



ARIZONA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Brothers Emery and Ellsworth Kolb captured some of the earliest photographs and motion-picture footage of the Grand Canyon along the Colorado River. The Arizona Historical Society is proud to have, in the permanent collections of the AHS-Northern Arizona Division, the Kolb brothers' cameras and photographs that are shown in this annual report.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

Fiscal year 2008-2009 has been a rocky road, to say the least. We started out with great hopes that the new Arizona History Museum at Rio Nuevo in Tucson would be under construction by the summer of 2009. The architects had completed the construction design on time, and preparations were being made to submit the plans for permits when we were informed that the bonds would not be sold. The plans are now mothballed until Rio Nuevo funding and oversight can be restructured. I still have faith that we will see this museum built.

Dr. Anne Woosley and her staff have done an outstanding job in light of the state's economic woes and cuts made to the Arizona Historical Society budget. Staff consistently responded to proposed cuts by the legislature and the governor's office. Thanks to news-media reports, editorials, and AHS membership contact with legislators and the governor, the final cut for the fiscal year was not as great as anticipated.

We will greatly miss Megan Reid and Jim Turner who retired this fiscal year. Megan, director of the AHS-Rio Colorado Division for twenty-four years, worked tirelessly with staff, board members, and volunteers.

As the Community Outreach Historian, Jim's knowledge of Arizona history will be missed. Because budget cuts do not permit filling either position, staff is sharing the extensive responsibilities Megan and Jim shouldered.

Board members have also been hard at work in their various committees. The Governance Committee is in the process of reviewing all AHS policies and procedures. The Collections Committee evaluated the AHS Collections Policy drafted by staff and subsequently adopted by the State Board. The Development Committee presented its first draft of processes and procedures in response to the need for sizable fund raising to stabilize AHS operations. The Membership Committee will be making recommendations to the Board for programs and projects to increase membership. The Finance Committee has worked with staff to review recommended budget cuts.

Highlights for the year included staff completion, under the direction of Kyle McKoy, of *The Arizona Story* textbook, which has received tremendous acceptance from school districts throughout the state.



AHS also published the book *Zeckendorfs and Steinfelds: Merchant Princes of the American Southwest*, written by Arizona Historical Society member Bettina O'Neil Lyons, granddaughter of the Steinfelds. AHS hosted book signings for both Bettina Lyons and Dr. Anne Woosley, whose book *Images*

of America: Early Tucson was published by Arcadia Press. A very surprised John Lacy received the Society's Al Merito Award for his many years of support and involvement in AHS.

I want to thank all of you for your support of the Arizona Historical Society during this very challenging year. I ask each of you to urge your families and friends to become members of AHS.

Jim Ronstadt
President
AHS Board of Directors

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

The Arizona Historical Society's roller-coaster ride continues. In this second year of economic crisis, a new twist was added when it was proposed to phase out state-appropriated funding. Ironically, AHS—established 145 years ago by the First Territorial Legislature—would have

ceased to function almost concomitantly with Arizona's statehood centennial. Fervent response from AHS members and friends, the general public, other organizations, and the media helped remove this threat. Relatively good news came from the legislature. At a time when agency cuts were inevitable, what began as a huge number, in excess of \$550,000, was whittled to \$387,000, and with legislative support, ended up as a \$147,000 reduction. In the absence of a signed budget at this writing, but with no indications to the contrary, this is the number with which staff are proceeding. Throughout the

uncertainty—indeed, staff did not know until 5:30 a.m. on July 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year, if they were to come to work—everyone's positive attitude and unflagging performance ensured that AHS projects, programs, and events proceeded smoothly.

Vicissitudes notwithstanding, there is much to celebrate. Under the direction of the AHS-Education Division, AHS was selected as Arizona's new institutional sponsor and state coordinator of National History Day, a program that involves hundreds of students statewide and more
(continued on next page)



This Eastman Kodak camera was used by the Kolb brothers in 1911 to film the full length of the Grand Canyon from the Colorado River.

than one million nationally. Entrants compete with individual historical research projects at state, regional, and national levels, culminating in the recognition of winners in Washington, D.C. *The Arizona Story* textbook, also under the guidance of the AHS-Education Division, was honored with the American Association for State and Local History's prestigious Award of Merit, which recognizes exceptional achievement in interpreting history.



