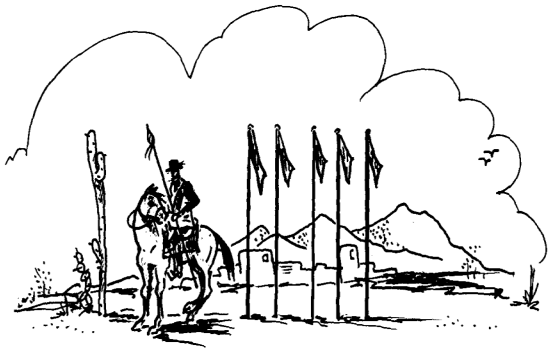


THE TUBAC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

50 BRIDGE ROAD, SUITE B-1
TUBAC, AZ 85646–3261
MAY 2011
(520) 398–2020

"Save the Presidio" First Anniversary Celebration on May 15th

It has been one year since the historic agreement was signed by Arizona State Parks, Santa Cruz County and the Tubac Historical Society, entrusting the care of the Tubac Presidio to our Historical Society.

That day in May marked the culmination of a remarkable community-wide effort to save our local state park and to preserve Tubac's identity as the place "Where Art and History Meet." Those of you who attended the signing ceremony will remember the cheers and applause that resounded through Otero Hall and the spirit of community that was shared by everyone. Since then the Park has been successfully run with the help of many dedicated volunteers and the generous financial support of THS members, businesses, organizations and friends.

Mr and Mrs James Pagels, teacher/printer will demonstrate 1858 printing press.

The entire community is invited to join together again to commemorate this important milestone in the 259-year history of the Tubac Presidio. On Sunday, May 15th, the Park will host a festive celebration featuring wine, appetizers and music from 5 to 7 pm in the evening. The event will take place in the historical buildings around the Presidio grounds. Highlights include docent-led tours of the Park, volunteers in Spanish Colonial attire, and the new Allan B. Davis Gallery of sixteen historic Arizona paintings by William Ahrendt.

Tickets are $35 and all proceeds will benefit the "Save the Presidio" fund. For reservations, please call 520-398-2252 or return the enclosed reservation form. We hope to see you there!

Article contributed by Kim Etherington, THS Board Member

Street Rod Car Show at the Presidio on May 6

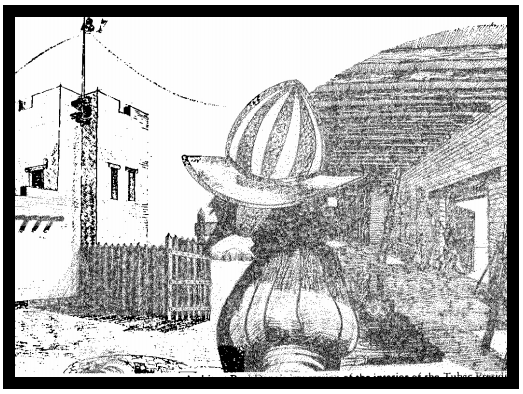
The Tubac Presidio State Historic Park will host a Custom Car Show on Friday, May 6. The event is part of the 37th Annual Rodders Days—Arizona's oldest street rod run sponsored by the Tucson Street Rod Association. More than 100 pre-1963 custom cars will roll into Tubac for the day and will be on display at the Tubac Presidio from 10am to 3pm. Free admission to the Car Show and the Park all day. We look forward to a fun-filled day in Tubac on May 6.

Saving the Presidio

The Tubac Presidio State Historic Park, Arizona's first state park, now operated by the Tubac Historical Society (THS), has kicked off a fundraising campaign with the goal to raise $30,000 by June 1, 2011. These funds will be used to keep the park open, to keep the successful momentum going, and to preserve an important treasure for this community and the state of Arizona.

In early 2010, the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park was facing closure by the Arizona State Parks Board because of severe recurring annual budget cuts and fund sweeps. The situation had become so grim that without local assistance and partnerships this park, as well as over half of Arizona's state parks, would be closed to the public and shuttered indefinitely. The Tubac Presidio was scheduled to close March 29. 2010.

