



# The Happy Trails Epitaph



*Happy Trails to Arizona - a Destination Gathering for 2011*

## Thankful Happy Trails

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**H**owdy Pardners! Ahhh...Fall in Arizona! The weather is beautiful this time of year; brisk mornings and warm sunny afternoons... it's that "odd" time of year when you drive to work with the heater on in the morning, and then have the air conditioning on in the afternoon!

Plans are being finalized on our tours, and I thought I'd give you a bit of a teaser as to what we've got planned. The complete tour description along with costs and all of the pertinent information will be posted on our website ([www.HappyTrailsAZ.com](http://www.HappyTrailsAZ.com)) along about January.

No trip to Arizona would be complete without a trip to one of the Seven Wonders of the World—the Grand Canyon! We've got a couple of options that we are working on for ya'll. One that is an "up and back" trip in a day; and then there's a fabulous overnighter that involves a train ride!

Next we've got fabulous sightseeing and shopping in the gorgeous

red rocks of Sedona (also known for its wonderful spa's); two different trips down to Tucson and surrounding area. One will include Tombstone along with the O.K. Corral and Boothill Graveyard, along with San Xavier del Bac. The other includes the Arizona Desert Sonora Museum, Saguaro National Park and Old Tucson Studio's.

We've even got a local "in-town" tour that'll take y'all ter the Desert Botanical Garden, the Heard Museum, along the trail ter Chase Field, home to the Arizona Diamondbacks, and a stop at the University of Phoenix Stadium where the Cardinals play! Yee Haw!

Also, round about January, there'll be information about how y'all git yer saddlebags out to the Wigwam. We're lassoing some great prices on transportation so y'all don't have ter ride "Thunder" and "Lightening!"

Y'all gotta check out page 3, and see who's comin' to the Happy Trails to Arizona Gath-

erin'! We're just down-right giddy because we're so excited!

Things are movin' along nicely on this Happy Trail! So whilst Thanksgiving is just a short time away, we're thankful that y'all are comin' and for the telegrams y'all drop us from time to time. We're thankful for the great kin-folk who're hitchin' their ponies up and ridin' out to be our speakers and presenters, to those who are gonna stock up the General Store, and to the incredible staff at our beautiful resort where y'all are gonna rest yer weary selves. I am very thankful for the amazingly talented, hard-workin' Deputies that are on this Posse. It's a great time to be countin' our blessin's and we have many!

Enjoy the rest of the Epitaph Y'all!



## ABOUT US

## Still More of our Posse fer y'all to Meet

**Deputies of Tours  
Judy and Ed Logan**

Ed and Judy Logan, married well over 44 years, started collecting during the Christmas Holidays of 1991. Ed is retired Air Force, and Judy has been teaching for 38 years. Both are members of the Southwest Villagers Club, and Ed is a past president. Ed's brother Roger had already discovered Department 56, using "Wong's of Chinatown" in his Lionel train layout. Ed is an avid model train buff, too.

After seeing Department 56 in local stores, Ed started with a building or two from Snow Village. Judy preferred the Dicken's Village and New England Village, with its flat finish. The rest is history, and today their collection includes all of the villages, with lit buildings and accessories numbering in the hundreds, taking up all closets and garage space and a large rented storage area.

Ed and Judy keep Dickens, New England and Christmas in the City on display in cabinets all year round and pull out the stops over the holidays with several additional large displays, and have hosted many a Christmas open house tour. One of their three daughters' former bedrooms is now Ed's train room, and it, too has Department 56.

Judy's other main hobby is scrap booking, and has done beautiful pages featuring the Southwest Villagers club history. The Logan's eldest daughter has also caught the bug from her parents and collects Snow Babies and North Pole.

**Bank Manager—Happy Trails to Arizona Bank  
Frank Mapes**

When his "evil twin, Snagly LummoX" isn't stealing center stage, Frank is the Manager of the Happy Trails to Arizona Bank.

Frank started collecting Department 56 in the late 1980's. Frank collects North Pole, Christmas in the City, Little Town of Bethlehem, and various pieces from the other villages—whatever appeals to him.

Frank is a member and past president of the Southwest Villagers and also works at Michael's, which comes in handy for those items for decorating his villages.



