

The Arizona Coach Talker

Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

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January, 2007

Happy New Year !!

The holidays are almost behind us, and that means it's time to gear up for a new tourism season. That also means we'll be answering lots of questions about Arizona for thousands of guests, so what better way to start than with a refresher course courtesy of one of Arizona's Culturekeepers.

~ Westin Kierland Resort ~

One of our Valley's newest resorts, the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, is a unique 735 room retreat, built to reflect the area's rich history and beauty - the hotel's theme is "Treasuring the Essence of Arizona". This is exemplified by a program housed in the Culturekeepers Hall located outside the Kierland Ballrooms. Named 'The Arizona Culturekeepers' it was designed to celebrate Arizonans who have made a positive impact on the Grand Canyon State's history, culture, environment and/or economy. They are pioneers of the state because of their entrepreneurial spirit, civic leadership and outstanding contributions. Those honored as Culturekeepers are inspired by a passion for Arizona that is fueled from within, and whose works may have never been officially recognized.

Working in conjunction with the Arizona Historical Society, The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa launched Culturekeepers in 2002 under the direction of Official Arizona State Historian, Marshall Trimble. This annual program has recognized ten people each year since its inception and will culminate in one hundred Arizona Culturekeepers being recognized by the state's 100th birthday in 2012.

Our speaker will be Paul Messinger (2005 Culturekeeper), who for more than 60 years has devoted his time, energy, vision and historic perspective to Scottsdale and the area as a businessman and community leader. His passions include maintaining and promoting the city's history, chairing fund-raising campaigns for the city's most popular sculpture, "The Yearlings," as well as "One With The Eagle" at the entrance to the Scottsdale Airpark. He regularly writes about the history of Scottsdale for the Scottsdale Republic, part of the daily newspaper The Arizona Republic. Through the years Messinger has been consistently involved in the community both publicly and behind the scenes. His interests range from good government to history to the environment.

When: Monday, January 15, 2007

Where: Westin Kierland Resort and Spa
(6902 E. Greenway Parkway, just east of Scottsdale Road.)
Directions to the room location will be in the lobby area.

Time: 6 - 7:00 P.M. Hospitality and Self-Guided tour of Arizona History.
7:00 P.M.* Speaker, Paul Messinger, 2005 Arizona Culturekeeper

*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.....

As we say in yoga..... "Take a deep inhalation, feel the energy move through you, draw into your core, feel the strength of your foundation as you move through the poses." As we say in the Arizona Guides Association, "Take a deep breath, muster all the energy you have, draw on your sleep deprived brain, feel the strength of your back as you move through another 14 hour day!" In January.....ready or not, the season is upon us. It is what we thrive on, and our employers thrive on our strength, energy and willingness to provide hospitality and services for their valuable clients. In order to maximize and work efficiently on the job during this busy time, don't forget to take care of yourself. TAKE TIME to breathe, TAKE TIME to exercise, TAKE TIME for valuable rest and nourishment. Your body will stay healthier, your spirit will be lifted, and your friends, family, co-workers and employers will be grateful.

Happy New Year!! Leslie Ullstrup, AGA President

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

Gilbert observatory opening Astronomers say the new \$100,000 facility at 2757 E. Guadalupe Road, fills a void for Valley residents wanting a public telescope to glimpse millions of stars, the rings of Saturn or a comet fortuitously appearing in the sky. Its striking white dome shoots up amid lush vegetation, wildlife and a 5-acre lake in Gilbert's Riparian Preserve. And when the stars come out at night, that white dome will be Gilbert's key to viewing the faraway skies. The Gilbert Rotary Centennial Observatory, is equipped with a \$20,000 telescope, one of a kind in the Valley according to astronomy buffs. The observatory will be open Friday and Saturday nights so that small groups of five or six people can take turns looking through the 16-inch telescope's eyepiece for free. Small donations will be requested. Inside the observatory, trained volunteers will control the telescope and computer equipment that contains millions of space objects in a nationwide database. The telescope moves via remote control, and the dome's 4-foot-wide window can be shifted accordingly for optimum viewing. The telescope was bought through Salt River Project contributions and the remaining costs were footed by private donations. The Gilbert Rotary Club also played a crucial role in bringing the facility to Gilbert and is its namesake.

Valley's first light-rail vehicle arrives The cars arrived in early December, and testing will begin soon afterward at the maintenance yard in east Phoenix. By early April, the public will get its first glimpse of rail cars when they are tested on a short stretch of track on Washington Street in east Phoenix. Metro chief Rick Simonetta said that all 50 trains will be assembled at the rail yard, saving Metro \$1.5 million. Japanese manufacturer Kinkisharyo International had been eyeing properties for the assembly work in Flagstaff, Buckeye, Los Angeles and elsewhere. Additional trains are being shipped from overseas, bound for Los Angeles. Testing of the first train was originally planned to take place in New Jersey, with delivery in late January. Instead, the train was loaded onto three flatbed trucks at the Baltimore harbor and began its trip to Arizona.

