



The Smelter Times

Clarkdale Historical Society and Museum

Preserving the Spirit of Clarkdale by Illuminating the Past

(Open Monday & Thursday-Saturday 11:00 to 2:00; Sunday noon to 3:00; and Wednesday 10:00 to 1:00; (928) 649-1198)

Why You Should Care

The Clarkdale Museum is run on a daily basis by a very small group of volunteers. Yet we know there are many of you out there with skills and expertise that would help the museum grow. Many of you have lived in this community for years, and many of your families have deep roots in the area. We know you are proud of this community and want to ensure that its history, cultural diversity, and current livability are known and appreciated. Your ideas and involvement in our activities could help us in our efforts to engage the community in preserving Clarkdale's legacy. Please consider joining us as an active member of the museum board or as a volunteer. We are working to preserve YOUR history! **THANKS** to all of you who are already helping us in a variety of ways!

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 11 - Dance, 6:30 pm
- Mar. 4 - Erin Sigl Talk, 1:00 pm
- Mar. 11 - Dance, 6:30 pm
- Apr. 8 - Building & Home Tour

From the Chair —



January was a busy month for us—not so many visitors, but time to get serious about a new website.. We have contracted with Nick of Time Productions to build the site and maintain it and to manage our social media.. We are also beginning Strategic Planning on February 24, with the help of Jodie Filardo of the Filardo Group, Inc., to define our strategic goals and objectives for the next five years. We are also pleased to announce that on January 24 the Clarkdale town council approved the donation to our museum of all their historical items that had heretofore been on indefinite loan. Our collections are really growing! On March 4 Erin Sigl, one of the owners of the Copper King Mansion in Butte, Montana, will present a talk on what it's like to live in a 34-room mansion built in 1888 by William Andrews Clark. Today it is a bed and breakfast serving guests from all over the world. Raised in Butte, Erin will tell the story of her town, Clark's impact on the area, and her own personal reminiscences of Columbia Gardens—the amusement park that Clark built in 1899 for the enjoyment of the town's children. This presentation is something you don't want to miss! It will be held in the men's lounge in the Clark Memorial Clubhouse beginning at 1:00 pm. Admission is free, but donations are always appreciated.

8th Annual Historic Building and Home Tour



Our much-anticipated Annual Historic Building and Home Tour is scheduled for April 8 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Several of Clarkdale's loveliest houses will be on display, with historical information provided in a brochure and by home hosts so that you can truly appreciate the unique story of each residence. Tickets are \$20, children under 12 are \$5. The tour creates more and more interest each year, not only among local residents, but also for out-of-town visitors who come from all parts of the state. The 1928 Bank of Arizona robbery reenactment will take place the same day on historic Main Street, courtesy of the Four Eight Wireworks, which occupies the former bank.



Casting Call!!

Hey Verde Valley thespians!

Want to get involved in the reenactment of the historic 1928 Clarkdale Bank Robbery?

We are looking for actors, production assistants, costume designers, and even an experienced director. **Help us bring an important historical Verde Valley event to life!** Sponsored by the Clarkdale Museum as part of its 8th Annual Historic Building and Home Tour, three performances of the robbery will be held on Saturday, April 8. **Get involved, have some fun, and support our great community. Contact Bill Regner at (928) 639-2434 bill.regner@clarkdale.az.gov,**

New Book in our Bookstore!

On March 6 Arcadia will release a new book—*Tuzigoot National Monument* by Rod Timanus. Detailing the history of its earliest Sinagua residents, its restoration in 1933-34, its designation as a national monument in 1939, and its current administration by the NPS, this volume will soon be available. Remember, CHSM members receive a 10% discount on all our books!

Interesting Items in Our Collections —

Clarkdale was in its infancy in 1916 when it hosted a Verde Valley Athletic Meet sponsored by the Verde Valley Teachers Association (VVTA). The medals here were awarded and were donated to us by Tom Kilroy of San Diego, CA, who discovered them at a church rummage sale. He also found an article in the April 19, 1916, *Journal-Miner* (Prescott, AZ) that describes an athletic meet as part of a 3-day VVTA gathering in the “new model town of Arizona.” At this festive event, Clarkdale HS defeated Jerome HS 38 to 25, and the Clarkdale grammar school defeated the Jerome grammar grades 25 to 7. Other Valley schools did not send contestants, but many came to watch in “wagons and machines [early autos?].” The United Verde Copper Co. donated the medals, which bore a design of the smelter and came in gold, silver plate, and bronze finishes.



The Tradition Continues

“When you dance, your purpose is not to get to a certain place on the floor. It’s to enjoy each step along the way...”

—Wayne Dyer

Just as Clarkdale HS loved its proms in the Clark Memorial Clubhouse in the 1930s, so do ballroom dancers of today revel in waltzing on what has been called the finest dance floor in Arizona. Dances will be held Feb. 11, Mar. 11, and Apr. 15, sponsored by the Clarkdale Museum and featuring the Big Band sounds of Sentimental Journey. **This is a fundraiser for us—we need lots of participation so we can continue to offer this wonderful night of entertainment!**