The Tubac community overcame insurmountable odds to eventually save the Tubac Presidio from closure. The Tubac Historical Society was tapped to lead the effort. Within weeks, THS developed an organizational plan, and with help from local residents, organizations and the business community, raised over $30,000. Plans were presented to the AZ State Parks Board, and then, with only days remaining until the park was to be closed, THS learned that partnership agreements with the State could only be made with other governmental entities. Working closely with the County manager, THS representatives crafted agreements with the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. On March 24, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors agreed to serve as the intergovernmental partner with the State, and to enter into an agreement with THS allowing THS to manage and operate the park. On May 17, a celebratory signing ceremony was held at the park with representatives from the State Parks Board, Santa Cruz County, THS and the local community.



The Tubac Presidio State Historic Park: the heritage of our children and the inspiration for Tubac's unique cultural development... "...where art and history meet".

In the last 11 months great strides have been made in making a trip to the Tubac Presidio an educational, rewarding and engaging experience. This involved expanding park hours to 7 days a week (9:00-5:00), rewriting the walking tour guide, refurbishing park signage, revitalizing the park grounds, reinstating the school and living history programs, rearranging the Visitor Center to provide a clear message as to what the park has to offer, and encouraging local groups and individuals to rent the park facilities. None of this could have been done without a core of enthusiastic volunteers who have donated over 3,000 hours of their time. All of this has resulted in an increase in visitation from the previous year, and over 50% reduction in operational costs during the same period.

Although the park is not yet self-sustaining, the park is well on its way toward self-sustainability. According to Dan Shearer, editor of the Green Valley News (04/03/11), this accomplishment has been a "minor miracle. . . . You can help by donating, volunteering and coming to the park frequently with your family and friends. You won't be disappointed, and you might even learn a thing or two."

Now THS is asking you to be a part of keeping Southern Arizona's greatest cultural asset open and available to everyone. Make your checks payable to: Save the Presidio, and mail them to: Tubac Historical Society, P.O. Box 3261, Tubac, AZ 85646. Or donate online at: www.ths-tubac.org. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

Article contributed by Carol Cullen, Tubac resident, former Director, Chamber of Commerce

A New Gallery Opens in Tubac

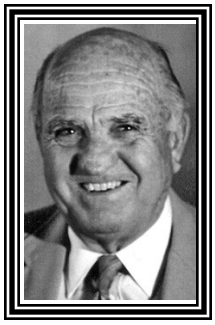
Artist, Bill Ahrendt, & Presidio Dir, Shaw Kinsley

On a sunny afternoon in April, about 140 people gathered at the Tubac Presidio to dedicate Tubac's newest gallery. A collection of sixteen paintings from the *Arizona Highways* "Cavalcade of History" series is on now on permanent display in Otero Hall. The Giclées on canvas were donated to the Tubac Historical Society in memory of longtime Tubac resident and businessman Alan B. Davis.

During his welcoming remarks, THS President Shaw Kinsley invited everyone to travel back in time to the Presidio in 1774—the setting and date depicted in the first painting in the series. Artist Bill Ahrendt regaled the audience with the colorful stories that inspired each of his historic Arizona scenes.

Large crowd gathers for dedication ceremony

In 1913, Alan B. Davis was born in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming. He served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, after which he joined the San Diego Police Department for 33 years. In addition to law enforcement, Alan organized competitive shooting matches, was a firearms instructor for new recruits and was respected as an outstanding policeman. He was a former Director and Life Member of the National Rifle Association. In 1972, following retirement, Alan and Gini moved to Arizona and established the Santa Cruz Valley Realty in Tubac. He was an active participant in the growth of Tubac...including the Tubac Historical Society, Tubac Presidio, the Tubac Center of the Arts, the Chamber of Commerce, the Santa Cruz County Citizens Council, as well as encouraging the opening of many small businesses. One of his favorite pastimes in later years was the *Romeo Club* (Retired Old Men Eat Out) which meets every Thursday at a nearby restaurant for breakfast! Alan contributed much to this community and we honor him with this dedication.