Design for new Arizona quarter The odds still favor the Grand Canyon as the winnowing process continues toward final selection of a design for Arizona's state quarter. But don't count out the saguaro cactus or the Navajo Codetalkers. A commission appointed by Gov. Janet Napolitano screened 19 preliminary designs offered by the U.S. Mint and selected five for final consideration. The mint's designers produced the 19 preliminary designs to illustrate five narratives previously submitted by the commission. One of the chosen five preliminary designs shows a multi-rayed sun peeking over a rim of the Grand Canyon, with numerous promontories visible inside the vast chasm. A second alternative combines much of the first design's Grand Canyon image with a separate view of a Saguaro amid other desert plants. It has a "Grand Canyon State" banner crossing much of the quarter's equator to separate the two images of scenes that in real life would be located at least 200 miles distant. The sun also plays prominently in both of those two alternative as well as a third devoted exclusively to a desert scene dominated by saguaros. The interior of the Grand Canyon is the focal point of a fourth alternative. It shows a boat in Colorado River rapids inside the canyon with one-armed explorer John Wesley Powell at the helm during a 19th Century exploration. A discarded alternative for that image focused tightly on the river scene, without any depiction of the surrounding canyon in the background. The fifth design also includes people: three Navajo Codetalkers who, while serving as U.S. Marines in the Pacific during World War II, used their native language to thwart Japanese eavesdroppers. The design shows two Codetalkers kneeling in the jungle as one talks on a radio and the second takes notes. A discarded version had boxes of supplies around the Codetalkers but no vegetation. The commission, which first met in December 2005, considered thousands of entries submitted by the public. The five preliminary designs will be returned to the state by early next year after the Mint makes minor changes requested by the commission. Once the final designs are provided by the Mint, Napolitano will pick one for use on the state quarter,

scheduled to be released publicly in early 2008.

Page 3 – AGA Newsletter ~ January 2007

Taliesin West plan advances The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation has completed a key step toward locking in Taliesin West on the Scottsdale Historic Register. In April, Scottsdale approved the historic designation, which requires preparation of a historic preservation plan for the north Scottsdale architecture center, started by world-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1937. The foundation delivered a draft plan Thursday to the Scottsdale Historic Preservation Commission, which had requested the document. The commission usually prepares historic preservation plans, but the foundation agreed to take on the task, since it already had begun its own preservation project and was preparing a related request to rezone the entire 500-acre property as a special campus. The city and foundation have agreed to meet again in February to iron out the fine points of the plan. The rezoning proposal, which had been expected by year's end, has not been filed. The next step is to develop more detail about the history of, as well as the needs and plans for, each of the buildings in the historic core. The challenge is to balance preservation interests with the demands of everyday use of the institution as a school. Taliesin West also serves as a tourist destination and a residence for the Taliesin Fellowship, a group of artists and architects, some of whom worked with Wright, who died in 1959.

Pet a javelina Sedona is taking a cue from cities that have converted fiberglass horses, cows and guitars into artistic tourist attractions. Sedona's objet d'art is the javelina, that well-snouted denizen of the Arizona countryside. Forty-six faux javelinas were distributed. Maps available at stores and visitor centers designate the placement of each creation. The life-size critters will be on display through the autumn of 2007, then will be auctioned to raise funds for the arts. More details at www.javelinasonparade.com.

Peace in the Valley

Finding respite from holiday noise doesn't require money or a lot of time. In these six Valley locations, you can carve out a few moments of quiet for your body and soul.

~ **Healing Garden**, Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center. You don't have to be a patient to sit or stroll in the garden and let its fountains and colorful desert landscaping soothe you. 1111 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix. Check in at the main desk. (602.239.2000).

~ **Nature Trail No. 304, Piestewa Peak**. Labeled plants, shade ramadas and easy access to paved parking, restrooms and drinking water make this 1.52-mile route about as stress-free as they come. 2701 E. Squaw Peak Drive, Phoenix. Access the trail from the Apache area at the end of the road. (602..262.7901).

~ **Murphy Bridle Path**. With ash trees shading you and a crushed-granite path underfoot, you might forget you're in the center of Phoenix. The path is 2.5 miles one way on Central Avenue, from Bethany Home Road to the Arizona Canal.

~ **Mount Claret Retreat Center**. The peaceful, 10-acre garden is open to the public. No appointment needed; just let someone in the office know you're on the grounds. 4633 N. 54th St, Phoenix. (602.840.5066).

