

Resorter

MARCH/APRIL 2025

SUSIE MARTIN, EDITOR

Who is Olive Oatman?

By: Susie Martin

Do you know who Olive Oatman is?

Or do you know how Oatman, Arizona got its name?

Yes, they are related stories.

Olive Ann Oatman, born September 7, 1837, was the third born of seven children to Royce and May Ann Oatman of LaHarpe, Hancock County, Illinois.

On August 5, 1850 the Oatman family headed west with a wagon train of 93 people and 24 wagons hoping to reach the confluence of the Colorado River and the Gila River or as we know it Yuma, Arizona. Due to group dissension and differences of opinion on which way to travel. Royce and his family ended up traveling alone. On the families fourth day out and 84 miles out of Yuma, the family was approached by a group of nineteen Native Americans. It is believed they were a tribe called Yavapais.

Asking for tobacco and food, Royce refused to share any of the few supplies the family had remaining. The Yavapais became irate at Mr. Oatman's stinginess and attacked the family and clubbed them to death. All were killed except for three of the seven children: 15-year-old Lorenzo, who was left for dead, while 14-year-old Olive and 7-year-old Mary Ann were taken to be slaves for the tribe.

Lorenzo awoke to find his family dead. After finding a settlement and having his wounds treated, he returned to the site and had to bury his family in one common grave because there was no way to dig proper graves due to the volcanic rocky soil. Lorenzo became determined to never give up the search for his 2 remaining siblings.

Olive and Mary Ann became slaves to the Yavapais tribe to forage for food, lug water and firewood and other menial tasks. During their capture the Yavapais traded the girls to the Mohave Native Americans for two horses, some vegetables, blankets and beads.

It is believed that Olive's sister Mary Ann died of starvation while the girls were living with the Mohave Native Americans.

Olive was 19-years-old when she was finally released, however, while in captive, the Mohave Native Americans tattooed her chin and arms so that she would be allowed to enter the land of the dead and be recognized there by their ancestors as members of the Mohave tribe. Olive was released to the army at Fort Yuma. This is where she discovered that Lorenzo was still alive and that he had been looking for her and Mary Ann for 5 years.

Olive passed away at the age of 66 year old in 1903 and her final resting place is in Sherman, Texas.

Which brings me to the reason for this story. Our favorite small town of Oatman, Arizona, was founded in 1906 as a tent camp and thrived as a gold mining center until 1942 and was named after Olive Oatman and her family in remembrance of the Oatman Massacre.

I often think of the people who came here before us, what they had to endure and how difficult their lives had to be, but to have such a dream that you would give up everything and venture into the unknown is something that must be respected.

The streets of Oatman have stories underneath the asphalt that we may never know about. However, Olive Oatman and her family will never be forgotten.



Olive Oatman

This and That.....

By: Susie Martin

Please send anything you might want posted to this section to me.

Email.....rmatax@socket.net

Phone 573-434-6314 (Texting would be great)

Thanks to everyone who shares your photos

Bean Bag Fan Club new members for March/April 2025. Welcome!!!!



Mustang Sally

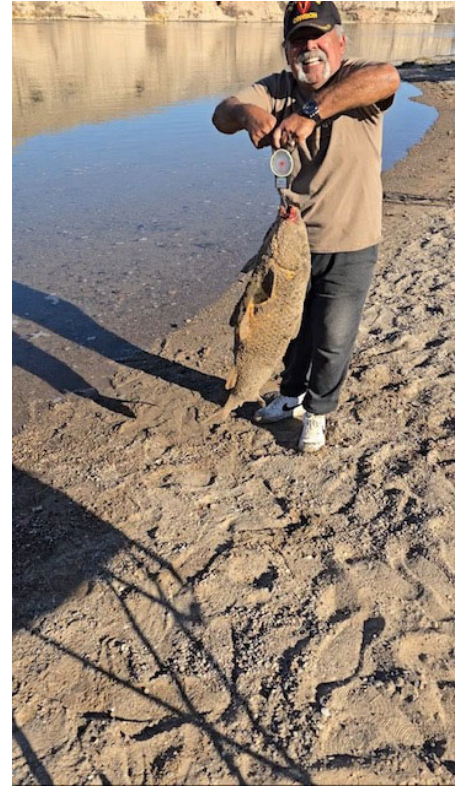


Shannon

Many of you may have noticed the "Barn Quilt" we have in the Clubhouse. This is for anyone who is interested in making a block and adding to the wall. Your square can be what you want it to be. A memory, your hometown or maybe your favorite thing in life. The squares are in the office for purchase, a small one is \$5.00 and a larger rectangle is \$15.00. Once you have your boards completed, take them to the office and they will see that it gets hung on the wall.



