

GROOM CREEK CHRONICLE

Issue 2 April 2017

Groom Creek Firefighters



Bob Bieth, Max Fitzmaurice, Josh Krueger, Ernesto Manzanedo, Jim Gillihan, Dave Lattman, Andy Nielsen
Nate Hallowell and Daniel Boutin

A Word from the GCFD Board

THERE ARE CRITTERS IN THEM THAR WOODS



Today I received an e-mail from a resident of our community reporting the sighting of a mountain lion at mile post 5 on the Senator Highway in daylight hours.

I have personally spotted two of them in the last 6 or 7 years. My next door neighbor nearly ran over one with her side-by-side ATV a year ago, about ¼ mile up Old Miner Road. Two months ago I took a photo of a lion track at the base of my neighbor's flagpole, just 400 feet up Old Miner Rd.

In addition, two bears have wandered through our community in the last few years. For an up-close and personal experience, have Bob Schulz tell you his story about a mountain lion.

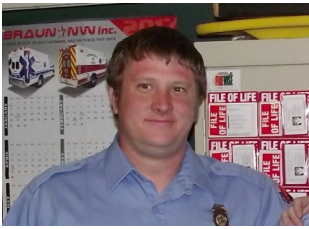
The point of this message, I suppose, is to remind us that these animals were here first. An increased deer population probably has influenced the increased sightings of these animals.

Walking your dog or hiking in unpopulated areas requires increased awareness and caution. And finally, if you see a mountain lion or bear, please take his picture on your smart phone and share.

Gary Williams
Board Clerk

A FIRE FIGHTERS STORY

Bob Beith-Firefighter



Hi, my name is Bob Bieth. I was raised here in Prescott and was brought up in the same home on Senator Highway my whole life. When I graduated High School I moved to South Eastern Arizona to attend college to become an automotive technician. It was there that I met the Love of my life and married her. After graduating with an Associate's degree in applied sciences, I found my true calling in the fire service. My wife and I moved back to Prescott where I went back to school to obtain a degree in Fire Science. Since then I have also acquired my Paramedic certification, Haz-Mat Certification, and many others. I began volunteering for Groom Creek fire In 2013, and also worked on the fuels crew. In 2015 I began working full time for another local fire District. In 2016 the opportunity came for me to test for full time employment for Groom Creek Fire, and I jumped at the opportunity and was fortunate enough to get hired on. I currently manage our apparatus program, as well as our Volunteer and Reserve program. I absolutely love my job, and love serving the community. I have always felt at home in the Groom Creek Community, and could not ask to work with a better bunch.

Jim Gillihan-Captain



My Name is Jim Gillihan. I am a Captain/Paramedic with Groom Creek Fire District. I have lived in the Prescott area since 1985, we currently live in Paulden. I am married to Jessie and we have 2 daughters Josie 3 years old and Jemma 1 year old. I enjoy everything outdoors and my hobbies include weight lifting, Mt. biking and backpacking/hiking, but most of all I enjoy my girls and doing everything with them. I have been a Firefighter for two and a half years. I have worked for GCFD since November 2015. I have worked at Lifeline Ambulance as an EMT/Paramedic for 12 years. Before working for Groom Creek Fire District I worked as a reserve firefighter for 4 years with Chino Valley Fire District and 2 seasons with the USDA Forest service in wildland firefighting and one year with Christopher-Kohl's Fire District. My project areas here at GCFD are EMS manager and learning my new role as a Captain. In the future I wish to become an Engine Boss for off district wildland fire assignments.

Josh Krueger-Captain



My Name is Josh Krueger and I started working with the Groom Creek Fire District in September of 2008 and became a full-time employee in 2012. I served as a firefighter, fuels crew employee and presently a Captain. I moved to Arizona from Washington State and am an avid outdoorsman. I enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and four wheeling. My four year old son follows me wherever I go and says that someday he would like to be a firefighter just like his dad.

