 302,000 to 872,000 square feet. This expansion allows the complex to host almost 80 percent of all conventions in North America according to the Greater Phoenix Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Scottsdale CVB Tourism Updates....

Scottsdale Continues Tradition as a Host of Fiesta Bowl Teams A long-term agreement to host college national championship, Fiesta Bowl and Insight Bowl teams at Scottsdale area resorts – and continue drawing fans to Scottsdale – was approved by the Scottsdale City Council. The 20-year agreement aims to preserve a long-standing relationship between Scottsdale and the Fiesta Bowl while the organization makes significant changes beginning in 2007. Fiesta Bowl teams have stayed in Scottsdale resorts and practiced in the area for more than two decades. Next year, the Fiesta Bowl moves from Sun Devil Stadium to the new Cardinals Stadium in Glendale, and the Fiesta Bowl will host a new Bowl Championship Series National Championship Game, which will be played at the Glendale stadium every four years. Meanwhile, the Insight Bowl will move from Chase Field to Sun Devil Stadium. A previous four-year agreement between the Fiesta Bowl and the Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau required both Fiesta Bowl teams and one Insight Bowl

team to stay in Scottsdale or Paradise Valley resorts. The agreement extends the city's relationship with the organization for another 20 years. It stipulates that Fiesta Bowl and national championship teams will stay at

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Scottsdale-area resorts, along with a minimum number of "ancillary groups," such as alumni associations, university bands and media groups. Altogether, the Fiesta Bowl will receive more than \$8.2 million over 20 years. In return, Scottsdale will continue to receive a substantial portion of the regional economic impact associated with the games. Between 2001 and 2006, the estimated regional impact ranged from \$165 million to \$228 million annually. The city's Economic Vitality Department estimates the direct return in taxes to the city over the 20-year period will range from \$12 million to \$15 million.

Scottsdale CVB Receives Award of Excellence The Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau has been voted a winner of *Corporate & Incentive Travel* magazine's 2006 "Award of Excellence." Bureaus voted to receive this coveted honor were selected by magazine subscribers who voted for the bureaus that best served their meetings and/or incentive programs. In November, *Corporate & Incentive Travel* will publish the 22nd annual "Award of Excellence" supplement announcing this year's winners to 40,000 ABC audited subscribers. The Scottsdale CVB has received this award every year since 2001.

Scottsdale Scores Second PGA Event in 2007 Scottsdale will be home to a second PGA Tour event next year, the Thunderbirds announced at a Wednesday press conference. Fry's Electronics Open will be played at Grayhawk Golf Club's Raptor Course Oct. 15 to 21 and feature a full field of 132 professional golfers, who will compete for a \$900,000 first prize. The total purse is \$5 million. The Fry's Electronics Open will be held in Scottsdale for only one year, however, before moving to its permanent home at the Inland Empire Golf Course in Morgan Hill, Calif. The course will be undergoing construction, and will not be available to host the 2007 event. Ticket information will be announced at a later date by the tournament host Thunderbirds. PGA Tour pros have until Oct. 12 to commit to play in the tournament. (www.bizjournals.com/phoenix)

Visitor Center Hours Increase at Scottsdale Fashion Square A new two-year agreement with Scottsdale Fashion Square will increase the Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau's visitor center presence at the mall's concierge booth from 25 to 40 hours per week during the high visitor season of October through May. The CVB will staff the booth from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays, and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays, during these months. The CVB will continue to serve Scottsdale Fashion Square's customers 25 hours per week from June through September, with five hours of coverage per day Tuesdays through Saturdays. The Scottsdale CVB's presence at Scottsdale Fashion Square allows the CVB to assist visitors who otherwise might not have access to visitor information and services. The partnership with Macerich and Scottsdale Fashion Square began in October 2003.

Scottsdale CVB Opens Fourth Visitor Center Location In addition to the visitor centers in the Galleria Corporate Centre, Scottsdale Fashion Square and the Downtown Group office on Craftsman Court, the Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau has opened a fourth visitor center at Kierland Commons. This new location will better serve visitors in North Scottsdale. Hours of operation are: Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during high season (Sept. 18 – Nov. 20; Dec. 26 – May 31); Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the holidays (Nov. 21 – Dec. 25); and Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5:00 p.m. during the summer (June 1 – Sept. 17).