## Look Who's Makin' the Happy Trail to Arizona!

# POSTED

## CYNTHIA MARKLE



### Featured Speaker

*at the Happy Trails to Arizona-  
A Destination Gathering in 2011!!*

**W**ell YEE HAW Y'all! I have just been cutting' a caper (which is cowboy slang for dancing in a frolicsome manner) because we are just thrilled to announce that Cynthia Markle will be at the Happy Trails to Arizona Gathering! Yee Doggies—we're gonna have just a bang up good time!

Thank you to Department 56 for the following information on Cynthia!

Collectors have been enjoying the work of Cynthia Markle since 1992. Each year, she continues to surprise them with her

designs and the stories they tell.

She works closely with the Creative team to make sure that each accessory fits with the lighted piece that it is designed to accompany.

When asked about her favorite pieces for 2010, Cynthia did not delay at all; one of

her favorites is "Deranged Chickens" for the Snow Village® Halloween.

When asked why, Cynthia shared that "this woman is the epitome of all farm women in her appearance, but in her heart she is very strange! She looks like my grandmother. I remember her going out to the chicken coop to gather eggs or feed the chickens. I would tag along and she would let me help with the eggs. But, then one day, Grandma took a hatchet and did you-know-what to one of her hens. I was horrified and asked, WHY? She answered, 'We're go-

ing to have chicken for dinner. Did you want to help?' I tried to make this woman a sweet Grandma with a twinge of mischief in her soul. Her little twisted smile and the scrawny chickens give her away."

Cynthia enjoys meeting the collectors at events because "they are genuinely happy people, doing what makes them happy and telling others about collecting."

When not at Department 56, Cynthia pursues artistic work in a variety of mediums and has had several bronze sculptures selected for juried shows. She enjoys gardening, and if given the opportunity would turn every inch of her yard into gardens.

Cynthia is going to be one of our feature speakers, and she's even gonna stick around ter sign



*Cynthia's favorite piece for 2010, "Deranged Chickens" for the Snow Village Halloween.*

# Experience Shopping in Arizona...



**H**oo-wee! There are so many places to shop y'all! So for this article, I've selected the "unique" places and in the next couple o' Epitaphs, I'll be givin' yer the inside scoop on our fabulous Department 56 Storekeepers, but for now, enjoy the uniqueness of Arizona shopping!

**Tlaquepaque Arts and Crafts Village**—Your unforgettable Sedona experience must include spending time at internationally renowned



Tlaquepaque (pronounced Tla-keh-pah-keh), Sedona Arizona's Arts & Crafts Village. Nestled beneath the shade of the sycamores on the banks of beautiful Oak Creek in Sedona,

Tlaquepaque is the most distinctive shopping experience to be found in the Southwest. Authentically fashioned

after a traditional Mexican village, Tlaquepaque, meaning the "best of everything," has been a Sedona land-

mark since the 1970's. Its vine covered stucco walls, cobblestoned walkways and magnificent arched entryways give you the feeling that Tlaquepaque has been here for



*The red rock of Sedona.*

centuries. Tasteful galleries and unique shops live in harmony with its lush natural environment where giant sycamores trees stand in testimony to the care taken in preserving the timeless beauty of the Tlaquepaque grounds. It would be hard to find more beautiful surroundings anywhere to create a shopping experience like no other.

Originally conceived as an artist community, it is a perfect setting to witness gifted artisans absorbed in their work. It's not uncommon to venture upon a well-known sculptor working on his or her latest piece right in one of the galleries. With over 40 specialty shops and exclusive art galleries, shopping becomes a joyful revelation of fabulous art treasures and distinctive gifts

around every corner.

Tlaquepaque is filled with spectacular one-of-a-kind art expressions in every medium from Western and eclectic bronze sculpture, functional and traditional ceramics, breathtaking blown glass creations, contemporary and Southwestern fine art paintings, weavings, decorative arts, architectural décor pieces and stunning large format photography. Fine contemporary jewelry, designer casual wear in silks, and leathers and unusual gift items all await the Tlaquepaque visitor.

**Date Creek Ranch**—is a working cattle ranch, over 120 years old, currently run by the Knight family. Located twenty-



two miles northwest of Wickenburg, off Highway US 93, on picturesque Date Creek. The ranch headquarters, first built in 1883, enjoys a riparian setting of cottonwoods and willow and home to a wide variety of wildlife. They sell natural grass-fed beef directly to customers by the quarter. The beef is free of hormones, antibiotics, pesticides



and steroids. There are also orchards featuring Golden and Red Delicious Apples, summer apples, some pear trees and plenty of free-stone peaches. When the fruit is ripe, the public is invited to visit the ranch, weekends only, from 7 am to 3 pm, to pick the orchard's bounty. Boxes, wheel barrows and picking tools are supplied. Admission is free. Scales are at the stand for weighing and paying. The fruit is pesticide-free. Peaches and summer apples are usually available during the month July. Fall apples are typically ready in September and October.