The Saga of the Groom Creek Volunteer Fire Department

Part 2

The Groom Creek Fire Department was a reality by February 1971. It had been duly established by an election of the votes of the 45 residents. Officers were elected with Les Vendela - Chief, Millie Clatt - Secretary/Treasurer and three assistant Fire Chiefs.

Meetings were scheduled to be held in Clatt's garage on the last Tuesday of each month. Weekly training classes were formed. However, there were no fire trucks, no equipment, and although a number of residents showed interest, no one was trained to fight fires. Furthermore, there were no funds and no tax revenue available until November. It could be a long hot summer, and would have been, but for the leadership and efforts of Les Vendela and John and Millie Clatt.



Clatt volunteered the use of his 1963 Dodge 3/4 ton pickup truck. Vendela contacted the Arizona State Forestry who responded with a 150 gallon tank, pump, nozzle and other equipment necessary to convert the vehicle into a "fire truck." Chief Vendela wrote all related state agencies for additional equipment, and they responded. Millie Clatt wrote a letter to 323 property owners. Its message simply stated "Send Money," and they did. A subsequent audit for 1971 showed an opening balance of \$328, tax receipts of \$4590, contributions of \$4240 for a total annual income of \$9158. Disbursements were \$5413. The Groom Creek Fire Department was solvent!

In July 1971, various camps petitioned the County to be annexed to the Fire District. These were approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

In January 1972, Lyle Dewey was asked to draw up plans for a fire station. Herb Hirst was to develop costs and types of materials.

At the annual election held on February 29, 1972, John Clatt became Chief and Rose Pond was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

General Services Administration in Phoenix sold the district two 2-1/2 ton trucks for \$250 each. One was operable and John Clatt drove it to Groom Creek. The other, for the same price, was not operable and had to be towed from Phoenix. An 1100 gallon tank was affixed to the operable truck, a pump and hose were acquired and we had a tanker. A 2000 gallon tank was obtained and placed in Clatt's yard for a water supply.



Firefighting techniques were taught once a month by then Captain Harvey Emery of the Prescott Fire Department. Weekly training meetings were held to teach volunteers to drive the trucks and operate the equipment. One volunteer ran off the road with the tanker, couldn't find the reverse gear and was discovered bulldozing his way through the forest.

Communications were handled via telephone tree—a cumbersome and sometimes ineffective system, but the best available.

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The Saga of the Groom Creek Volunteer Fire Department

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Winter was approaching and with it the need to house the trucks. The Dodge pickup was housed in Clatt's garage, but the tanker was too high to fit in any structure in Groom Creek. The solution—Bud Brown offered his barn. By excavating the floor, "Big Bertha" was accommodated. Her tank was wrapped with heat tape and another problem was solved.

Then came a catastrophe which showed how inadequate we were. Les Vendela's house caught fire, but had been burning for over an hour before the call was received. It was fully involved by the time John Clatt could arrive with the small truck. A critique showed too little, too late, and inadequate training. Much had been accomplished, but there was still much to do.

The GCFD Pt 2 article was reprinted from the Groom Creek Chronicle November 1993 newsletter.

Bob Pond (to be continued in the next issue)

A TINY VEGETABLE/HERB/FLOWER GARDEN

Thank Mother Nature for her wisdom that guides gardeners, bee's, butterflies, some beetles, moths, birds, bats, humming birds and other little flying **pollinating critters**. Insecticides kill most pollinators.



Many insecticides that claim to be natural may also kill small pollinators and other good garden soil bacteria, including earthworms. Fact, the long lived insecticides you spray today, go into your garden soil tomorrow through watering, rain, snow, etc. Night time light pollution is also very harmful to most nocturnal pollinators which include fireflies, hawkmoths and even bats. You may have noticed outdoor porch lights, even yellow light bulb types, draw many moths and other nighttime flying insects. The lights confuse the flying insects and disrupt their ability to collect and pollinate our gardens, bushes and trees. Now, most small gardeners in the Groom Creek area cannot claim to be farmers, but the same principals apply to large and small gardens everywhere. You are probably aware that the CCD reports have stated that 45% of the bee colonies were wiped out between 2014 and 2016.