~ **Glendale Main Library**. "Shush!" isn't heard often in today's libraries, but they're still quieter than the average public place. At this branch, you can pick out a book and take a silent stroll in the almost four-acre Xeriscape Botanical Garden. 5959 W. Brown St. (623.930.3530).

~ **Franciscan Renewal Center**. A stone-lined labyrinth, desert path, healing garden and two chapels invite reflection. 5802 E. Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley. (480.948.7460).

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

SuperShuttle Acquired by Veolia Veolia Transportation North America, the largest operator of private passenger ground transportation in the U.S., has acquired SuperShuttle, the world's leader in airport shared-ride transportation. SuperShuttle has operations in 23 airports in the U.S. and 1,200 vehicles. It is the only national brand name in shared-ride

ground transportation. Based in Paris, Veolia Transport serves more than 2.5 billion passengers each year. It operates 16,700 buses, 3,500 trains and has 72,000 employees worldwide in 25 countries, with total annual revenue of \$5 billion.

Page 4 – AGA Newsletter ~ January 2007

Share the Experience Photo Contest Americans can help protect our nation's national parks, forests, and public lands by snapping photos highlighting their extraordinary grandeur, according to the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. A new photo contest announced recently by Interior agencies—including the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—and the USDA Forest Service will benefit parks and other public lands in several ways. The "Share the Experience" photo contest is sponsored by the National Park Foundation, a Congressionally-authorized foundation and official partner of the National Park Service, and CASIO. It ends Dec. 31, 2006, viewers can browse a photo gallery of entries already submitted at www.sharetheexperience.org. The grand prize-winning photo will grace the front of the "America the Beautiful—The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass," a new pass currently under development that will provide access to all participating federal land management agency sites where entrance and standard amenity fees are charged. The new pass will replace the Golden Eagle Passport and National Parks Pass and other federal recreational lands passes. More than 80 percent of pass revenue will help fund facilities and services where the pass was purchased and support vital federal lands projects.

Save the Date: Arizona Tourism Unity Dinner The Arizona Tourism Alliance will host the 3rd Annual Arizona Tourism Unity dinner in Phoenix on Wednesday, March 28, 2007 at the Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa's Frank Lloyd Wright Ballroom from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. This elegant evening will bring together both public and private sector organizations statewide to celebrate unity within the tourism industry and honor individuals for their extraordinary support and service to Arizona's travel and tourism industry. The night will start off with a reception and silent auction from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The dinner and program will begin at 7:00 p.m. You can join in this valuable opportunity to celebrate our support for Arizona tourism and its leaders by visiting http://aztourismalliance.org/uni_events.htm#Unity.

Feds Issue New Recreation Pass The Department of Agriculture announced a new interagency recreation pass that officials say will benefit visitors to national public lands. The new pass, authorized by Congress in 2004, combines the benefits of existing recreation passes of five federal agencies into one comprehensive pass, "The American the Beautiful National Park and Federal Recreational Lands Pass." The new pass covers recreational opportunities on public lands managed by four Department of Interior agencies, including the National Park Service, Fish and Wild life Service, Bureau of Land management and the Agriculture Department's U.S. Forest Service. The program replaces the Golden Eagle, Golden Age and the Golden Access Passports as well as the National Parks Pass. Existing passes will remain valid until expired, lost or stolen. Sales of new pass will begin in January. (Special to Travel Advance, 12/8/06)

TIA Launches Passport Information Web Site The Travel Industry Association and the Travel Business Roundtable have launched a Web site to aid new passport applications in advance of stricter U.S. government regulations on international travel. GetAPassportNow.com is aimed at educating travelers about the pending Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative requirements that all air travelers to the U.S. have a passport or other secure documents beginning Jan. 23, 2007. The new legislation, approved by Congress in 2004, closes a previous exception given to American returning from Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. The changing rules have spurred a 60 percent increase in U.S. passport applications in 2006 over the previous year. Visitors to the TIA Web site will be able to type in their Zip Code to access information on the closest location to apply for a passport.

Arizona Game and Fish Department Sponsors Workshop..... Did you know the total annual economic effect of wildlife viewing in Arizona is \$1.5 billion? That includes more than \$820 million in retail sales. In fact, watchable wildlife recreation generates more than 15,000 full- and part-time jobs in our state. Nature tourism is one of the fastest growing segments of the tourism industry and watchable wildlife participants in Arizona outnumber the combined populations of Montana and Wyoming. Therefore, the Arizona Game and Fish Department is excited to sponsor "How You and Your Community Can Profit from Nature Tourism." The workshop will be presented by Watchable Wildlife, Inc., a national nonprofit organization that helps communities capitalize on their natural assets to improve the local economy. Topics of the workshop will include: the impact nature tourism has on state and local economies; how to promote wildlife tourism and build community support; and how to build a planning team to ensure successful implementation of nature tourism efforts. The workshop will be held January 26, 2007, 9 am – 5 pm at the La Quinta Inn, 2510 W. Greenway Road, Phoenix. The cost is \$35 and includes materials, snacks and lunch. The clinic has been conducted from Iowa to Russia with positive results. For more information, contact Joe Yarchin at (602) 789-3589 or via email at jyarchin@azgfd.gov.

