

The High Desert

PALETTE

February 2021 Vol. 1, No. 6

EXCLUSIVE

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Kathy Klump

Kathy Klump's Calling Pg. 16

Did You Know?

Arizona's Anniversary Pg. 12

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WELCOME TO

The High Desert Palette

February, 2021
Vol. 1 No. 6

Willcox is full of creative artists and craftspeople. Almost any art media you can imagine – and maybe some you might not – are represented. People of all ages, inspired by their own imaginations and by the natural beauty and heritage of this unique corner of Arizona, are creating extraordinary and unique art.

The High Desert Palette will introduce you to these artists and their work. We'll have original articles, interviews with area creatives, photographs, visual art, a calendar of events – to bring fascinating creatives and their output to you.

If you're a creative yourself, or if you admire the work they produce, *The High Desert Palette* is for you.

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Marsha Arzberger

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in an issue please email us at
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Paint Night

Saturday, February 27th @6pm * The Palace

Kids Art Club

Friday, March 5th @4pm * The Palace

Brown-Bag History Speech

Thursday, March 11th @12pm * The Palace





CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED SIXTY ACRES OF DIRT

**Written By Geneviève
“Geode” Landman**

What influences an author? For Marsha Arzberger, a challenge is an opportunity. In her lifetime, she has earned a living while caring for a baby, and put her husband through medical school. She has been a cowgirl, a senator, and a pilot. She has

served with multiple government and community organizations, including Willcox’s own Friends of the Library. She went to grad school for public administration at age 50. “I love learning; it’s exciting to me,” she recently told Willcox Theater and Arts. Through every chapter in her life, she has been creative. “Writing came first. I won my first essay contest in the fifth grade and kept writing through high school. Writing was part of me. I wanted to share.” Except while she was a senator, she has always tried to write for an hour each day. “If I went on a fishing trip, I brought a spiral notebook along. If a story comes up? Write it down!”

Her new book, One Hundred Sixty Acres of Dirt, focuses on how Kansas Settlement grew. Born in Missouri and currently living in Alabama to be closer to her children and grandchildren, Mrs. Arzberger lived in Willcox for fifty years. “Willcox is the home of my heart,” she said warmly. She calls the state “Magical Arizona” because “there’s something about those majestic mountains. You can see so far. If you see far, it makes you creative.”

Fact and Fiction

One Hundred Sixty Acres of Dirt is named for the standard size of early homesteads. “One hundred sixty acres was a recurrent theme for the pioneers. It was their dream—for those in Arizona as

well as in other states.” The book showcases a collection of factual and personal stories that can pull a person into the past. A couple are historic fiction, but most are treasured anecdotes inherited from real settlers.

What inspired her to take this blended approach?

“It was a hard decision to include historic fiction with factual accounts. But history shouldn’t be dull. People are colorful and real—the people who came

before us were, too. The people who came from Kansas saw Arizona differently. I want people now to know what the people of the past did and thought.”

Rigorous Research

“ The people who came from Kansas saw Arizona differently. I want people now to know what the people of the past did and thought.”

She has collected accounts of Willcox’s heritage for forty years. “My much older sister-in-law gifted me with family stories [and

1920s photos] that made me want to record older people’s



stories.” While researching, she asked historical characters’ descendants for permission to publish the tales, and she made sure to get the details right. She called people she knew, and some shared scrapbooks. “I interviewed the descendants of the pioneers; I read old newspapers. I researched with the Historical Society. These are historical truths and family truths. Often, people would say,

“ I’d like to encourage anyone who likes to write. Keep writing thoughts down. It brings clarity. It’s good for you. Write it down, and write it again. Getting good at writing takes practice and hard work.”

“Yes, of course you can tell that story. It’s my family history.”

Deliberate, considerate research for non-fiction also supported fiction. “The twinges that bring the stories to life,” like the descriptions of women’s bonnets, or chores carried out while traveling by wagon from Kansas to Arizona, “came from real people’s family stories.”

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Firsthand experience shaped her descriptions, too. Sometimes, Mrs. Arzberger “walked around the homestead to see what the character saw. ...Writing is not just words. You have to live inside of the people you write about and experience the things you describe.” She adds, “I’d like to encourage anyone who likes to write. Keep writing thoughts down. It brings clarity. It’s good for you. Write it down, and write it again. Getting good at writing takes practice and hard work.”



You can explore Mrs. Arzberger’s website and blog at wanderingowltales.com. You can get a copy of One Hundred Sixty Acres of Dirt on her website or at The Friendly Bookstore on Maley Street.



!

THE STORY OF WILLCOX



Kathy Klump explores the true untold stories of Willcox from the Gadsen Purchase through World War I in six multi-media presentations

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CATTLE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD (1890 - 1895)

TOUGHEST TOWN IN THE TERRITORY (1896 - 1900)

BOOM TOWN AND WOMEN BRING CHANGES (1901- 1915)

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Creative Youth Productions
Wednesdays @ 4pm * The Palace



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DID YOU KNOW?