Our Colorado river is full of large fish. If you should have an inkling to wet a line, just have a conversation with Richard Cantau. He seems to know were the good places are....



Pete Hudson caught this great picture of the Goodyear Blimp flying over Vista Del Sol recently.



Randy O'Krama and Jeff Donofrio had the luck of the Irish with them at the St. Patrick's Day social.



The big finale of our winter season was our Luau. It started at the pool and ended with a Hawaiian meal. It is hard to believe that the season has come to an end.....



Featured VDS Neighbors for March-April 2025

By: Susie Martin

Keith and Kathy Wheeler

Keith and Kathy live at 2309 Felipe Drive.

They found Vista Del Sol back in 2018 when they tried their hand at RVing. It turned out they didn't really care for it too much but loved the community here at VDS. Keith and Kathy both said VDS was one of those perfect matches for both of them, so they sold their RV and purchased the home they live in now. Keith and Kathy are one of our snowbird residents, so they are here in the winter months and back in their Lynden, Washington home during the summer.

Both Keith and Kathy are very active in our Vista activities and love their time here with their Arizona friends. Keith is a steward of the woodshop and loves making things out of wood. If you've ever noticed the wooden cactus that are sitting in a few of your neighbors' yards, well, most likely Keith made them. Because Kathy has a heart for community service and loves organizing activities, Kathy is the coordinator of our "Giving Beyond our Gate" here at Vista and when she is here, she is always thinking of ways for us to help the Bullhead City community and surrounding areas. Keith and Kathy are members of our trail club and they love to ride "Orange Crush" out in the desert.

The Wheelers met at church as teenagers in Kent, Washington. Keith tells the story that he winked at her one day and it made her laugh. That wink caught her eye and Kathy kept in touch with Keith while he was in the Army stationed overseas. They got married in 1976 when Kathy was 19 and Keith was 21. This marriage has produced four children who live in Utah, Montana and Washington. They have 9 grandchildren ranging from 30 years old to a 1-year-old. Keith and Kathy named their children Karisa, Katie, Kyle and Kami. My question to them is this....when mail came in your mailbox addressed to "K. Wheeler" who got to open it?????? Inquiring minds want to know..

Keith retired from US Customs/Boarder Protection after 31 years. His job sometimes required him to work undercover and move often. Kathy worked in the banking industry while following Keith as they moved to further his career.

When I asked the Wheelers to tell me something interesting about them most people do not know, Keith said they were once involved in a bank robbery. Keith was dropping Kathy off at the bank for work one morning and they were greeted with a stranger and a gun. He jumped into their car and told them to drive as he had the gun in Kathy's rib cage. Keith and Kathy were released once he got away from the scene. They were unharmed and he was never caught. There is more to this story, but I am leaving it for them to tell. So, ask them next time you see them.

Besides spending winters here and summers in Washington, they enjoy taking an occasional cruise.

Finally in closing this article, most of you know that Kathy is fighting her battle with cancer. They have been gone most of this season for her treatments in Washington. However, they both know they will be back with us this fall and continue to enjoy their time here at VDS.

Kathy, just know that positive thoughts, prayers and hugs are being sent from VDS to Washington every day for you.

As one of their neighbors, I am glad the RV life did not work for them and that they decided to purchase their home on the Felipe bluff.



Kathy & Keith – Then



The Wheelers - Now



The 4 “K’s”

Off Road News

By: Rocky Martin



As the official “winter season” has come to an end, don’t cover up the buggies just yet. The remaining off-road club members will continue to run twice a week, Mondays and Thursdays as long as the weather permits us to be out on the trails.

Saying good-bye to my fellow cars and favorite humans is sad, but it needs to be pointed out that the end of the season was full of fun activities.

Added this year to the riding days, Ron and Susie Martin host what they call “The 19th Hole” after each ride. For those not aware, this is a golf reference to any local bar or gathering location golfers go to after the round to raise a glass and re-live the day. So, the 19th hole was established at the Martin’s. We gather, dust and all, after each ride to wet our whistles and re-live the day.

In addition, the Martin’s hosted an end of season dinner with 36 humans in attendance on March 22nd at the 19th hole, with everyone bringing their favorite dish to add to the dinner table. We all had a great time and Mother Nature was good to us that day, the wind was mild and the weather was perfect.