Scottsdale CVB Tourism Updates....

Meeting Planners Award Scottsdale CVB and Resorts For Excellence The M&C 2006 Gold Award winners have been announced in a special supplement with the November 2006 issue. The Meetings & Conventions Gold Key, Gold Service and Gold Platter awards recognize meeting industry suppliers who have demonstrated overall excellence. The properties and bureaus honored have been selected by meeting planners. The Scottsdale CVB was awarded a 2006 Gold Service Award – the 14th time the CVB has received this award. In addition, several Scottsdale

Page 5 – AGA Newsletter ~ January 2007

resorts were honored. Gold Key winners – the finest meeting properties worldwide recognized for overall excellence – are Camelback Inn, A JW Marriott Resort & Spa (Hall of Fame); Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North; Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort and Spa at Gainey Ranch (Hall of Fame); Scottsdale Resort & Conference Center (Hall of Fame); The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess (Hall of Fame); The Phoenician (Hall of Fame); The Scottsdale Plaza Resort (Hall of Fame); and The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa. Those in the Hall of Fame have achieved excellence for 12 or more years. In addition, Gold Platter winners recognized for culinary excellence are Camelback Inn, A JW Marriott Resort & Spa; The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess; and The Phoenician (Hall of Fame).

Mobil Travel Guide Honors Six Scottsdale Resorts and Restaurants Mobil Travel Guide released its hotel and restaurant ratings, which include three Scottsdale resorts receiving four stars, and three Scottsdale restaurants receiving four stars. The Mobil Four-Star winners include: The Boulders Resort & Golden Door Spa, Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North, The Phoenician, Acacia at Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale, Mary Elaine's at The Phoenician, and Vu at Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort and Spa at Gainey Ranch. Visit www.mobiltravelguide.com for complete ratings.

Five Scottsdale Resorts Named to Golf Digest's List of the Top Resorts The December 2006 issue of Golf Digest magazine features the 75 Best Golf Resorts in North America. Five Scottsdale resorts made the list, including The Boulders Resort & Golden Door Spa at No. 16, Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North at No. 23, The Phoenician at No. 37, The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess at No. 49, and The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa at No. 67. Golf Digest, a monthly magazine with a circulation of 1.46 million readers, is written for all golf enthusiasts, whether a recreational, amateur or professional player. The No. 1 resort named by the magazine is Sea Island, The Cloister & The Lodge in Sea Island, Ga.

The World's Eighth Wonder: Reader's Pick the Grand Canyon What new can possibly be said about a place as old as time? After all, Arizona's Grand Canyon has been the object of hundreds of books, thousands of photos and millions of awe-inspired gasps. Historical accounts report visitors dropping to their knees in wonder upon eyeing the monolithic chasm. It is at once an icon, a metaphor and a cliché, capable of warping perspective and sharpening imagination. Witness its selection as the eighth New Wonder of the World by voters in a USA TODAY/Good Morning America poll, edging out, in order, the Panama Canal; the Great Wall of China; Machu Picchu, Peru; the Saturn V rocket; the Taj Mahal, India; Victoria Falls, Zambia/Zimbabwe; and Venice, Italy. A panel of experts earlier this month named seven new global wonders. For more information, visit www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2006-11-23-7-wonders-grand-canyon_x.htm.

Scottsdale-Sedona Brochures Offers "Short Drive, Sweet Diversions" The Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, as part of the partnership with the Sedona Chamber of Commerce Tourism Bureau, has produced 150,000 Scottsdale-Sedona brochures to invite visitors to explore Scottsdale and Sedona, two of Arizona's most beautiful destinations. Located less than two hours apart, both cities offer breathtaking natural settings, luxurious resorts and plenty to see and do, yet each maintains its own unique personality. These brochures will be distributed through visitor center locations and resorts in Scottsdale and Sedona. If other CVB members would like to display these brochures at their place of business, please contact Jen Bergmark at 480-889-2711 or jbergmark@scottsdalecvb.com.

Spring Training Packages Online Spring training information for the 2007 season is available on the Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau's Web site at www.scottsdalecvb.com/static/index.cfm?contentID=483. The site includes the 2007 game schedule, links to vacation packages and tickets. Visitors can access the information through the Visitors drop-down menu, the Calendar of Events section, the News and Events section on the home page, and the spring training flash intro on the home page.