Arizona's Statehood Anniversary!

It is somewhat widely known that Arizona shares its anniversary with Valentine's Day, February 14th. But do you know how we got there?

1902

In 1902 the New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado territories presented a bill that would elevate them to individual statehood. The bill was declined through the efforts of Senator Beveridge and colleagues who reported Arizona was not yet ready for statehood.

1906

Another bill was proposed for the Arizona and New Mexico territories to join together for statehood. Though the bill was well received, it was voted against adamantly by Arizonans who thought their heritage would be lost upon the joining. The bill was defeated by the margin of 1,634 votes. In Arizona 16,265 voted against, 3,141 for. New Mexico voted 14,735 against, 26,196 for.



1911

Arizona oversaw the laborious task of writing up a constitution. It was rejected by President Taft because he was against the provision of the right to recall public officials, particularly members of the judiciary. Arizona was once again rejected statehood.



1912

Finally on February 14, 1912, Arizona was admitted into the Union as the 48th state after making revisions to their constitution.





Jonas Kauffmann

Friday
Sep. 18th @2:30pm
Saturday
Sep. 19th @6:30pm



The Red Shoes

Friday
Oct. 9th @2:30pm
Saturday
Oct. 10th @6:30pm



Cinderella

Friday
March 19th @2:30pm
Saturday
March 20th @6:30pm



Wise Children

Friday
April 16th @2:30pm
Saturday
April 17th @6:30pm

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KATHY KLUMP'S CALLING

**Written By Luke
Kauffman**

History was not always a passion for Kathy Klump. She remembers tucking a romance novel inside her large history text during class, only reading the assigned chapter on the day of the test. Now, Kathy is the authority on Willcox area history.

The Spark

Twenty years ago, Kathy was working at the Justice of the Peace Court when she got a call from an author in Hawaii. Michael Hickey, who was writing a trilogy about the Earp brothers, wanted to release a book on the 100th anniversary of Warren Earp's 1900 death. He needed a local's help in researching the event, so Kathy volunteered with Art Simmons. Together they combed through property records, marriage licenses, court cases, and newspaper articles to put together the story. Kathy, who had never much enjoyed history, found herself fascinated.

“Every little thing about the people was in the newspaper,” she said. “The more you know the more fun it is.”

Although sweeping, mostly disconnected history had never enthralled her, the local, highly connected legacy of Willcox did. After her research for Hickey was over, Kathy decided to take over the Chiricahua Regional Museum’s research library. She wanted to “focus on one area and learn it really well.”

Community & Cataloging

Long before this in 1981, Kathy co-founded the Friends of the

Library. She bought the building for the Friends of the Library bookstore, which has helped fund our local library for decades, and volunteered as a librarian at the Amerind museum. Being an archivist

came easy, but she also ended up as the museum’s curator.

“ The more you know the more fun it is.”

Five years after she started volunteering, she was elected president of the Sulfur Springs Valley Historical Society (SSVHS) and has held the position since.

“In twenty years, we’ve completely filled two buildings with artifacts and archives,” she said. There is no end to the cataloging. Filing cabinets and



bookshelves surround her desk, as well as boxes full of unsorted pictures, letters, etc., all donated by local families. Kathy said she'll never get through it all, but she treasures each new story she documents.

"I have so many facts in my head, I want to get them out."

In her six-part series on the history of Willcox, Kathy will cover history from the Gadsden purchase to the First World War. She will show how the railroad allowed a tent camp to grow into the cattle capital of the world and the "people and personalities that made Willcox." The presentations are on Tuesdays at 6:30 in the Palace starting February 16th.

Kathy and her associates at the SSVHS have a burgeoning library of resources. When I interviewed her, I walked through a rich museum and back library full of pictures, files, books, newspapers on microfilm, and other amassed documents.

They have *The Willcox Range News* in microfilm dating back as far as 1894, and *The Tombstone Epitaph* from 1880. Whether you want to buy one of Kathy's books, browse, or donate something of historical significance, everyone is welcome to come share and learn.





 Cheryl McLaughlin
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Contributor Guidelines

The High Desert Palette welcomes contributions that highlight creativity and creative people in Southeastern Arizona. We seek to explore the creative impulse, showcase creative product and inspire creatives in all fields. Original contributions in artistic and/or creative fields and articles or feature interviews with the people who create them will be accepted. Let us know of creative individuals we might highlight in future issues.

Please contact *The High Desert Palette* at 520-766-3335 or willcoxtheater@gmail.com to discuss your ideas.

The High Desert

PALETTE

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Retro Rewind

Thursday February 18th @1pm * The Palace

Open Mic Night

Thursday February 25th @ 6:30pm * The Palace



ART LOOK

Featured are artworks by Maylee Thompson

Maylee Thompson has loved to draw from an early age, but really started honing her craft at age 14. She finds her greatest joy in creating portraits in colored pencil, and her favorite subjects are animals. She has recently started exploring other mediums including watercolors, pastels and alcohol markers. She enjoys drawing fantasy images because she can express her creativity. Maylee entered the Western Horseman's Cowboy Artists of America Contest in 2020 and received a Top Ten Award in the youth category for her entry titled "Ready to Ride."









