

WELLSPRING NEWS

October 2005

Published by the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.

Tucson, Arizona

From the President:

An Endowment Committee has been formed (4 members) to review the feasibility of forming an Endowment Fund for the benefit of Agua Caliente Park. The Fund's intention would be to produce income which would be designated to pay for certain projects or maintenance, as decided by the Committee. This is a charitable venture as allowed under current law.

In order to fund the Endowment, a variety of charitable gifts can be

made, such as bequests in Wills, assignments of Certificates of Deposit, transfers of property (such as cash, stocks, bonds, and real estate). Members of the Friends will hear more of this in the upcoming months.

Also, two vending machines have been installed at the Park. They are located on the north side of the restrooms and will provide a variety of cool drinks, including water. We get a percentage of the profits and should

prove to be a nice fund raising activity for FOAC.

Currently, the Gallery floor in the Ranch House is under repair; hence, the artists who are scheduled to present their artwork in this area will not be able to do so.

We expect the situation to be corrected soon. Until the work is completed, the artwork will be displayed throughout the Ranch House.

Dick Watts

National Register Of Historic Places

We are in the home stretch. Agua Caliente Park (ACP) has been determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Since the Park is eligible even though it is not yet listed on the Register, ACP has the same status of significance [as if it were listed] when it comes to considering impacts to the cultural resources. It should not be long now and we'll be fully Registered as a Historic Place.

Board Meeting held September 26th

The meeting of the Board of Directors was held September 26th, 2005 in the Bunkhouse of Agua Caliente Park.

The Board reviewed the various Committee reports (Fundraising, Newsletter/Website, Membership/Historian, and nominations). Old business included the Memorial Wall, Endowment

Fund, National Historic Register, and Vending Machines.

For details concerning any programs not outlined in the newsletter, please contact one of the Members of the Board. The **next board meeting** will be held **November 28th, 2005** and the **annual membership meeting** will be held **January 23rd, 2006**. All members welcome to attend.

FOAC Website

The FOAC website is a great source of current information. The address is:

http://www.geocities.com/fo_agua_caliente/

The site is kept updated with current Park activities, photos of the Park, links to other sites related to the Park and of interest to members of FOAC, and an outline of Agua Caliente Park history. The site also includes ar-

chived copies of the Wellspring News, the FOAC Bylaws and Goals, and procedures to make a donation, join FOAC, or send us your comments.

Please bookmark the site and visit it often.....and tell your friends about it. Let us know if you have suggestions for improvement.

Jim Knoll

From the Bunkhouse: Fire at the Ranch by Pete Filiatrault

We arrived at the Agua Caliente Ranch on August 25, 1951 with all our belongings. It took some time to get everything settled in the house. My folk's bedroom was at what now is the East end of the Art Gallery. My sister's room was at the West end of what is now the Art Gallery. There was a bathroom and sitting room between the two bedrooms. My brother and I slept in the old adobe building, just east of the main house. It was built sometime in the late 1870's or early 1880's. You can see the structure in some of the pictures in the signs in front of the house or in the house itself. We enjoyed the end of the monsoons and sat every evening on the porch on the lake side of what is now the Audubon store. We listened to the creatures of the night, particularly the bull frogs. We got where we could identify the various different ones by their calls. We gave them names, such as Chicago, New York, Boston etc.

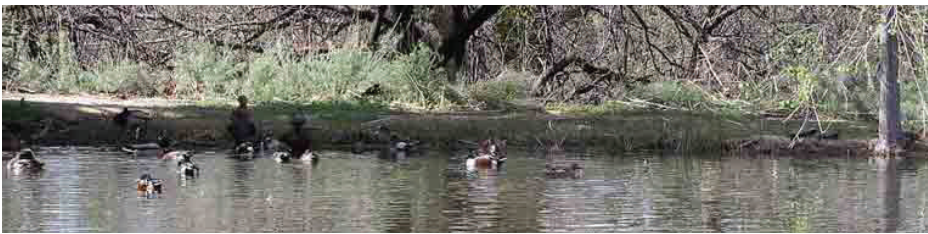
We were all enrolled in school. I went to the Tanque Verde School, which had just been enlarged to four rooms, instead of two. We had around 40 to 45 students in grades

one through eight. I was in grade seven. The Tanque Verde School was swallowed up by what is now know as the Lou Sorenson Center.

In mid October, my parents flew back to Fond du Lac to tie up loose ends. One night, my brother & sisters were all out doing things. I stayed at the house with Ruth, who had been my invalid Aunt's house keeper. When my Aunt died, my parents felt they owed Ruth a job, as she had taken care of my Aunt for many years, so they brought her with us to Tucson. Ruth & I left about 6:00 pm to drive to Swan Drugs which was located where Ambassador Diamond Jewelers now is, at the corner of Speedway & Swan. The only things east of Swan were the Redwood Gay 90's Restaurant & the Original Casa Molina's. On our way home, less than one hour later, we were traveling North on Soldiers Trail. When we reached what is now the intersection of Ft. Lowell & Soldiers Trail, we could see smoke coming up from the Ranch. We hurried home and found that the old adobe building, where my brother and I lived was on fire. There were many neighbors

there, fighting the fire with a fire hose that we had on the property. The caretaker that my Dad had hired got a little drunk and went into our room to "have a little fun" with his wife and dropped a cigarette. By the time the neighbors arrived, they found him with a garden hose trying to put out the fire in the adobe house, whose roof had already caved in. Thanks to the quick thinking of our neighbors, they got the fire hose on the main house and kept it from burning to the ground. In those days, neighbors really helped each other. If it had not been for them, we would have lost everything. As it was, my brother and I lost everything we had except the clothes we were wearing. We lost all our childhood mementos. But we built the addition that is now the caretaker's quarters, at the east end of the house and my folks took one room and my brother & I the other. This was our introduction to Tucson and the welcome given to strangers by your neighbors. While the loss of our little Adobe house was sad, the friends we made of the neighbors who came to help was priceless.