Scottsdale Museum of the West Committee Raises Seed Money The Scottsdale Museum of the West Committee met their goal of raising \$350,000 in seed money for the first phase of museum development. Last spring, AMS Planning and Research completed a seven-month study to refine the museum concept and assess the financial feasibility of raising sufficient private funds to construct and operate the facility. AMS estimated that it would cost \$29.4 million to design, construct and open the museum and suggested that an additional \$5.0 million be raised to start an endowment fund. The consultants further recommended that the committee expand its membership and begin the process of raising \$350,000 as Phase I "seed money" to retain both a museum director and someone to oversee the building fundraising effort. The committee, comprised of civic and business leaders, purposefully decided to focus exclusively on private sector contributors for the Phase I drive. The City of Scottsdale committed land for the museum as a part of a 2002 redevelopment agreement with Arruth Associates, Inc. The western museum would be built at First Street and Marshall Way. The City also has earmarked \$7.5 million for the design and construction of the nearly \$35 million project. Individuals

contributed 50 percent of the total seed money raised, foundations contributed 37 percent, and local galleries and businesses contributed 13 percent.

Grand Canyon West Announces Official Public Opening of the Skywalk Grand Canyon West, a destination owned and operated by the Hualapai Tribe at the Grand Canyon's western rim, announces March 28, 2007, as the official public opening date of The Skywalk. The Skywalk will be the first-ever cantilever shaped glass walkway to suspend more

Page 6 – AGA Newsletter ~ January 2007

than 4,000 feet above the canyon's floor and extend 70 feet from the canyon's rim. Access to The Skywalk will run from dawn to dusk and will cost \$25 per person in addition to the cost of a Grand Canyon West entrance package. One hundred and twenty people will be allowed on the bridge at a time. Admittance is first come, first serve for walk up visitors; however, reservations can be made. Guests will enter and exit the walkway via temporary buildings while the adjacent visitor's center is being completed. Grand Canyon West plans to issue numbered shoe covers – in order to avoid scratches and slipping – to each visitor that enters the open-air walkway. The historical rollout of The Skywalk structure, with the glass in place, is scheduled for Feb. 27 to March 2. Located at Grand Canyon West's Eagle Point, The Skywalk facility also will include a 6,000-square-foot visitor's center on three levels – underground, first story and second story – which will contain a museum, movie theater, VIP lounge, gift shop, and several restaurants and bars, including a high-end restaurant called The Skywalk Café that will offer outdoor patio and rooftop seating on the edge of the canyon. The second story will be where visitors can access The Skywalk glass walkway. The visitor's center also will offer private indoor and outdoor facilities for meetings, special events and weddings. Grand Canyon West is located approximately 120 miles east of Las Vegas, and 72 miles northwest of Kingman, Ariz. For more information, visit www.destinationgrandcanyon.com.

Airport News.....

Sky Harbor plans major expansion Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is about to embark on what will likely be the most ambitious, and certainly most expensive, expansion in its 78-year history. The construction should ensure that Phoenix is able to accommodate the Valley's air-traffic needs in the coming decades. But the work also will mean that passengers will face increased hassles in the coming years and may have to pay more to use the airport. Additional costs could include increased ticket fees or higher parking rates. More than \$2 billion worth of projects are planned, including a new 33-gate terminal, two new taxiways, major street improvements and possibly even a driverless train system that would connect airport terminals to its remote parking garages and the Valley's light-rail system. Although most construction will not begin before 2009, city leaders are starting to make tough decisions about how the airport will grow and who will bear the cost of expanding it. Phoenix says the expansion plan is the only way to keep the Valley's primary airport from choking on its own growth. Sky Harbor's terminals and roadways have gotten noticeably more crowded and difficult to navigate in the past 18 months. The city says that without the upgrades, residents and visitors will start to see more frequent baggage backups and flight delays, longer security lines and continual logjams at the terminals' curbside check-in areas. Currently, the airfield can carry more planes and passengers than the terminals can handle.

Sky Harbor is not alone in grappling with the problem. Dozens of airports around the country, particularly those in regions with fast-growing populations, are amid massive renovation projects. When Sky Harbor's Terminal 2 opened in 1962, Phoenix planners said they thought they had constructed a building large enough to accommodate the airport's growth until 2000. Obviously, they were wrong. The state's booming population forced them to open Terminal 3 in 1979. Less than a decade later, growth spurred the development and construction of the \$248 million Terminal 4, which opened in 1990, and handles 80 percent of the airport's traffic.