Pollinator Plants for Edible Gardens:

Colorful flowers and herbs are irresistible to specific pollinators. **Basil** attracts honeybees, solitary bees and bumblebees to its small purple or white flowers. **Cilantro** is loved by honeybees, hoverflies and parasitic wasps. **Oregano** is in the mint family and attracts bees and butterflies. **Bee Balm** flower nectar attracts bumblebees, honey bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. **Coneflowers** are loved by bumblebees, honeybees, butterflies and humming birds. **Sweet Alyssum** attracts hoverflies (the larvae consume aphids), and other tiny flies, wasps, and many types of bees.

Setting Boundaries

A Brief History of Land Surveying in the United States and How they surveyed their way to Groom Creek, Arizona

When a land surveyor looks at Mt. Rushmore, they see three surveyors and another guy. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, & Abraham Lincoln were all surveyors.



The list of famous United States surveyors goes back to when we were colonies of England. Other notable surveyors were Thomas Hutchins, Andrew Ellicott, Meriwether Lewis & William Clark, Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon, Daniel Boone, Wyatt Earp, John Charles Fremont, (known as the "Pathfinder", Arizona's Territorial Governor from 1878-1881, living in Prescott), Levi Bashford & of course, Robert Groom. Just to name a few.

Prior to 1785 the United States (the Colonies) used a **Metes and Bounds system**. This system has been in use in the United Kingdom for centuries, and is still used today. The Metes and Bounds system uses physical features like trees, barns, fences, rivers etc. A typical, yet simple, description under this system might read "From the point on the north bank of Old Man Creek one mile above the junction of Old Mans and Indian Creeks, north for 400 poles, then northwest to the large standing rock, west to the large oak tree, south to Old Man Creek, then down the center of the creek to the starting point." The problem with the Metes & Bounds system is that the boundaries are not always permanent.

President Thomas Jefferson was a big part in developing the **Public Land Survey System (PLSS)**. Jefferson wanted to create a nation of "yeoman farmers". The PLSS began shortly after the Revolutionary War in America when the federal government became responsible for large areas of land west of the original thirteen states. The government wished both to distribute land to Revolutionary War soldiers in reward for their services, as well as to sell land as a way of raising money for the nation. Before this could happen, the land needed to be surveyed. In the western United States, the PLSS is the basis for most land transfers and ownership today. Land management agencies use the PLSS to describe legal land locations. Federal agencies involved in surface and mineral management require the use of PLSS terminology in their day-to-day actions. Additionally, many agencies dealing with natural resource or environmental databases use PLSS boundaries for geo referencing.

The present system of Governmental Land Surveys was adopted by Congress on the 7th day of May, 1785. The General Land Office (GLO) was an independent agency of the United States responsible for public domain lands in the United States. Placed under the Department of the Interior when that department was formed in 1849, it was merged with the United States Grazing Service (established in 1934) to become the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on July 16, 1946. The PLSS has been in use ever since and is the legal method of describing and dividing lands.



The Beginning Point of the U.S. Public Land Survey is a monument at the border between Ohio and Pennsylvania. It is significant as being the point from which the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) was performed, starting in 1785, which would open what was then the Northwest Territory for settlement. The survey was "the first mathematically designed system and nationally conducted cadastral survey in any modern country" and is "an object of study by public officials of foreign countries as a basis for land reform." It was conducted in the late 18th century by Geographer of the U.S., Thomas Hutchins surveying the Seven Ranges. Built in 1881, it was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1965.

