



PATHFINDERS PRESS



Newsletter of Arizona Pathfinders, Inc.

A Volunteer Support Organization for the Southern Division of the Arizona Historical Society, founded 1976

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PATHFINDERS DECEMBER PROGRAM

Dr. Eduardo Pagan presented “Valley of the Guns: The Pleasant Valley War and the Trauma of Violence,” the title of his recently published book, at Pathfinders December program.

Dr. Pagan has impressive academic credentials including a Ph.D. in history from Princeton University. He is currently the Bob Stump Endowed Professor of History at Arizona State University.



Dr. Eduardo Pagan

Dr. Pagan’s thesis moves beyond the commonly held blood feud between two families and discusses more broadly the social and political context in which these killings occurred.

He described the region’s geography and its proximity to the Apache Indian reservation, the boundaries of which were regularly trampled by raiders looking to supplement their rations. Pleasant Valley’s early settlers were homesteaders in their twenties, usually single, and always well armed.

It wasn’t only raiding Apaches that intermittently snuck into their cattle pens, but also groups of Texas rustlers that unannounced swept through the Valley. Dr. Pagan explored with us the dynamics of fear and mistrust that eventually provoked previous friends and neighbors to turn on each other.

Before the conflict finally ended, 18 men were dead and four more critically wounded. Drawing from history, cultural and trauma studies Dr. Pagan uses the story of Pleasant Valley to illustrate a new way of looking at the unspoken price of settling the West.

—Mary Lee Fitzgerald

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PATHFINDERS OCTOBER SPEAKER

Reba Wells Grandrud was the Pathfinder’s October speaker. For many years Dr. Grandrud played a major role in documenting the history of John and Viola Slaughter through the Douglas Historical Society, and helped curate the History Museum’s year-long exhibit of the Slaughter Ranch.

Her presentation to Pathfinders in October touched on some of the highlights of the ranch



Reba Wells Grandrud, Ph.D.

and stories of John Slaughter as sheriff of Cochise County, as seen by his wife, Viola Slaughter.

Slaughter purchased the 65,000 acre San Bernardino Ranch

in 1884 from the descendants of Ignacio Perez, the recipient of an early Mexican land grant.

Two-thirds of the ranch property lay in Mexico and it straddled the border. Slaughter died in 1911. It is said a Mormon employee of Slaughter’s intentionally built a house with one room in Mexico and one in the United States so he could keep a wife in the United States and a wife in Mexico.

Slaughter was elected sheriff of Cochise County in 1886 and served two terms and became well known for restoring lawfulness in towns like Tombstone after the infamous 1881 gunfight at the OK Corral.

continued on page 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Hidden Mesas and Trading Posts.....	2
Dues are Due	3

HIDDEN MESAS AND TRADING POSTS

At 8:50AM September 30th, 2019 a BeeLine bus rolled west out of Tucson from the Arizona Historical Museum. Verlyn Mosley, our driver steered the giant-sized vehicle to Speedway where twenty-nine Pathfinders and friends headed north on I-10 for a trip into northeastern Arizona and northwestern New Mexico.

After a lunch stop at Basha's deli in Payson, our trip continued to Winslow AZ where we comfortably spent two nights at the old historic hotel La Posada, the Inn. This is known as one of the top historic hotels in the world! Built in 1929 near the Atchison Topeka Santa Fe Railroad, La Posada was under the auspices of the Fred Harvey Company.

Mr. Harvey, an entrepreneur, was born in London on June 27, 1835 and came to America at the age of fifteen. He first worked in kitchens as a dishwasher while developing "lunch rooms" that became known as Harvey Houses. He hired uniformed female employees to serve the "lunch room" foods and demanded high standards of all the employees.

The economy contributed to the ruin of La Posada in the 1950's and a fire further contributed to its

October Speaker, continued from page 1

The Tombstone jail was once known as the Hotel de Slaughter as he relentlessly tracked down outlaws. If he didn't bring back a prisoner, he brought back his horse and equipment.

The ranch was the scene of Geronimo's surrender to General George Crook as well as several encounters with the notorious Pancho Villa.

John and his wife had as many as 500 people working on the ranch including many foster children for whom he erected a schoolhouse. The most famous child was an Apache toddler, Apache May Slaughter who was adopted by Slaughter after she was abandoned by her parents, part of an Apache band, Slaughter had been tracking. Sadly the girl died from burns as her dress caught fire at age 6.

The site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1964 and is open to the public for visitors.

—Mary Lee Fitzgerald

demise in the 1960's. Restoration of this historic building began in 1997 and today it is a picturesque, interesting place to stay.

A volunteer group of former Harvey Girls shared the history of La Posada as well as the history of the Harvey Girls and gave us a tour of the historic hotel. We learned that it was in Raton NM that the first women were hired as Harvey Girls and were paid \$17.50 monthly. In the event they chose to wear make-up, jewelry or were married, they were fired! The count of 100,000 totaled the number of women who became Harvey Girls.