Last year, 41.2 million people traveled through Sky Harbor's gates, and the airport logged 555,426 takeoffs and landings. Those numbers are expected to jump to as many as 50 million and 670,000 by 2015. Sky Harbor, as it is today, cannot accommodate that many bodies. The airport already has raised parking rates in an effort to control usage during the week and prevent its economy garages and lots from filling to capacity. Terminal 4 in particular will be much more hectic: Passengers will have to start getting to the airport even earlier than they do now; it'll be harder to drive up to the curb; there may even be a situation where there is no gate for an arriving aircraft, and it has to circle or park on the tarmac before passengers can deplane.

City planners believe the construction of a new 33-gate terminal is the single most important project at Sky Harbor. The building, which will require the demolition of aging Terminal 2, is expected to cost \$750 million, though officials say that is a very fluid figure. The terminal is critical because it would give Phoenix more gate space and allow the airport to possibly shift all of Southwest Airlines operations out of Terminal 4. That would alleviate some of the congestion in that building, while giving US Airways room to expand. Federal regulations require that construction on the terminal begin three years after it received approval from the Federal Aviation Administration, or in spring 2009. But the facility likely would not be completed until 2012 to 2014.

In addition to the terminal, Sky Harbor has planned a handful of other construction projects designed to make it easier to

get around the airport. Chief among those is a planned straightening of Sky Harbor Boulevard, the airport's main east-west artery. The roadway takes an abrupt and sharp turn between Terminals 2 and 3, which sometimes aggravates traffic congestion. The airport plans to rebuild the roadway so that it runs in a straight line by all three terminals, but it will not be able to start construction until Terminal 2 is razed. That is not expected to happen before 2012.

Bottom Line: Airport staff had better bring their game face to Sky Harbor for the next few years!

Page 7 – AGA Newsletter ~ January 2007

Military Lounge now open AGA member, Art Sloan, would like airport staff to know that the Military Lounge, which is now open in Terminal 2 for all military, veterans, and their families, can also be used to take a break by guide staff if they have military connections.

Sedona News

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM SEDONA By Laura Vandegrift

I have been asked to write articles for the AGA newsletter on happenings and current events here in Sedona. Since my move on October 1st, I have slowly been integrating myself into the activities and numerous events going on in this “land of timeless beauty.” There truly is never a dull moment here in the Verde Valley. From the moment I wake up to the howling of coyotes, or the pitter patter of families of javelinas in my back yard, there is always some historical, cultural or just plain fun event to go to.

The Xanadu – Sedona Dome House had an open house in October. I was fortunate enough to be able spend a little time inside this wonderful example of architecture. Aside from feeling a little claustrophobic, the round-walled home was very inviting. The family living there are home-schooling their three teenage daughters. The bright colors on the outside are to attract attention as the owners wish to promote this type of home. Since it is located just outside the Sedona city limits, it does not have to adhere to the paint color restrictions. You can find out all you need to know and more about this home by going on the internet under Xanadu of Sedona @ Now.Net .

Friday, December 8th, was the 100th anniversary of Montezuma Castle becoming a national monument. Some of the speakers included Marshall Trimble, and Ferrell Secakuku from the Hopi reservation. When I spoke to Marshall during a break, he spoke highly of the Arizona Guides Association and his fond memories with Avis and Janice in the early days of their class. Ferrell Secakuku grew up on the Hopi reservation, and at the age of 68 graduated from NAU with a master's degree in anthropology. His intent is to preserve the value of Hopi life and help record traditions so they may pass to future generations. His research at NAU confirmed his beliefs that Hopi cultural roots, especially the Snake Clan ceremonies, took shape in Mexico. His thesis explored the similarities of Mesoamerica and Hopi cultures.

The next time you have a group going to Tlaquepaque, be sure to have them check out the Javelinas on Parade. These are wonderful javelina sculptures created by Barbara Brown and decorated by local artists in their particular art design. Similar to the cows in Chicago and mermaids, horses and other types of sculptures created elsewhere, these javelinas are worth a second look. They are located throughout the Sedona area and in Tlaquepaque and Los Abrigado. A wonderful book, “Javelinas on Parade” is available in book stores commemorating this wonderful program enhancing Sedona's artist community.

When you are traveling up 89A to Flagstaff, be sure to wave a fond farewell to one of Sedona's long-time overnight establishments. Don Hoel's Cabins closed their doors on November 27th. When I stopped in one day prior to closing and asked what was going on, the only response I could get was that the property would not be a hotel. Most recently, Michael Blake, author and Academy Award winner for the film adaptation of his book “Dances with Wolves” stayed in one of the cabins. He wrote the first 10 chapters of his new book, “Indian Yell”, while staying there.

