

Grand Opening: Historic ranch house and caretaker's cottage

April 17, 2004, the renovated ranch house and caretaker's cottage were dedicated in a ribbon cutting ceremony at Agua Caliente Park. Pima County Supervisor Ray Carroll (Dist. 4) presided as Master of Ceremonies.



Many FOAC members were present including: Pete Filiatrault, his wife Nancy and daughter Leisa; Bud and Beula Seaman; Jim Hilkemeyer; Tony and Sally Danielson; Carolyn Classen; Jack and Sharon Herron; Jim and Susan Knoll; Audrey Watts; Mike Deal; Philip and Joan Felleman; Jim and Judy Gray; and Ms. Jorga Riggerbach (one of the FOAC founders and a former president).

Pete Filiatrault was the special guest speaker. Pete lived at the ranch for nine years during his youth and opened his remarks with "It's a beautiful day for me to be here and see the ranch open again." The Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. were involved throughout this process to help preserve these historic buildings and the overall Park structure. During his talk, Pete referred to a recent failed attempt of the

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From the President:

Ten Years Later The Rewards

It was ten years ago this spring that a fledgling Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. won the support of the Pima County Board of Supervisors to retain the historic buildings at Agua Caliente Park. Since that time, we've helped Pima County obtain Heritage Fund Grants for the restoration of the Bunkhouse, and assisted with the 1997 bond election that earmarked funds for the restoration of the buildings. Our reward: The April opening of the newly restored Ranch House and Rose Cottage.

Thanks to the fantastic fund-raising committee, the Friends held their first major fund-raiser "To Build a Bridge" with great success. Several more will follow, until there is funding to replace the bridge to the island in the park.

Revisions to the application for listing on the National Register of Historic Places are in progress. The County hopes that the Park listing will be complete by the end of the summer.

Drilling has begun for a supplemental well for the Park. They hit water at the 750-foot level. This will help augment Park water requirements. Water flow in the spring is up to 63 gpm, but will likely drop off if there is insufficient rain this summer.

FOAC Board Member Mike Deal has graciously agreed to be our Historian. Thanks Mike.

Congratulations to Joanne Triplett, the new program coordinator at Agua Caliente Park. I met Joanne when she first came to Tucson some 18 years ago. We both are fond of those wonderful four-legged critters called hay-burners. Joanne will be a great asset to the County.

We're always looking for a few good team members. There are many ways you can contribute to this great Park. Give one of our members a call or join us at the next Board Meeting. They're bi-monthly at the Bunkhouse. Have a great summer.

Sandy Sarah,
President

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to “rearrange” the ponds at the Park and commented, “There are more than four Friends now. Don’t be afraid to be an advocate. It really works. If anything happens to this place again, we’ll be there.” A framed aerial view of the old



Agua Caliente Ranch, which will be hung in the renovated ranch house, was presented to Supervisor Carroll by Pete Filiatrault

in memory of Art and Claire Filiatrault, his parents.

Also attending the ceremony were key Pima County employees including: Rafael Payan; Linda Mayro (Cultural Resources and Preservations Office); Cathy Chavez; Parks Operation Manager George Kuck; Park Manager Amy Loughner; Wendy Burroughs; and Dan Burchin (Parks Commission President). Pima County Supervisor Ann Day (Dist. 1) also attended along with Sonja Macys of the Tucson Audubon Society, Gene Wendt of the Parkland Foundation, and the engineering consultant and contractor who worked on the renovation.

Jim Knoll video taped the event and will put the video on tape as well as DVD for members to enjoy and to preserve the event. Susan Knoll also took many pictures, some of which are shown here.

How to reach Officers of the Board of Friends of Agua Caliente

Sandy Sarah, President	885-7466	sjsarah@earthlink.net
Richard Watts, Vice Pres.	529-4637	
Audrey Watts, Secretary	529-4637	
Peter Filiatrault, Treasurer	577-8202	azghost@comcast.net
Carolyn Classen	327-7609	pololu@hotmail.com
Sally Danielson	749-2184	sawynd@aol.com
Mike Deal	749-1984	miguelitodeal@aol.com
Jim Hilkemeyer	749-5909	jim@hilkyway.com
Bud Seaman	299-3175	bbseaman@juno.com

From the Bunkhouse:

“The Flying V”

By Pete Filiatrault

When my parents came to Tucson to look for a place to buy, they stayed at the “Flying V Guest Ranch”. The Flying V Guest Ranch is now part of Lowe’s Ventana Canyon Resort. While they were staying there, they became friends with the girl who was in charge of housekeeping. She visited us at the Ranch often. One evening, my folks were sitting in the “Bay Window” in their barrel chairs when they heard a knock on the window. They looked out and saw Hope from the Flying V. My Dad went around and opened the front door to let Hope in. She informed him that she had a slight problem. Her boyfriend, who had a little too much to drink had failed to negotiate the little bridge across the creek that flowed from the spring. This was our driveway. We all walked out toward the bridge, and all you could see was a single light shining toward the house. When we got up to the bridge, there was Hope’s boyfriend’s car, lying on its side in the creek. Thank goodness no one was hurt. As you can imagine, Hope was very embarrassed. Her boyfriend was beyond embarrassment. We turned off the lights to his car, turned off the ignition, and invited them into the house. After several cups of coffee, my Dad gave them a ride back to the Flying V. The next day, a wrecker came out and lifted the car out of the creek. It was not seriously damaged.