Travel + Leisure Golf Names Two Scottsdale Resorts to Top 10 List *Travel + Leisure Golf* has published its list of the 10 best U.S. golf resorts. Kiawah Island Golf Resort, South Carolina, took the top spot, followed by Pebble Beach Resorts, California; Pinehurst Resort, North Carolina; Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, Oregon; and Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, Hawaii. Others on the top 10 list include The American Club, Kohler, Wisconsin; The Boulders Resort & Golden Door Spa, Arizona; Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North, Arizona; Princeville Resort, Hawaii; and Sea Island Resorts, Georgia.

New Web Site Heralds Downtown Scottsdale The City of Scottsdale's Downtown Group launched a new Web site touting the attributes of the city's bustling downtown. The site, www.ScottsdaleDowntown.com, or the reverse, www.DowntownScottsdale.com, provides visitors and residents 24-hour access to information on the downtown area. Along with detailed business listings, the site also has a search function where guests can look up downtown-area events and happenings. The color-guided map highlights the downtown area's distinct districts and illustrates the area's accessibility. The Web site also links to other online resources including the City of Scottsdale, Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, Scottsdale Area Chamber of

Commerce, pro sports teams in the Valley, and Arizona State University athletics. For more information, visit www.ScottsdaleDowntown.com.

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Concierge Services Being Outsourced Call centers in India are one thing, but unbeknownst to most travelers, hotels are quietly outsourcing a core position that can make or break a guest's vacation: the concierge. After years of promoting concierges who will unpack luggage and arrange pet massages, some of the nation's biggest chains are trimming costs by renting out concierge desks. Increasingly, employees of ticket vendors and hospitality groups, rather than hotel workers, are stationed in the lobby to steer guests to restaurants, shows and car services. Chains including Hyatt, Marriott, Starwood and Kimpton confirm they have signed up for outside concierge services at some properties. (*Travel Advance*, Sept. 8)

2006 Lodging Survey Filed With Green Gems The American Hotel & Lodging Educational Foundation and Smith Travel Research recently released their 2006 Lodging Survey results and included several "Green" categories, including liquid soap dispensers, recycling programs, air purifiers, energy management sensors, linen/towel reuse programs and non-smoking rooms. Some of the findings follow. Towel/linen reuse programs are hot. In fact, according to the report, 72 percent of the responding hotels have them, up from 10 percent in 1996. By chain scale, luxury hotels have the highest percentage of non-smoking rooms (86 percent) and economy hotels the lowest (66 percent). Speaking of dirty air, an increasing number of hotels (16 percent) are providing in-room air purifiers. Eight years ago, only six percent included them. An increasing number of hoteliers are investing in guestroom energy management sensors (21 percent today compared to 14 percent in 2001), but they are still uncommon. The survey also revealed that less than half of the respondents participate in recycling programs and only 18 percent of economy hotels do so. Sixty-seven percent of luxury hotels have the programs. (*Green Lodging News*, Sept. 5)

Scottsdale Among First Sites for Starwood Eco-Friendly Hotels Starwood Capital Group will combine luxury accommodations and eco-friendly building in a new global line of hotels, including one in Scottsdale. To be called "1" Hotel and Residences, the concept is a first combining environmentally sustainable architecture and interior design with high-quality service and comfort, according to Chief Executive, Barry Sternlicht. Their intention with "1" is to build hotels and residences that are truly green and minimize their impact on their environment. The initial four U.S. properties will be new construction with the first expected to open in Seattle in late 2008. Others will follow in Scottsdale, Ariz.; Mammoth Mountain, Calif.; and Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The first international "1" hotel will be in Paris. Within the next 12 months, "1" hotels also are expected to enter such urban markets as New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. The goal is to have 15 hotels signed or under construction within 24 months. The Scottsdale project is planned for a site at Scottsdale Waterfront at Marshall Way and Via Solari, which Starwood owns. Starwood will partner with Stephen Hanson, a multi-site restaurant operator in the United States. (*The Business Journal of Phoenix*, Oct. 18)



- That Ike Clanton, the rustler involved in the gunfight at the O.K. Corral, is buried in the Grand Canyon state.
- So, is country crooner Waylan Jennings, who played at J.D.'s in the "Riverbottom" (as in the Salt River bed on Scottsdale Road) in the 1960's (this editor danced and partied there in college!!).
- So is 1930's Broadway tap dancer, Mitzi Mayfair.
- And, let's not forget baseball Hall-of-Famer, Ted Williams (though technically, he's not buried, but "cryonicized" at minus 320 degrees).
- Lots of other famous people are also buried in Arizona, too, more than 100 of them, according to findagrave.com. The web site will tell you where to pay your respects.