In the next newsletter, I will give full details about the Smithsonian traveling exhibit “Between Fences” which will be on display at the Clemenceau Heritage Museum from May 2 through June 15 in 2008.



- The Adopt-A-Highway programs are the primary means of litter removal on the state's highways. In rural areas, the Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Program consists of volunteer groups who commit to cleaning up 2 mile stretches of highway two to four times a year, depending on the district. In Metropolitan areas, most of the highways are maintained by ADOT's Sponsor Program. In these areas, Arizona businesses contract with one of the four pre-approved maintenance providers whose crews perform litter removal along sponsored, 2 mile segments of freeway.

- The Arizona Snowbowl, located in the Coconino National Forest on the majestic San Francisco Peak, opened in 1938 and is one of the oldest continuously run ski areas in the United States. It has the best learning terrain in the entire Southwest in the renowned Hart Prairie, and advanced skiers enjoy challenging trails with more than 2,300 feet of vertical drop.

Page 8 – AGA Newsletter ~ January 2007

- In 2001, Phoenix approved Prop 6 in which \$10.5 million was approved to purchase and renovate the 70,000 sq foot Monroe School at 215 N. 7th Street. The school opened to children in 1913, but by the early 70's the school closed. It is scheduled to re-open in late 2007 as the Children's Museum of Phoenix. It will be geared toward children up to age 8. Like the Grace Court School and Kenilworth School, also in downtown Phoenix, the Monroe School was designed in the style of English mansions at that period.
- We have 12 Cactus League teams and ballparks, and it was announced in Sept '06 that the Cleveland Indians have agreed to move its spring training home from Winter Haven, Fla., and will be training in a new stadium in Goodyear (off I-10 heading west before you get to the 303) starting in '09. Attendance at cactus league games surpasses the 1 million mark.
- Interstate 17 from 101 to Carefree Highway will be widened from 2007 to 2009. The widening adjacent to Anthem will not happen until 2023.
- Diabetics hail the wonder drug derived from the Gila Monster saliva, produced synthetically for Type 2 Diabetes. It is called Byetta (bye-A-tuh) and has been given nick names like Lizzy and Gilly. Drug cost is \$150 per month, and most insurance companies are picking up the cost. "Hooray for lizard spit."
- Sedona Roadrunner, the trolley circulator route from Uptown Sedona that travels to 179 to art galleries, is 1.3 miles long with pick ups every 10 minutes starting at 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 daily. (www.sedona@roadrunner.com)
- Tempe's most charismatic artery, Mill Avenue, was named after the Hayden Flour Mill, the imposing white multiple silo structure which still stands at Mill Avenue and the Rio Salado Parkway just south of the original Tempe Bridge. Built in 1874, it operated continuously until 1997, and sustained fires in 1890, 1917 and 2002. Plans are still being considered to renovate the structure as a possible retail center.
- Almost all cactus blossoms last only a day, or a day and a night. The saguaro opens after sunset, and has closed up shop for good by noon the next day. Blooming is a water-intensive business. Cactuses lose a lot of water to evaporation from their blossoms, so they can't afford to be in bloom for a long period of time. So they have to put out big, showy flowers that will attract pollinators in a hurry.

Education

Yavapai County – “Explore the Pioneer Spirit” The AGA's November Education trip to Yavapai County, was packed with fun, camaraderie, and new experiences. Highlights the first day were: a visit to Arcosanti at Cordes Junction, a farewell tour of Young's Farm, with fresh baked cinnamon buns around a warm fire; lunch at the Gurley Street Grill in Prescott; a tour of the Phippen Western Art Museum; and a drive through the beautiful Granite Dells. We then settled in at the historic Hassayampa Hotel for an evening reception in one of the guest rooms, and then for a sumptuous dinner in a banquet room decorated with murals depicting scenery from the entire state of Arizona. We boarded the bus again to see the Christmas light display at the Valley of Lights in Fain Park – it put everyone in the Christmas spirit! We made a stop at Bucky's Resort Casino on the way back to the hotel, and were treated to the largest display of Gingerbread houses we've ever seen!

The next morning we fortified ourselves with a big breakfast before heading outdoors for a scavenger hunt on the Courthouse Square in very 'brisk' weather – it was 37 degrees, but the wind chill made it feel about 5 below - it was a quick scavenger hunt! We then checked out and boarded the bus for our luncheon and tour at the Orme Ranch School. We ate the same lunch as the students, and just like the students, we cleared our dishes and took them to the kitchen when we finished. We then had an extensive tour by their enthusiastic staff, and learned why this is a school attended by generations of family from all corners of the world. We headed back and returned safely to Phoenix, thanks to our Via driver, Steve, who was a good sport throughout our trip!