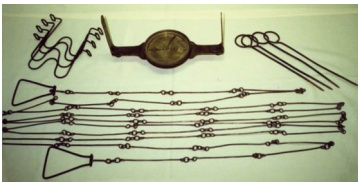
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Setting Boundaries

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It is called the "Rectangular System." That is, all its distances and bearings are measured from two lines which are at right angles to each other. These two lines, from which the measurements are made, are the Principal Meridians, which run North and South, and the Base Lines which run East and West. These Principal Meridians are established, with great accuracy. Each Principal Meridian has its Base Line, and these two lines form the basis or foundation for the surveys or measurement of all the lands within the territory which they control.

The PLSS typically divides the land into 6-mile square townships, which are further subdivided into 1-mile square sections. This map layer, compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey contains PLSS boundaries to the township level. The PLSS is used in each state, except for the original thirteen states and a few states in the southwest that were originally surveyed based on Spanish land grant boundaries (notably Texas), and is based on a surveyed prime meridian that runs north south and a baseline that runs east west.



A typical survey crew would use an instrument known as the Gunter's chain, introduced in 1620. A 66 foot long chain, divided into 100 links, each link was 7.92 inches. In the late 1700's the precision based Theodolite was perfected. Early survey crews would use horse drawn wagons filled with all of the instruments needed, traveling mile by mile by mile over rough terrain pulling this 66 foot long chain establishing their monument boundaries. The US Navy launched the first prototype satellites of the Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) in 1960.

There are many more interesting stories about early surveys in the United States however let us fast forward to how Arizona established its "Initial Point".

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on February 2, 1848. This ended the war between Mexico and the United States. The treaty called for the U.S. to pay \$15 million to Mexico and to pay off the claims of American citizens against Mexico up to \$3.25 million. The U.S. acquired ownership of California, half of New Mexico, most of Arizona, Nevada and Utah and parts of Wyoming and Colorado. In 1853 the southernmost part of Arizona was acquired through the Gadsden Purchase.

On February 24, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Arizona Organic Act, organizing the Territory of Arizona, and Levi Bashford (of the Bashford Court building in downtown Prescott fame), was appointed the first Surveyor-General of the new found territory.

On the 2nd day of July, 1864, Congress passed an act attaching Arizona to the Surveying District of New Mexico, then presided over by General John A. Clark, and making provision, at the same time, for the carrying on of necessary surveying operations within this territory. On the 15th day of December, 1866, General Clark entered into a contract with Deputy Surveyor William H. Pierce for the survey of certain lands in Arizona, for a sum not to exceed seventy-five hundred dollars.

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Setting Boundaries

Commencing at the "Initial Point," which Deputy Surveyor Pierce was instructed to select for the starting-point for Arizona surveys, and which consisted of a substantial monument of stones, eight feet in diameter at the base, four feet around the top, and eight feet in height, which stood upon the summit of a conical hill some 150 feet in elevation, on the south side of the Gila River, opposite the mouth of the Salt River, Mr. Pierce pursued his work until the military protection was withdrawn, and he was compelled to quit the field. General Clark was the first to recognize the suitability of this "Initial Point," for the initiation of the Arizona surveys, and touched upon the matter in his official report of 1865. Joseph S. Wilson, then Commissioner of the General Land Office (GLO), replying to the various suggestions contained in that report, thus wrote to General Clark on September 11th, 1866:

"As it is deemed expedient to initiate surveying operations in the Territory of Arizona, the recommendation made in your report to this office, under date of May 24, 1865, suggesting that the monument erected in 1851 by the Mexican Boundary Commission, situated at the confluence of the Gila and Salt Rivers, be used as the initial point, is concurred in by this office; from that point you will establish the base and meridian lines for the public surveys in Arizona, calling this special meridian by the name of the Gila and Salt River Meridian."

This initial point of reference for the PLSS in Arizona is located in Avondale at 115th Avenue and Baseline Road (right outside the Phoenix International Raceway (PIR)). Baseline Road is named because of it being the baseline for all the surveys in Arizona. Most of Arizona was and is mapped using the PLSS system. There are some areas such as major portions of the Navajo Indian Reservations that were not included in the PLSS.