Alan B Davis

Ribbon-cutting with Gini, Bill and Shaw

Alan's wife Gini Davis cut the red ribbon at the entrance to Otero Hall, which has been transformed into an impressive gallery space, and guests enjoyed their first look at the entire collection. The artwork is arranged around the gallery in chronological order with associated narratives and interpretations with a full range of southwestern sagas from all corners of Arizona.

Crowd enjoys Bill Ahrendts's paintings

This collection has historical significance for all of Arizona and we hope that it will attract visitors, history buffs and art connoisseurs from around the state and beyond—moving the Presidio closer to the goal of self-sustainability. We invite you to visit the Presidio to enjoy this wonderful exhibit of art and history—and bring a friend. The gallery is open daily during Park hours, 9am-5pm.

Article and photos contributed by Kim Etherington, THS Board Member

The Tubac Market provided delicious refreshments including Paul's famous salmon!

Following the dedication, guests line up for refreshments.

Ted Ramirez and Tish Hinojosa Perform to Sell-out Crowd

The walls of the 1885 Tubac School House reverberated with the sounds of its heritage during the concert held Sunday, April 10th, featuring Teodoro "Ted" Ramirez and Tish Hinojosa, two renowned musicians and songwriters offering a repertoire of Mexican, Borderlands and American Southwest musical traditions.

The program opened with Ted singing and strumming his guitar with his distinctive flair. He expressed delight at being the Tubac Presidio Park's first artist-in-residence, emphasizing how he loves to perform to the receptive, warm Tubac audiences (this was his third performance at the park), and, especially appreciates the fine acoustics of the 1885 Tubac Schoolhouse. As artist-in-residence, Ted's responsibility is to bring talent to share the stage. After a brief introduction to the audience packed with her fans, Tish Hinojosa started an hour-long mix of Mexican traditional songs interspersed with stories of their origins. The crowd couldn't get enough!

Audience members came from as far as Phoenix to hear her. With 17 albums—recorded in Spanish and English—the folksinger has maintained her popularity in the U.S., Europe and Korea, where one of her songs sold a million copies. Tish has charted twice on the *Billboard* country charts, performed at the White House, presidential and gubernatorial inauguration events, and has won numerous distinguished awards for her work. Currently, Tish is on a nation-wide tour criss-crossing the country during April and May.

Tish Hinojosa and Teodoro "Ted" Ramirez

After performance-goers noshed on cookies and sipped coffee, Tish returned to the stage and a full house. Fans requested their favorites, as Tish caressed her guitar and sang a series of songs she had composed recalling her early days growing up in San Antonio, Texas, where she was the youngest of a combined family with 13 children. She performed with such heart-felt expression that audience members couldn't help but feel the love and respect she has for her family, and the "family of man"—a sentiment that created a tangible connection throughout the crowd. The audience nodded and mouthed the familiar lyrics while cheered and whistled in between.

THS did it again-- succeeded in its 45-year mission "*… promoting an understanding of local and southwest regional history through collecting, preserving, exhibiting, interpreting and disseminating that history to its membership as well as the general public,* "--this time through music and song. Better yet, the venue was at the Tubac Presidio Park 1885 Tubac School House, which, had it not been for THS, would be closed to the sounds of its heritage and heart.

Article contributed by Nancy Valentine, Tubac resident, author & historian

Wingfield Collection Artifacts at the Presidio Museum

A variety of artifacts from "The Wingfield Collection" are now on display at the Tubac Presidio Museum. The exhibit features pre-historic clay jars, painted potsherds, projectile points, stone tools, stone petroglyphs, a Spanish colonial court sword and funeral ossuary. The artifacts were donated to THS by the family of Geoffrey Wingfield, a local rancher and amateur archeologist whose family ranch included the site of the Guevavi Mission founded in 1691. Other items in the display were loaned by the family from their personal collections. A new online "virtual exhibit" of the entire collection will be posted to the THS website in the near future.