Those who went on the trip – and those who want to see what they missed - you can visit the Shutterfly site on the web. Our President, Leslie Ullstrup, had her camera clicking the entire trip. Here's the link – just paste it into your browser or hit control and click on the link here. Enjoy!! <http://share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=8QcNGbdy2bMRw>

Kudos to Jeannie Parrish, Joanne Ingles, Betsy Todd, Marilynne Ransom and Howard Christensen for all their hard work in planning a great trip!!

Note: The Spring Education Day Trip will be announced soon!

Page 9 – AGA Newsletter ~ January 2007

Cotton Industry in Arizona by Leslie Ullstrup

On a gorgeous November Saturday, Howard Christensen, Betsy Todd, Marcia Fisher and I had the privilege of accompanying a tour to the Rogers' cotton farm on the Salt River Indian Reservation. The two authorities on my coach were the President of the Cotton Council, Clyde Sharp, a cotton producer in Yuma, and Charlie Owen, vice president and owner of the Glenbar Gin in Pima, Arizona.

Guests were all from the far reaches of the globe, Bangladesh, Mexico, Ecuador and China, China, and China. The United States exports between 13 and 15 million bales of cotton a year. The group attending the Cotton Council meeting accounted for at least 8 million of those bales. Arizona produces about 600,000 bales a year. Only 5% of our cotton remains locally.

We witnessed the whole "cotton pickin" process; from watching the little fluff balls whip up into the cotton picker, and dumped in the compressor and packed tightly into a module for its journey to Casa Grande. Once the cotton arrives at the gin it is cleaned and conditioned and separated from the seed and fiber. It is packed into a bale, conveyed to be wrapped in 100% cotton jute, loaded onto a truck and taken directly to port. The gin operates 24/7 and turns out 35 – 40 bales per hour..

Clyde explained that everything that comes off the field goes back to the field. The seed is used for dairy feed because it is high in fiber and protein, some is made into cottonseed oil and the rest is used for fertilizer.

There are about 40 – 50 million bales of excess cotton stored at various locations. The United States could literally .stop producing for one year and the market would not be affected. Price is controlled by the world market. One factory in China that receives our cotton has 16 million spindles making thread to be woven into fabric. It is so large that it produces its own electricity.

Side note: Clyde was born at a Maternity home in Tempe where Tempe High School now stands. His grandmother owned the land where Scottsdale Fashion square is and farmed potatoes and apricots. She sold the property in 1952. He also mentioned that Yuma produces 75 – 80 % of the nation's lettuce.

Cotton Facts:

The U.S. exports 13 to 15 million bales a year

Arizona produces 600,000 bales a year.

One bale = 500 pounds.

One module = 15 to 16 bales and 15,000 to 20,000 pounds.

1400 pounds of seed cotton (with seeds) = 1400 pounds, and contains 500 pounds of fiber and 750 pounds of seed.

New Sedona Resource by C.S. McFadden

On a recent Sedona tour, I wandered through Tlaquepaque while my guests shopped. There was a small table set up on the plaza outside Rene's, and a man and woman were putting out copies of a paperback book. The woman was the author, Jean Matthews Kindig, and her new book is "Sedona Area Places & Names". The book contains descriptions of places and names in the Red Rock Country of Sedona. On the back cover, The Sedona Historical Society recommends the book as a 'must have' reference book that is 'concise, thorough, and interesting'. The author says she began hiking with the Sedona Westerners club and heard lots of FLABS (Folk Lore and BS) about how canyons, trails and peaks got their names. After a reality check with the National Forest Service, and the collections of the Sedona Historical Society, she began her research for the meanings behind the names in the Sedona area. The book also documents Sedona area pioneers and early settlers, with their family trees and several of their photos. The book is available (\$10) from the Historical Society, and local bookstores. The author may be contacted at sedonaplaces@gmail.com.

Your Editor (C.S. McFadden) would like to thank the contributors to this newsletter Betsy Todd, Leslie Ullstrup, Shari Elliott, and Art Sloan.

The Arizona Coach Talker

AGA Newsletter

P.O. Box 45302

Phoenix, AZ 85064-5302

Happy New Year !!

January 15 ~ Westin Kierland

Page 10 – AGA Newsletter ~ January 2007

New Members and Directory Changes

New Directory Address:
Judy and Randy Gogolin
12938 E. Desert Trail
Scottsdale, AZ 85259
(Phone #'s remain the same)

New Contact Person:
Desert Botanical Garden
Emi Koeckhoven, Group Sales Manager
480.481.8104 or ekoeckhoven@dbg.org

WEBSITES to VISIT.....

http://www.azcentral.com/travel/visitor/tourists/travel_quickguideindex.html

info@thecherryloungeaz.com

<http://www.azpbs.org/monumental>