Airport News.....

You've all probably experienced the excessive traffic flowing through Sky Harbor International Airport on a daily basis...especially Monday through Friday. The airport reports that an estimated 21,000 cars 'cut' through the airport daily to avoid traffic and delays on the adjacent freeways. Unfortunately, for now, they can't figure out how to solve the problem. In the meantime, please remember when you call your coordinator for a vehicle that due to this growing traffic congestion, it takes time to get to your terminal from Lot C and especially to T4!! So, you might want to keep your passengers inside the relative calm of the terminal a few minutes before you walk them to the curbside chaos of vehicles and their fumes! Remember that vehicles can only be called when passengers are ready WITH luggage. The 'Oscars' will ticket – and send away – vehicles parked at the curb while not actively loading!

Educational Opportunities.....

Friday, November 3, 2006 – “A Bird’s Eye View”. How do turkey vultures survive when there's no food around? How does a male roadrunner court a prospective mate? Is that a baby cardinal or a baby pyrrhuloxia? Join author and naturalist Pinau Merlin for a 90 minute walk to explore the birds and other natural history of Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project. The focus is on how to find birds and identify them and their songs, plus birding by ear, and plenty of natural history about their lives and how they adapt to living in the desert. Time: 4-5:00 p.m. Cost: Free! Location: Rio Salado Restoration Project, 2439 S. Central Ave.

Saturday, November 4, 2006 – “Coyotes – History and Folklore”. This presentation looks at the two most common means of conveying information: history and folklore. Learn about the evolution and management of coyotes through guest speaker and coyote expert, Jim Garry. He covers a uniquely broad view of coyotes and provides compelling renditions of classic animal tales. Following the program, a park ranger will lead the group on a one-hour hike to discover the amazing adaptations of the life forms in the Sonoran Desert. Time: 9-11:00 a.m. Cost: Free! Location: South Mountain Environmental Education Center, 10409 S. Central Ave.

Saturday, November 11, 2006 – Papago History Hike. Join park rangers on a hike through Papago Park with some history thrown in. This fascinating area with its rich history will come to life as you hike your way through the landscape. This is a leisurely paced 2 mile hike with numerous stops along the way. Cost: Free! Location: Papago Park, Ramada #8 (by the Hole in the Rock). Call for times. 602.262.6863.

The programs above are all part of the 2006 Smithsonian Culturefest. To view other programs or to register, go to www.phoenix.gov/parks, or call 602.262.6863.

Educational opportunities abound in Arizona. Check local and state government and non-profit websites regularly for ongoing programs. Times range from 1-2 hours to several days, depending on the kind of experience offered. Many are free or have a nominal fee. Many are literally right in your backyard, such as Papago Park, McDowell Mountain Preserve, Phoenix Mountain Preserves, as well as our National Parks and Monuments. Remember that Arizona has more of these than any other state – almost half of our land is public! Get out and enjoy our diverse state – and learn about this wondrous state – and then share your knowledge with our millions of visitors!

GET OUTDOORS! Our great fall weather is here!!

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy has resumed its guided hikes in and around the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The non-profit organization offers hikes that range from two to six miles, from easy trails for beginners to difficult trails for seasoned trekkers. Reservations are not required for most hikes, though some require pre-registration. Reservations for those hikes can be made through www.mcdowellsonoran.org or by

calling (480) 998-7971, Option 2, beginning two weeks before the date you wish to participate.