Wyatt Earp came to Tombstone, Arizona in the fall of 1879, as the newly appointed deputy under Charlie Shibell of Pima County. He then acted as Tombstone District Marshall. We all know about famous "shoot-out at the O.K. Corral". What might not be known is that while in Tombstone, Earp staked out a mining claim called the "Mountain Maiden" in November, 1880. He was part of a survey crew along with his brothers, Virgil and Morgan for this claim and his good friend J.H. "Doc" Holliday signed as a witness.

We know that Robert Groom was a famous army guide, prospector and the first surveyor to lay out the city of Prescott in 1864. It is due to the surveying work of Robert Groom that Prescott has the wide streets and central plaza that make it so attractive to residents and visitors today.

Groom Creek is in Township 13 North, Range 2 West. The original survey, with notes was officially filed on 3-12-1872 with the GLO. Groom Creek's location is 78 miles north and 6 miles west of the initial monument in West Phoenix. Back in 1872, that was a long way to travel by wagon & mule to survey our community.

Using these wagons, mules & horses they would set the township and section corners. They slept under the stars. Somedays they walked up to 20 miles per day. They fought off wild animals, venomous snakes and serious accidents, though each hazard was understood as a normal part of the job. By the time our local township was surveyed and recorded, six years from when the initial monument was set, there were a lot of horses and mules shod and fed, wagon wheels repaired, a lot of chain pulled, a lot of mathematics solved, and an enormous blazing of trails. Today, when you see your own property pins or you come across a mining survey monument, know that those monuments followed what Thomas Jefferson wanted to create, a nation of "yeoman farmers".

Nature's Way

Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads.

Henry David Thoreau



I am privileged to be sitting on my deck in the warmth of the autumn sun, listening to the familiar call of my friend the raven. I love that sound and I love that bird. The scene of brilliant fall colors before me is beyond description. It is times like these that I wonder at my good fortune to live in such a beautiful place.

I'm at a loss to explain why I love the raven. Is it because of his constant presence here, his prankster ways, because he speaks to my heart? Maybe it's because his prevalence represents all of nature that I love.

I am fascinated by the extensiveness of the raven's vocabulary and the versatile expression of his voice. I learned that they have over 20 calls – from soft chortling, gentle chattering, to loud squawking when alarmed. I found, in the little bit of research I had time for, that ravens are highly intelligent birds, demonstrating the ability to reason in new situations. And their insight matches that of a dog. Though many people see them as a nuisance, as birds of prey ravens are ecologically valuable. Their control of small animals, birds and insects is one of nature's ways of maintaining a healthy wildlife balance.

Ravens live in our woods year 'round. In the fall and winter, I've noticed a fascinating change in their behavior. For some reason I haven't learned, during this time of year they gather in large flocks and roost close to our homes. Every night just as it's getting dark, I make it a point go out on my deck and watch the wondrous activity of ravens settling in for the night. In a flock of 30 or more, they fly over my head against a reddened sky, flapping their wings noisily and calling out loudly. There is tremendous noise and activity for about 15 minutes. Then they settle down in the trees around my house and softly call one another. "Good night, Elizabeth." "Good night, John Boy." Then all is quiet. Witnessing this spectacular sight reminds me that something very wonderful is in charge of the universe.

Ann Reynolds (reprinted from November 1994 Groom Creek Chronicle)

BOOK REVIEW

"Arizona Adventure", by Marshall Trimble

This is a small paperback with 156 pages, which you should have if you are starting a collection of true tales of early Arizona. It starts with the Spanish Conquistadors and ends with four pages about Gail Gardner, Arizona's Poet Laureate.

The 19 chapters are informative, very interesting and easy reading. Detailed descriptions of very important events, boom towns, myth of the Earp's, opening the frontiers, Babbitt brother's empire, lost mines, Pleasant Valley war, Buckey O'Neill and Arizona Rangers.

Each chapter is fascinating; the first one is so rewarding and you can hardly wait for the next one, so get a good light and comfortable chair and start early.