Artist Evelyn Fredericks welcomed us at White Bear Gallery where exquisitely lovely Hopi arts and crafts were displayed. Colorful round woven plaques decorated the walls of the building. Evelyn shared with us that the Hopi Reservation is referred to as the "Land of the Hopi Bread Basket."

Later, a delicious lunch was prepared and served to us by ladies of the Hopi Tribe at the Community Center. Ransom Lomatewa, who is a glass-blower artist, a social scientist and a social anthropologist for the Hopi spoke to us about the people and their culture.



Lunch at White Bear

On an extremely windy afternoon we visited Old Oraibi on Third Mesa. Built in 1950, we traveled a portion of this road up to Third Mesa where we were met by a vehicle driven by a young man, Clay who shuttled us the remainder of the journey to the top. He explained that the school bus stops on the road below to take children to and from school.

Dixon, our guide at the top, shared with us that the Hopi Reservation is a 2,531 square mile area and that residents are sedentary folks, conservative, and peaceable. There are no casinos on the reservation. Each of the mesas is autonomous and self-contained.

Initially, the people moved up to the tops of the mesas to escape from the Spanish and their attempts

continued on page 3 →

to dominate the Hopi. The reservation was established by President Arthur in 1842. People care for the land received from their ancestors and live on high mesas for protection from any enemies.

Once again we boarded the bus and headed for the Keam's Canyon Trading Post that originated in 1898. The Trading Post history began as Piñon Trading Post located thirty-six miles west of the current location.

After a series of sales of the Trading Post, with the original adobe construction and original rafters, it is now owned by Ron McGee and resembles a "convenience store." Dolly Gray, a well-known native potter, shared her interesting procedure with us as she constructed a small bowl.



The Hubbell Trading Post

Supper was at the La Mesa Italian Restaurant in Holbrook. Then we used I-40 for our return trip to La Posada in Winslow where we spent another night.

The following morning long, straight, stretches of the highway through the wide expansive open valleys took us to the well-known, age-old Hubbell Trading Post at Ganado on the Navajo Reservation. (Navajo society is matrilineal.) Hubbell is known as "The Oldest Continuous Trading Post."

We were in juniper country! Beautiful! Having visited this area of northeastern Arizona several times, one never tires of viewing this timeworn Trading Post and home where the Hubbell family once lived. Countless lovely old baskets grace the walls and the ceiling of this ancient building.

We were privileged to see innumerable very old Navajo rugs and we learned that Mr. Hubbell desired

continued on page 4



Hubbell Jewelry

DUES ARE DUE!

Arizona Pathfinders board has voted to modify the structure of dues. Now you have the chance to become a lifetime member and contribute to our support of the Arizona History Museum.

Dues cover a calendar year. Please remember to keep us current of changes to your email and street addresses so we can keep you current of our activities.

ARIZONA PATHFINDERS, INC.

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ANNUAL DUES (JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31)

PIONEER:..... \$10,000 and above
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PATRON:..... \$500 to \$999
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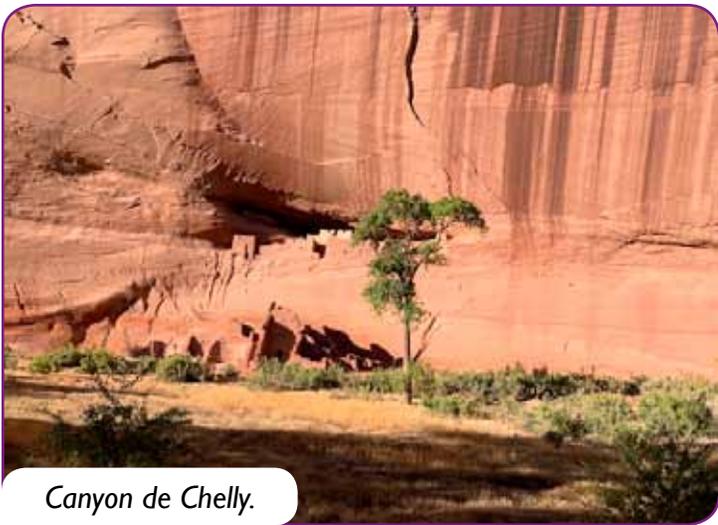


a lot of red on some of the rugs. Some of the rugs are known as “Ganado Reds,” and a good amount of red dye wool was used to achieve this coloration.

Having a furry white appearance, the red dye comes from the carmine (a strong to vivid red color) of the cochineal insect. These insects

appear on the nopales (*noh-pahl-es*), the pads of the prickly pear cactus as well as on other plants. Ganado Red rugs are highly collectible.

After a good box lunch provided by the hosts La Posada, we arrived in Chinle AZ (“Chinle:” Navajo. *Where water flows out from the canyon*) for a tour of the ever beautiful Canyon de Chelly.



Canyon de Chelly.

Travel in the canyon was provided in large open jeeps driven by Navajo guides, some who were born and raised in the area of the canyon. Carroll Spencer, our guide, was raised by his father’s family down in the canyon during the summer months and up on top during the winter.