**COMING
SOON!**

February

The Story of Willcox, 16 - March 23

Retro Rewind - His Girl Friday 1940, 18

Jelly Roll Quilt as You Go, 22

Open Mic Night, 25

Paint Night, 27

March

Kids Art Club, 5

Retro Rewind - My Favorite Brunette, 18

Live on Stage - Acoustic Eidolon, 19

Stage to Cinema - Cinderella, 19-20

Quilting, Jelly Roll 9patch, 29

Kilted Spirit

Saturday
January 30th
@7pm



***Acoustic
Eidolon***

Friday
March 19th
@7pm



***Brendon
Thorpe***

Saturday
April 10th
@7pm

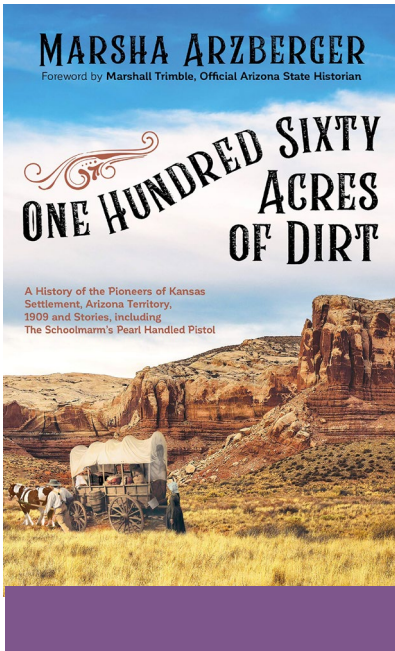


***Creative
Youth
Productions***

Friday
April 16th
@6pm



GUEST ARTISTS SEASON 2020 - 2021



DISCUSSING PUBLISHING

Written By Geneviève
“Geode” Landman

If you visit The Friends of the Library at The Friendly Bookstore on Maley Street, the first thing you notice might be a fine collection of local honeys or a wonderful assortment of books. One of the latest publications added to their shelves is Marsha Arzberger’s *One Hundred Sixty Acres of Dirt*. The title caught my eye. What was going to happen with this vast expanse of dirt? Why is it important that the acres number one hundred and sixty?

A story can’t find its way from the author’s keyboard to readers’ hands without stopping at the publisher’s desk. In an interview with Willcox Theater and Arts, Mrs. Arzberger shared an insider’s view of the publishing process. “When you’re writing a book, you give it a working title. The publisher might want to adjust it, so you don’t tell people the title yet,” she explained. “One hundred sixty acres was a recurrent theme for the pioneers. It was their dream—for those in Arizona as well as in other states. The publisher agreed on the title. He’s from New York and Virginia, and this was how he found out about the size of the homesteads.” The book is meant to reinvigorate the past in the eyes of the reader. It serves this purpose starting with the title itself.

WTA asked, “Is *One Hundred Sixty Acres of Dirt* your first book?”

“No. My first book was published in 1982, but the publisher bankrupted. That book had a first distribution, and then it went out of print.” Recently, Mrs. Arzberger has been revising and modernizing that same book. “There were formulas in writing in the Seventies and Eighties, and we stuck to them, but these days writers don’t need to follow those formulas.”

Another of her upcoming books reads beyond traditional writing formulas, too. “*Wandering Owl* is my children’s book, about an

owl who came and ‘talked’ to me. There are some true stories and some children’s stories.” (She revealed this title because it’s unlikely to change.) When publishing a book, an author considers, “What genre does this fit in? [Who would be] the right type of agent?” Breaking with traditional formulas may add complexity to these decisions, but a new approach can be the best way to honor a story. Blending genres is not the only advancement in modern publishing. The Internet is a valuable tool. Some writers’ associations have active, online groups. Mrs. Arzberger belongs to some herself, including the Western Writers’ Association and the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. “Members share thoughts, problems, and tips online. We can’t all conference [in person.]” As an Internet-savvy

“ When publishing a book, an author considers, ‘What genre does this fit in? [Who would be] the right type of agent?’ Breaking with traditional formulas may add complexity to these decisions, but a new approach can be the best way to honor a story.”

author and longtime Willcox resident now living in Alabama, Mrs. Arzberger is friends with other authors nationwide. Connecting online helps authors share, edit, and sharpen their craft. “Things change. The author does the marketing now. The publisher used to. Many agree it’s challenging to learn. But the Internet is a tool for collaborating and learning.”

Marsha Arzberger maintains a website and blog at wanderingowltales.com, where you can learn about her interactions with animals, adventures while piloting planes, and the historical events and letters that have inspired her. [One Hundred Sixty Acres of Dirt](#) is available on her website or at The Friendly Bookstore on Maley Street.



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