Then on April 1st, 13 cars took a night ride out to R.E.D.S. and had dinner in the desert. Nancy Carlson ordered fried chicken for everyone and once again dishes were added to the dinner table for everyone to enjoy as we sat around a roaring fire. We stayed and watched as the sun set over the desert mountains and the night sky lit up with stars. The trip home was an adventure as we hardly ever go out at night. It is a whole different feel.



We miss those that have departed Vista Del Sol for the summer. But, look forward to those that have stayed and continue to enjoy the desert and of course the 19th Hole.

For those wondering, NO, we did not have any wild flowers this season. Only the blooming cactus.

Woodshop News

By: Rick Petty

Hello March/April 2025 and Adios Snowbirds as another season has come and gone.

On behalf of the VDS Woodshop I'd like to send out a huge thank you to those of you that supported our annual March Woodshop Fund Raiser. This year was a huge success, we had over 60 people in attendance.

A big thank you goes out to Larry Kirsch, Terry White and Mike Morin for all those great flavored Margaritas they prepared, they were enjoyed by all. We also had some great appetizers, thank you to those of you who brought them. Desserts were provided by Kelley Dehart, Judie Burdette and Jackie Perry who baked some delicious cakes. Thank you, Ladies.

Thanks to everyone who posted a bid on all our woodwork items as about 90% of the items were purchased.

We had 2 door prizes this year, one was won by Luba and Eric Vandenberg, and the grand door prize was won by Bonita Frey. The Basket was prepared and donated by Cindy Hicks.

Teri Kuhn won a custom made Clock for the second 50-50 drawing and Carole McLain was the overall winner of the 50-50 drawing which I believe the pot was \$190. She disappeared shortly after this and was spotted in one of the casinos.

The proceeds from this year's fundraiser will go towards repairs of some of the machinery and restocking of materials. There have been discussions about purchasing a new Drum Sander, so we'll see what funds we have left.

Again, thank you to all those in attendance and looking forward to next season with our VDS Family.

Your Shop Stewards

**Rick Perry
Mike McLain
Keith Wheeler
Barney Pounds
George Gayler
Mike Burdette
Jeff Freed**



The Winners



Shop Steward, Barney Pounds showing the process of one of his projects.

CRAFT ROOM NEWS

By: Susie Martin

The March craft fair is behind us and we are now looking forward to the November 2025 craft fair hosted here at our Clubhouse. Mark your calendars for November 15th. This is the date we have reserved on the VDS calendar for our Fall Craft Fair. For those that participate, start filling up your inventory for the Christmas Gift shoppers.

The craft room is quiet now but I want to make sure everyone knows it is available for your crafts except for the scheduled classes. I believe we only have one scheduled class for the month of May, plus the Lion's Club meeting during the 2nd and last Monday evening of each month.

For those interested, my wire wrapping class will continue during the summer months, but please make a note that it has now been moved to the 2nd Tuesday of every month. A signup sheet is available in the office or you can always reach out to me for any questions.

Due to Jacque being in California for Jeff's surgery recovery, her glass fusion classes are postponed at this time.

Finally, the stewards ask that you leave the room in the condition it was when you entered. We also ask if you should have a messy project, please put paper down or an extra tablecloth to protect the tabletop plastic or the big wooden square table. These items are maintained only by the craft room and if we have any damage they will need to be replaced. Thank you for your consideration.

Happy Crafting.....