**Queen Creek Olive Mill**—At the base of the San Tan Mountains in Queen Creek's storied farm community the Queen Creek Olive Mill is Arizona's only working olive farm and mill. While they produce a boutique



*Olive trees at the Queen Creek Olive Mill*

hand-crafted extra virgin olive oil using nine varieties of olives, thier passion is creating a great experience for our guests. The gourmet marketplace is a treasure of local foods, unique gifts and farm-casual dining. You can stroll the olive grove, tour the mill and get away from pre-packaged, cellophane city life for the day.

**Kokopelli Winery**—Many years ago, Don Minchella made a promise to his mother to grow a vineyard and own a winery and as Don says, "a promise to a

*mother is the most sacred thing in the world."* In 1991, Don and Carol Minchella planted the Kokopelli Vineyard in south eastern Arizona, primarily the Bonita Springs Farm, which is about 20 miles north of Wilcox Arizona. With the help of his friends and family, Don and Carol would come up with the name Kokopelli Winery for their first ever production of Kokopelli Wine in 1994.

Monthly festivals are held at the Chandler Winery such as the Kokopelli Krush, Days of Wine and Roses, and their Italian American Festival. They also have started doing annual vineyard tours to see the Bonita Springs Farm, were you will learn the history of their grapes and get to walk through the vineyards.

## Arizona Tidbits

- \* There is a possible 25 years in prison for cutting down a cactus.
- \* The Saguaro Cactus blossom is the official state flower of Arizona. The white, funnel shaped, night blooming flowers, grow on the trunk and branches of the

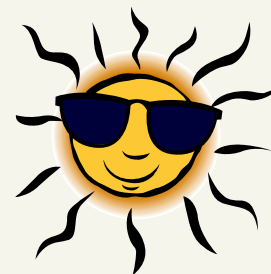


- saguaro cactus during May and June. The red fruits of this largest American cactus are edible.
- \* In World War II, many Navajos enlisted as secret agents. Our enemies could never understand the Navajo language to learn our



military secrets.

- \* The sun shines in southern Arizona 85% of the time, which is considerably more sunshine than Florida or Hawaii.







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**Marshal**

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**A Destination Gathering for**  
**DEPARTMENT  Collector Folk!**



## From the Marshal...

**W**ell, Happy Thanksgiving Pardners! The Halloween decorations have been put safely away, and the tables, structures and trusses for the Christmas displays are making their way into their respective rooms. All of the Posse here are feelin' mighty thankful! Hotel rooms are goin' fast (by the way, if'n y'all haven't sent the Wigwam a telegram, ya may want ter do so) and registration telegrams are comin' in! So, we're thankful that y'all are goin' ter make the Happy Trails ter Arizona next year and have a durn fine time with us all!

Here on the Circle 56 Ranch, the Posse has been very busy, working hard to make sure you have just a plum wonderful good time at the Happy Trails to Arizona Gatherin'! We're aimin' to have plenty of things going on that you might just have a

"Dickens" of a time choosin' whatcha want to do!

We've got some dandy tours fer y'all, they'll be up on the website in January! Our tours Deputies have done a bang up job puttin' them together—yer gonna love them!

We have all of our seminar speakers all signed up fer y'all exceptin' one! Now then if'n y'all know of any kinfolk that have great new ideas and innovations and them kinfolk are of the happy and outgoin' sort, then y'all need to let Deputy Paul know about them (Deputy Paul Malek can be reached by telegram at [pmalek@msn.com](mailto:pmalek@msn.com)) and he'd sure love to hear from y'all!

In this issue of the Epitaph, you see that we have the delightful Cynthia Markle from Department 56 attendin' our Gatherin'! We'll be featuring the other seminar speakers in the upcoming

issues and they will also be posted on the website!

So as y'all can see, the Deputies have been real hard at work and we're plum grateful to have them, and we're thankful for all y'all kinfolk as well.

This Thanksgiving, for the beauties and abundance of the earth, for family near and far, for friends old and new, for the gift of each brand new day and the chance to make a difference, let us give thanks. I am thankful for many blessings in my life... knowin' y'all is one of them!

From our ranch to yours, we wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Until the next issue...

*Happy Trails!*