I am sorry to say this will just excite you to look for more books about early Arizona events and history, as I do. This can be purchased at Sharlot Hall Museum or from Golden West Publishers.



(Reprinted from a past Groom Creek Chronicle) Robert "Sully" Sullins

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Paint On Hair: If your hair has become spotted with spatters of paint, you can remove it with warm vinegar on a cloth. Then shampoo your hair to remove that pickle-like aroma.

Tar on Car: Ordinary cooking oil or shortening may be used to remove tar from your car. Rub it on briskly with a clean cloth, let stand for a second or so, then rub off.

Substitute for flea collars or sprays: Add a small amount of brewer's yeast or vitamin B to the pet's diet. Herbal baths or collars if you use eucalyptus or rosemary, it will discourage fleas and most parasites.



Baking substitutions: An egg short for recipe? Substitute with 1 teaspoon of cornstarch or a tablespoon of mayonnaise. Instead of confectioner's sugar, you can use 1 cup sugar and 1 tablespoon cornstarch.

Ever have left-over **pickle juice** and hate to pour down the drain? Here's some uses for **dill** pickle juice: combine with finely shredded purple cabbage, or fresh spears of cucumber, or large diced pieces of celery. Use it to pickle baby mushrooms. **Sweet** pickle juice cleans Paul Revere pots and pans with copper bottoms.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN:

After painting the town red, you have to take a long rest before applying a second coat.

Dialing long distance wears you out.

You're startled the first time you are addressed as old timer.

You can't stand people who are intolerant.

The best part of your day is over when your alarm goes off.

You burn the midnight oil till 8:00 pm.

Your back goes out more than you do.

The little gray haired lady you help across the street is your wife.

You have too much room in the house and not enough in the medicine closet.

You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

Author Unknown

Old Timer's Tip Still Holds True; Listen

When our family moved to Groom Creek almost 30 yrs. ago, we were fortunate to meet several long-time residents (old timers). One major tip they passed on was, "never plant if there is snow on Mt. Union". I listened faithfully until recently; big mistake!

I was so excited when I saw the swallows had returned. It seemed early and I still had their favorite house in storage, but figured Spring was here so hung it back to where they were fluttering. Within the next week, I hauled patio furniture out of storage, started cleaning up the yard, and deciding what I was going to plant. How invigorating it felt that Spring had arrived!



March 23, 2017

Though I knew there was snow on the mountain, and the Old Timers told me it was not unheard of that Groom Creek got snow up to Mother's Day, I figured it was okay to plant a few flowers and vegetable seeds. Wrong! Awoke to snow, proving those Old Timers were right.

Hope the plants survive. If not, then I'll plant "when the snow is gone on Mt. Union".

Margie Navarro

Lucky We Live In Groom Creek

Being only 5 to 7 miles south of downtown Prescott which is a great place, we here, are nestled up in the middle of the Prescott National Forest. Surrounded by beautiful tall ponderosa pine trees. Wonderful wildlife, fresh crisp air. Over 6000' feet in elevation. We are living the life! One of the things we are really lucky about, is having our own fire department.

Next time you see or pass by one of our Groom Creek Firefighters, wave to them, stop and tell them thanks for being here. We all know how fortunate we are to have a full time 24/7 fire department with EMT/ Paramedics right outside our back door. Hopefully, we will never need them however, if or when that time comes we won't have to wait for emergency services to be dispatched from Prescott or beyond.

Time Matters!

Mission Statement:

To revive the Groom Creek Chronicle which ran from 1989-1999 and bring positive, helpful, past and current news to the Groom Creek community (within/outside the Fire District). The newsletter is a separate entity, and prepared by volunteers. Therefore, the Fire Department will not incur any expense.

If you want to share your experiences about life in Groom Creek, please send articles to chroniclegroomcreek@gmail.com for consideration. Note: No Commercial or political articles will be printed.

The newsletter is located on the Groom Creek Fire District's website <http://www.groomcreek.org> under the "District News" menu and will be published quarterly beginning January 2017.