Friends of Agua Caliente Fundraising Committee

First Major Fundraiser a Success!

Thanks to the hard work of our Fundraising Committee, the strong support of our Board members, our general membership, Park supporters, and "The Arizona Daily Star", our first major fundraiser to help rebuild the pedestrian bridge at Agua Caliente Park can be considered a success.

Those of you who could not be with us at Hidden Valley Inn on March 5th to enjoy The Sons of the Pioneers® missed a great show. Followed by a raffle and a short live auction, with Jack Herron as auctioneer, and including donations received from Park supporters, a profit of \$2,703.29 was realized. This is a beginning in our efforts toward raising funds needed to rebuild our bridge.

Over 125 people attended, including Pima County Supervisor Ray Carroll and representatives from the Tucson Audubon Society. Before the show, President Sandy Sarah and Treasurer Pete Filiatrault welcomed everyone and spoke briefly about the Friends and the Park. Then, we all sat back while The Sons of the Pioneers® entertained and brought back to many of us pleasant memories of Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, Bob Nolan, and the original Sons of the Pioneers in the old Hollywood westerns with their renditions of "Cool Water", "Tumbling Tumbleweeds", and "Happy Trails". Even the youngsters were mesmerized.

We hope you will support the local businesses who generously helped in this event by donating gift certificates, ads in our program booklet and/or items for our raffle and auction, such as Southwest Sewing Sensations; Jim (Hilk) Hilkemeyer, real estate agent; Balance with Ms. Adrienne M. Moore, CMT; Newman's Design Mine Jewelry & Gallery; The Magic Garden, owned by Sandy Sarah; Arizona Inn; Gaslight Theatre; Jonathon's Cork; Tohono Chul Park Tea Room; Great Waves; Trader Joe's on Grant Road; Arizona Wildcats; Beyond Bread; Magpie's Gourmet Pizza; Papagayo Mexican Restaurants; Funtastics; and Bed Bath & Beyond.

We truly appreciate all the support we received. Anyone wishing to help rebuild the bridge may send donations to Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc., P.O. Box 32005, Tucson, AZ 85751-2005. We will keep you informed of future events.

Audrey Watts, Chairperson

New Program Coordinator

Joanne Triplett is the new Program Coordinator at Agua Caliente Park. Her duties are still evolving, but she will primarily be responsible for the Ranch House Visitors' Center, developing programs and activities to be held there and throughout the Park.

Joanne has been employed with Pima County for eight years. She has a background in education, event and volunteer management. She spent several years on the fledgling Friends Board doing battle to save the original Park buildings from the wrecking ball.

Originally from Ohio and Indiana where she owned a grain and horse breeding farm, Joanne spent several years renovating a Civil War era farm house, so she feels right "at home" in the old ranch house.

She looks forward to all the possibilities ahead for the Park and working with each of the "Friends", inviting our participation, suggestions, and critiques on what's happening or what we would like to see happen. Next time you visit the Park, stop in and say hi to Joanne.

Summer hours for the Ranch House to be open to the public will be Tuesday through Saturday 8AM-Noon. Ranch house phone #: 749-3718.

MARK YOUR CALANDAR
Gaslight Theatre
Christmas Show

SCROOGE

Thursday Dec 30th, 2004
7:00 PM

Contact Audrey Watts
 for more details/tickets

FOAC

Friends of
Agua Caliente, Inc.

P.O. Box 32005

Tucson, AZ 85751-2005

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Organization
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AUDUBON SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Pima County is exploring an opportunity for the Audubon Society to open a gift shop in the restored ranch house. Graduate students from Dr. Michael Shafer's Program Evaluation Course at the U of A's School of Public Administration and Policy evaluated and reported on the potential for such a shop. Carolyn Classen and Sandy Sarah met with the students as they were working on the project, and then attended a presentation reception at the University. The results were very impressive. There will be more information about this later.

Ranch House Open!

Dedication Ceremony held April 17th
at the Roy P. Drachman Agua Caliente Park

The Sons of the Pioneers!

*Fundraiser for rebuilding the bridge a great success
Raising over \$2,700*

Volunteers Needed

Cleaning the historic buildings and other FOAC opportunities

(Contact Sally Danielson: 749-2184)

Assisting with the Parks and Recs G.L.O.B.E. Program

(Contact Wendy Burroughs: 877-6122)

The Docent program at the Park

(Contact Barb Kuelbs: 877-6157)

JOIN FOAC and help preserve the Park

(Contact Sally Danielson: 749-2184)