Warm Appreciation for the Presidio Volunteers

Volunteers from Tubac and surrounding communities have played a vital part in transforming the Tubac Presidio. On Valentine's Day, volunteers moved a few hundred rocks from the Anza Trailhead into the Park to outline the shape of the original Presidio buildings. In March, volunteers participated in a clean-up targeting the Barrio Archaeological site south of the Park which contains ruins of the soldiers' family housing. This fragile site is now open for guided tours with Barbara Ruppman and Phil Halpenny (see events on page 6), who had 26 participants at their first tour in April. Later this spring, volunteers spruced up the museum courtyard by spreading 12 tons of gravel to keep down the dust (and mud, if it ever rains). The latest project was painting Otero Hall for the Dedication of the Alan B. Davis Gallery. The carpentry and fresh coat of buttery paint turned the stark interior into a simple, but elegant gallery that showcases the collection of William Ahrendt historical paintings. Thank you to the following volunteers for hours of labor: John Cloninger, Phil Halpenny, Patty Hilpert, Clarence Gobrogge, Shaw Kinsley, Barbara Ruppman, Ed Stubbs, Armor Todd, Rochelle Ulrich, Joan Vandenbos, Glenn Vierra and the ATCA tractor. A special thank you to Greg Johndrow (Pridemark Construction) who contributed carpentry, materials and labor to the renovation of Otero project. The Park has blossomed from a dingy, overgrown, fading venue into a vital, historic destination for families, school children and visitors.

Future projects include the planting cacti between the visitor center and museum. This "prickly" job requires willing hands with heavy gloves! Some tools are supplied by the Park, but many volunteers bring their own. The Park provides coffee for everyone. New volunteers are always welcome. Call Shaw Kinsley at the Park (398-2252) to sign and join the fun! Info and photos provided by Armor Todd and Shaw Kinsley.

Material contributed for this article by Amor Todd & Shaw Kinsley; edited by Kim Etherington

The Tubac Historical Society
P.O. Box 3261
Tubac, AZ 85646-3261

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Upcoming Events at the Tubac Presidio

May 6, 10am-3pm – Street Rod Car Show
Over 100 pre-1963 street rods will be on display in the Tubac Presidio's parking lot. Free admission.

May 6, 10am-3pm - Frontier Printing Press Demonstrations
Professional printer & teacher James Pagels demonstrates the 1858 Washington Press used to print Arizona's first newspaper. Park admission.

May 11, 8 am – Barrio de Tubac Archeological Guided Tour
Tour conducted by Barbara Ruppman & Phil Halpenny, meets at the Tubac Presidio Park Visitor Center; bring walking shoes, sunscreen, and hat. Limited to 15 people. Involves a walk of 1.25 miles. Reservations. Admission $5.00.

May 15, 5-7pm – "Save the Presidio" First Anniversary Celebration
Celebrate the first anniversary of the historic signing ceremony that kept Arizona's first state park open. Reception, music, tours. Tickets $35.00 to support the Presidio.

May 19, 11am – Alan B. Davis Gallery Talk
Shaw Kinsley will give a gallery talk on the history behind William Ahrendt's painting "John Wesley Powell's First Expedition on the Colorado River" – one of the 16 paintings on display in Otero Hall. Admission $5.00.

May 26, 10:30am – "Dry River" Book Event
Bisbee author Ken Lamberton will give a presentation on his new book, *Dry River: Stories of Life, Death, and Redemption on the Santa Cruz*, which chronicles his lifelong exploration of the Santa Cruz River. Admission $5.00.

The Tubac Presidio State Historic Park
Open Daily from 9am to 5pm
1 Burruel Street in Tubac
Phone: 520-398-2252—Email: info@ths-tubac.org
Admission: $4 adult, $2 youth (7–13), age 6 & younger free