Craft Room Stewards

Trudy Newman 801-243-2709

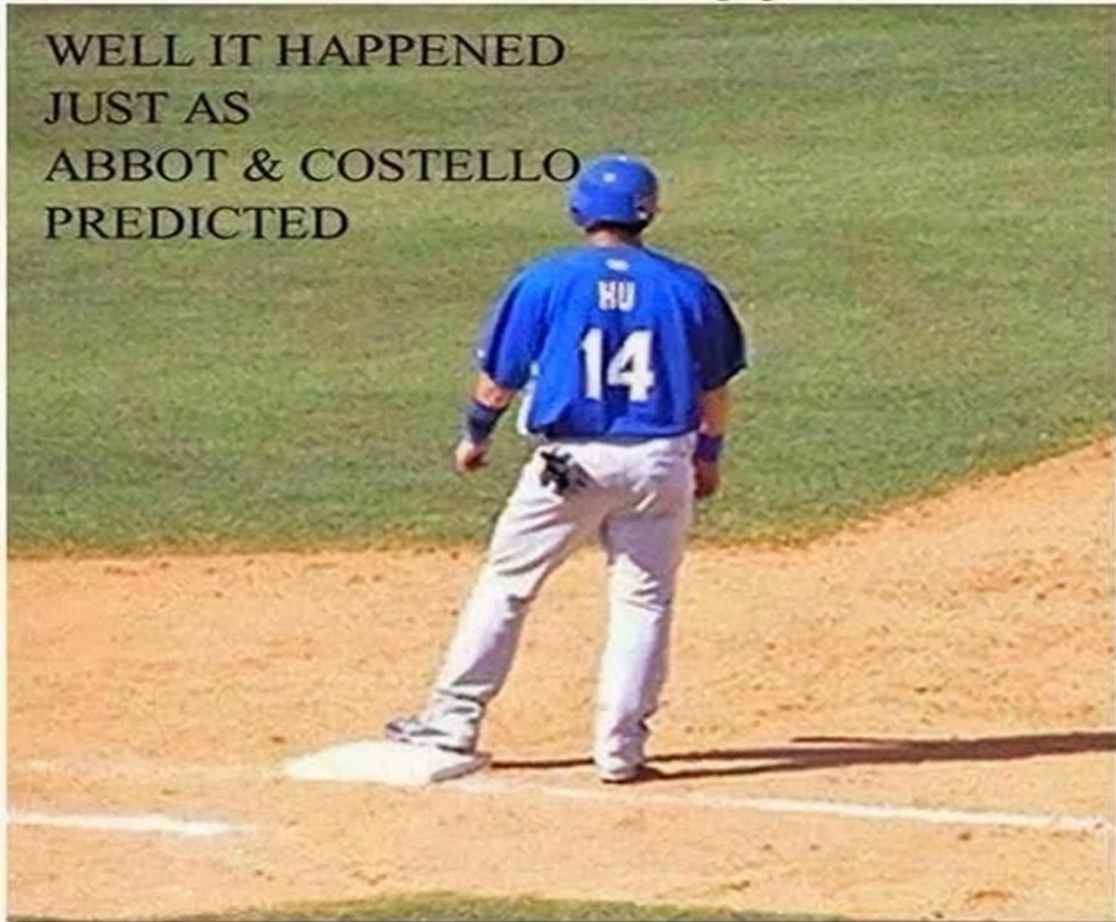
Jacque Donofrio 951-313-8431

Susie Martin 573-434-6314

Funny Bone Corner
Just for a Laugh.....
By: Susie Martin

Well...it FINALLY happened

WELL IT HAPPENED
JUST AS
ABBOT & COSTELLO
PREDICTED



It Took 70 Years...

If you don't get it, ask an adult...

FINAL THOUGHTS

By: Susie Martin

I need to start by saying "Thank you" to all of you. The cards, calls, hugs, texts, thoughts and blessings were much appreciated as I had to say goodbye to my Mom in March. It was a difficult time, but for those that did not know..she waited for me to get back to Missouri to take her last breath and I am most grateful for that. If you still have your Mom with you, give her a call, a hug and be thankful that you still have her. With Mother's Day right around the corner, do not take it for granted.....

Ron and I have settled back in and are moving forward. With this behind me I apologize for not doing a March newsletter. So, this newsletter is representing both months of March and April. See you in the May newsletter...

NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

By: Linda Huber

The season has come to an end for some of you and those that have decided to stay a little longer, welcome to the hot days ahead. Those that never leave us having you here on those blistering days of summer are always joyful.

As you all know activities slow down over the summer months. We are here for you to add anything to the calendar you would like to do, potlucks, cocktail hour, etc. VDS will continue to do Birthday Celebration, Coffee/Donuts, Card Bingo, Holiday meals and add a surprise occasionally. For community lunches volunteers are needed to run those. Please let Trudy know if you would like to volunteer for what week and your menu.

We will have a few casitas being built over the summer. If you see something, please notify the office and do not engage with the crew working. I am planning on closing the gate over the summer to help keep the construction vehicles from going through the resort. Please make sure your clicker is working. You can also call yourself from the keypad and hit the #9 on your phone to open the gate. You can also call from the keypad: the office during business hours, the after-hours number or maintenance number if you can't get in for some reason.

I will have Let's Talk About It Meetings over the summer as needed. I will send out an email blast when we need to address the rumor mill. Unless I hear of anything that needs to be addressed, or I receive any news about the resort from Scott, the meetings will not be scheduled on the calendar. If you have something that you would like to address, please feel free to come to see me and we can decide if it needs to be addressed to the resort in a meeting. Hope everyone enjoys their summer, and we look forward to seeing those that left us this fall.