We learned that the livestock is also in the canyon during the summer. Schools are in Chinle and begin for the children in August. Window Rock AZ is the headquarters for the Navajo Nation.

Our trip was down in the sandy bottom of the historic and picturesque canyon. Adding to their beauty, almost all the exposed giant peach-colored sandstone cliffs display the striking black desert

varnish. We were privileged to see countless pictographs that were painted on the walls of the canyon by the very early residents. Carroll brought to our attention the Russian Olive trees that had been planted many, many years ago, to prevent erosion.

For their own sustenance, canyon residents raise corn, squash, plums, peaches and other crops. Canyon de Chelly is a National Historic site under the auspices of the National Park Service. However, the tours are conducted by the Navajo Nation.

On the cool, crisp following morning we left the Thunderbird Lodge where we had stayed and traveled along the top of one of the 600 ft. high sandstone cliffs!

The route took us through the beautiful Chuska Mountains to the Toadlena Trading Post (elev. 6,800 ft.) in New Mexico where we were met and introduced to this historic site by owners Linda and Mark Winter.

After a group picture outside of the 110 year-old Toadlena Trading Post (below), we were treated to all of the lovely Hopi and Navajo arts and crafts.



Some of the blankets and rugs shown to us were woven in the early to mid-1800s! Several very old looms that had been used in long-ago weaving were leaning against an outside wall of the Trading Post.

In answer to a question as to how the Navajo initially learned to weave Mark shared the legend that Spider Woman watched a spider weaving its web and Spider Man sought the wood to construct the loom!

Mark explained that the Navajo and Hopi weavers prefer the wool from the Churro sheep. Its outer

continued on page 5

coat is longer and heavier while the under coat is of a finer texture. How privileged to be able to see these colorful ancient blankets woven so very many years ago including the navy, red and white Chief's blanket modeled by our host, Mark winter.

Countless exquisite rugs and blankets, many woven by "Master Weavers" lined the walls of this time-worn building. We visited with Violet, Amalia, and Esther who were at Toadlena using the wool from the Churro sheep that they had raised. They had cleaned the wool, washed the wool and were carding and spinning the wool. The final process was weaving a beautiful rug.



A Toadlena Weaver cards wool.

These ladies are "Master Weavers," indeed! Weavers and potters are generational, Mark explained. Some of the blankets displayed were so very large that it was necessary that they be woven in two pieces. The Two Gray Hills Trading Post located southeast of Toadlena and is over one hundred years old! White, tan, brown, gray and black wool are the colors used in weaving blankets and rugs from Two Gray Hills Trading Post.

After leaving Toadlena we traveled to Gallup, NM where we stayed at the Best Western Motel. Supper was in the Crown Room at the nearby historic El Rancho Hotel on well-known route 66. The hotel is a National Historic Site. Its "welcome greeting" reads: "*Charm of Yesterday — Convenience of Tomorrow.*"

There not being anyplace to stay in Monument Valley, El Rancho was built in 1936 to house the movie stars who were in the movies made in this distant valley several miles northwest of Gallup. In those days El Rancho employees were trained by the Fred Harvey Program.

Before dinner our speaker was LeRoy McCrae, a 65 year-old Navajo man who was from the Edge of water clan (his mother's clan, he told us). Mr. McCrae enjoyed his job working at El Rancho for 27 years.

Of the twenty-nine Navajo Code Talkers, he met seventeen of these men. In 1984, El Rancho was

privately owned but experienced bankruptcy. By 1986 it was sold at an auction and restoration began in 1987. The restoration continues today.

Clouds rolled in and we welcomed the rain shower that had occurred overnight. After breakfast we boarded the bus that would take us the short distance to the expansive, well-known Richardson's Trading Post in Gallup NM.

Not yet known as Richardson's, it was in 1850 this Trading Post began. It became Richardson's 106 years ago! Highly respected Bill Richardson passed away some years ago and his daughter now owns the ancient well-known Trading Post.

Having been with Richardson's for 21 years, Larry Fullbright, the manager welcomed our group and shared some of the retail activities with us.

Theft is enormous in the area of Gallup, he told us. The retail pawn business including jewelry, saddles, rugs, katsinas, Pendleton



Richardson's Trading Post

robes, woven shawls, baskets and deer skin is all Navajo. Pawned items are kept in a safe place (in a vault at Richardson's) for one year. Payments are made by the owner of the pawned items. Many people use Richardson's as a bank and many people in the area have "never seen the inside of a bank," Mr. Fullbright said.

The Burlington Northern Railroad tracks are just across the street from Richardson's Trading Post and one hundred trains go through Gallup daily, we were told!

After our extended morning visit at Richardson's, we traveled west to ShowLow AZ where we enjoyed lunch at Licano's Restaurant. Now leaving the White Mountain Apache Reservation we headed south, via the picturesque Salt River Canyon.

At 7:00PM, thanks to our capable driver Verlyn, we arrived back in Tucson at the Arizona History Museum. Another memorable Pathfinders' trip!

—Tallia Cahoon