"The Ghost of the Agua Caliente Ranch"



Upcoming Events at Agua Caliente Park

Check the FOAC web site for up-to-date events at the Park:

www.geocities.com/fo_agua_caliente

Wake Up with The Birds

Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 — 7:45 am

Wildlife Viewing & Park History

Oct 16 — 8:00 to 11:00 am

Nov 12 — 12:00 to 4:00 pm

Audubon Agua Caliente Park

Field Trip — Nov 6, 8:30 am

To volunteer at Agua Caliente Park with Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation, call 877-6112.

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. Board of Directors

Richard Watts, President	529-4637	
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Sandy Sarah	885-7466	sjsarah@earthlink.net
Bud Seaman	299-3175	bbseaman@juno.com

Fundraising Committee

During the summer, photo note cards of Agua Caliente Park were added to the items being offered for sale in the Tucson Audubon Society Nature Shop located in the Ranch House at the Park. Proceeds from the sale of these note cards will benefit the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. in our efforts to raise funds for the Bridge rebuilding.

Our next fundraising event will be at the Gaslight Theatre on Thursday, November 17th, 2005, for the 8:30 pm presentation of "Sgt. Preston Saves Christmas!.. A block of 70 seats has been reserved

and they are going fast, so make your reservations as soon as possible. The deadline for reservations is October 24th, 2005, with proceeds going into our Bridge Fund. Ticket prices and other information are included in the enclosed flyer and also available on the website. Please send in your reservations today!

Our second annual pancake breakfast is expected to be held at the Park in April, 2006. Additional details will be in future newsletters and on the web site.

Audrey Watts

Board Member Nominations

Become a Board Member of the Friends of Agua Caliente and help shape the direction and future of Agua Caliente Park. Nominations will be accepted at the next Board meeting on Nov 28th, 2005. Board members must be FOAC members in good standing. Please call Jim Hilkemeyer at 247-9776.



Great Horned Owl

Membership in the Friends of Agua Caliente

Join Friends of Agua Caliente

We are looking for "A few good men and women" who want to help maintain Agua Caliente Park as a very special place. As birders, or those who like to picnic, or stroll the grounds, you know the significance of this "Oasis in the Desert." Since our formation eleven years ago, the Friends have saved the buildings and the grounds from destruction twice, but our battling days seem to be over for now. It is time to "roll up our sleeves" and support the management of the

Park.

Join us and volunteer to clean buildings, plant flowers, weed and trim, act as Docents, sponsor events, raise funds for improvements, and generally have a great time with fellow park lovers. Your time, talents, and donations will be the contributions that make the difference at this historic time in the life of our organization and the Park.

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) Corporation, therefore

all donations are tax-deductible.

Dues are based on the following schedule:

Student	\$10
Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Organization	\$50

Please send Name, Address, and Phone Number along with Check or Visa/MasterCard number to: Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc., PO Box 32005, Tucson, AZ 85751-2005 or contact Mike Deal, Membership Chairman, at 749-1984 for more information.

Have you visited Agua Caliente Park Lately



Ranch House. Features guided tours and history, information and historic photos. Art Gallery with works of various local artists. Tucson Audubon Society Nature Shop.



Rose Cottage (Guest House). Serves as the Education Building, where classes for children are held. Park tours and school field study trips are offered



Bunk House. Pima County Offices and FOAC Board meetings.



Pedestrian Bridge. Currently closed for safety, but FOAC is continuing efforts to raise funds for a new bridge.

FOAC

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P.O. Box 32005
Tucson, AZ 85751-2005

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Mailing Label

Tucson Audubon at Agua Caliente Park

Tucson Audubon Society has opened their gift store in the historic Ranch House. This will be a great fit with Agua Caliente Park activities and will provide easy access to the many amenities of the Audubon Society. The gift store

hours are Fri-Tues, 10 am—4 pm. In addition to the normal Audubon gifts, the Society has agreed to sell FOAC note cards. Please stop by and support the store.

Electronic Newsletter and Current Events

In an effort to reduce our mailing cost, we'd like to email the newsletter (in color) to those members with an email account. We will also email any short-notice or current events to members that may occur prior to the newsletter release. The newsletter should be less than 1 MB and in an Adobe Acrobat file that can be read with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader. We will only use member email addresses for these purposes. If you would like to be included on email, please send your email address to Jim Knoll at jsknoll@earthlink.net or review the newsletter on the web site. If you did not receive this edition via email, we do not have a current address on file.

FOAC Contributions

Did you know contributions to the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. are tax deductible and support our own neighborhood Park? FOAC is a 501(c)3 Corporation. Contributions may be sent to:
FOAC
P.O. Box 32005
Tucson, AZ 85751-2005
Check or credit card (M/C, Visa) accepted.

Newsletter Inputs.

Please send any inputs or suggestions for future newsletters to Jim Knoll at jsknoll@earthlink.net.