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The Last Saguaro

The 'last' Saguaro along Interstate 17 stands atop a rocky knoll at an altitude of about 3,000 feet. It is nearly 30 feet tall and an estimated 150 years old. It marks the final sighting of this majestic cactus for northbound travelers on Interstate 17. This 'sentinel of the desert' surveys a vast and varied landscape from the legendary Bradshaw Mountains to the west, where in the mid-1800's Apaches fought – and lost – an often bloodied ground (you've seen the 'Bloody Basin' exit). To the east is Black Mesa, near the newly created Agua Fria National Monument, a 71,000 acre preserve protecting prehistoric Indian sites and petroglyphs. Alone, and at its altitude, it remains a miracle of nature, since the odds of a seedling saguaro surviving anywhere can be as low as one in several million. Judging by its size, it's estimated this cactus was 'born' around the time the United States acquired Arizona from Mexico. Other saguaros grow plentifully at a distance below the hilltop, but this one lives alone. The average saguaro produces an estimated 40 million seeds in a hundred years of fertility, but none has visibly taken hold on its windy, rocky knoll.

Note: This excerpt is taken from an Arizona Highways article submitted by Leslie Ullstrup. For those unfamiliar with this 'last' saguaro, it's 'waving' to northbound travelers on the left side of the highway from the ridge that marks the beginning of the 'transition zone' of Arizona, which begins, just before the Sunset Point rest area on Interstate 17. Unfortunately, this past year the saguaro was the victim of a fire that scorched the surrounding hillside this past year, but like many others that have suffered a similar fate, it is surviving well.

A Relic Comes Home

The Kolb brothers (Emery and Ellsworth) secured a prominent place in Grand Canyon history in 1912 with the completion of a boat trip down the Colorado River. While not the first to dare the rapids, the Kolbs were the first to record their adventures (and misadventures!) on the river with a movie camera. After the river trip's completion and a transcontinental movie promotional tour, they returned to Grand Canyon, building an auditorium to show what would ultimately become the longest running film in history. They used a Powers Cameragraph Projector, which would continue to serve them for 50 years. The projector was recently discovered in the basement of the Williams-Grand Canyon Masonic Lodge #38, where it was stowed more than 40 years ago by Emery's friend and colleague Leo Atherton. Kolb and Atherton had both contributed artifacts to the Williams Chamber of Commerce to be used in a new museum of Grand Canyon memorabilia. When the museum venture failed, Atherton put the projector in the basement for safekeeping. It was recently uncovered during renovation of the historic lodge, and has been returned to the Kolb Studio at Grand Canyon National Park. Power's Projectors were, along with Edison's machines, the first American film projectors produced on a commercial scale. Thousands were sold in the U.S. and abroad. It is not a rare machine, but it is "esteemed and venerated" for its authenticity. The Kolb's projector was patented in 1906. It ran on DC current (50-65 volts/15-30 amps, for you techies) and used Peerless carbon arc lamps for illumination through a Bausch and Lomb optical lens. The lamps produced so much heat that the projection both was sheathed in metal.

Note: These excerpts are from a story submitted by Shari Elliott from the Grand Canyon Natural History Association, whose mission is to support science and education at GCNP (Grand Canyon National Park).

Sending our Wishes for a Speedy Recovery.....

AGA Members, **Mary and Ed Lacy**, are both recovering from their recent illnesses and surgeries. Also, **Barbara Hermansen** is recovering from her surgery last month in Seattle, WA, where she spends her

summers. Her temporary address is: 523 Greenbrook Place, Richland, WA 99352. We're all thinking about you, and sending our good thoughts for your speedy recoveries!!

The Arizona Coach Talker

AGA Newsletter

P.O. Box 45302

Phoenix, AZ 85064-5302

Don't Miss the Surprise !!

NOVEMBER 6 HALL OF FLAME

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New Members and Directory Changes

Joanne Ackerman
1203 S. Potomac
Phoenix, AZ 85044
480.783.8369
E-mail: Joanne.ackerman@osu.edu

Joan Gillespie
11051 S. Tomah Street
Phoenix, AZ 85044
Fax: 602.438.4562
Cell: 602.418.1390
E-mail: joangillespie@qwest.net

Inge Chapman
2303 N. 156th Drive
Goodyear, AZ 85338
623.563.5180 (home)
623.521.1838 fax)
E-mail: ingentom@cox.net

E-Mail Changes:

Marty Griffith – martycactus@cox.net
Betty Wirth – bwirth@netzero.net

Correct Phone Number for Destination Services of Scottsdale At The Phoenician Resort: 480.941.8200

WEBSITE to VISIT.....

http://www.azcentral.com/travel/visitor/oddballaz/travel_oddballazindex.html