Preservation advocacy has been the maxim for AHS-Northern Division and Chapter, who have actively worked to save the Lockett Cabin and other historic structures in Flagstaff. Culturally enriching festivals, including the Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music, have strengthened community relations through expanded and diversified audiences.

The AHS-Central Division's exciting news includes the partnership with its newest neighbor, the Sandra Day O'Connor House. Our museum in Tempe will serve as the gateway to the former home of U.S. Supreme Court Justice O'Connor. With Justice O'Connor's active involvement,

and support from the Historical League, AHS staff is developing an exhibition focused on Justice O'Connor's life and career.

AHS-Publications Division enjoyed tremendous success with Bettina Lyons's book *Zeckendorfs and Steinfelds*, now in its second printing. Its forthcoming publication, *A*

Volume of Friendship: The Letters of Eleanor Roosevelt and Isabella Greenway, edited by Kristie Miller and Robert McGinnis, promises to elicit similar interest among scholars and general readers. As usual, the AHS-Publications Division took the lead in two annual events—the Arizona History Convention and the AHS Book Fair.

Creating new directions is the watchword at AHS-Southern Division. For the past year the division's efforts, energy, and time were directed toward the proposed Arizona History Museum. An innovative exhibition program, state-of-the-art library and archives, collections facility, offices, and public spaces were developed through collaboration between staff, board members, architects, and exhibit designers. Sadly, the

project is shelved due to the economy.

Director Megan Reid, mainstay of the AHS-Rio Colorado Division, retired after many years. She guided numerous programs, including the memorable Yuma Crossing Days. Under Megan's leadership, the AHS-Rio Colorado Division gained preservation grant support for its vulnerable historic property.

AHS will miss another of our family, retired Community Outreach Historian Jim Turner, an enthusiastic booster of certified museums and public history. Jim loved nothing better than to take his knowledge of Arizona history on the road to communities around the state.

Once again we come to the end of a year in which AHS accomplishments stand in sharp contrast to the weak economy. We genuinely appreciate the generous support of members and friends that helps sustain the Arizona Historical Society as one of our nation's premier historical societies.

Anne I. Woosley, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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As of June 30, 2009

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AHS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our support groups.

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AHS celebrates and is deeply appreciative to its members, donors, and volunteers who so generously support us. For a complete list of individual members, donors and volunteers, visit the AHS website at www.ArizonaHistoricalSociety.org.

Gifts of \$100 or more
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

\$25,000 +

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The Steele Foundation, Inc.
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Anonymous (2)
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*Gifts were received in memory
of the individuals listed below.*

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James F. Elliott, II
Theresa Everett
Rosemarie Gwynn
Ben Hill
Vi Hilmer
Robert Lenon
Bud Simons
Mary Lou Wilkey

Tributes

*Gifts were received in honor
of the individuals listed below.*

Bettina Lyons
Andrew and Beverly Rutter
Anne Woosley

Note to our Donors

A sincere effort has been made to honor every contributor appropriate for the giving categories appearing in this publication. It is possible, however, that names have been inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed. If you notice an error, please contact our Statewide Membership Services office by calling (520) 617-1165 or emailing membership@azhs.gov so the record may be corrected.

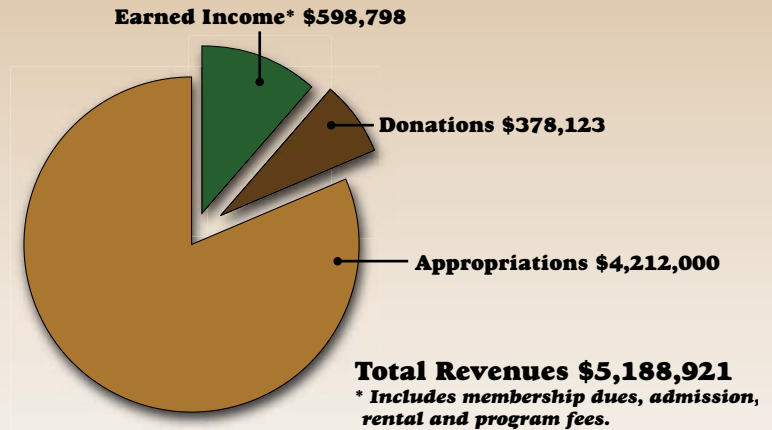
This 1912 Williamson Kinematograph camera, made by the Whyte-Whitman Company, was used by the Kolb brothers when they were guides for the 1921 and 1923 U.S. Geological Survey Colorado River expeditions.



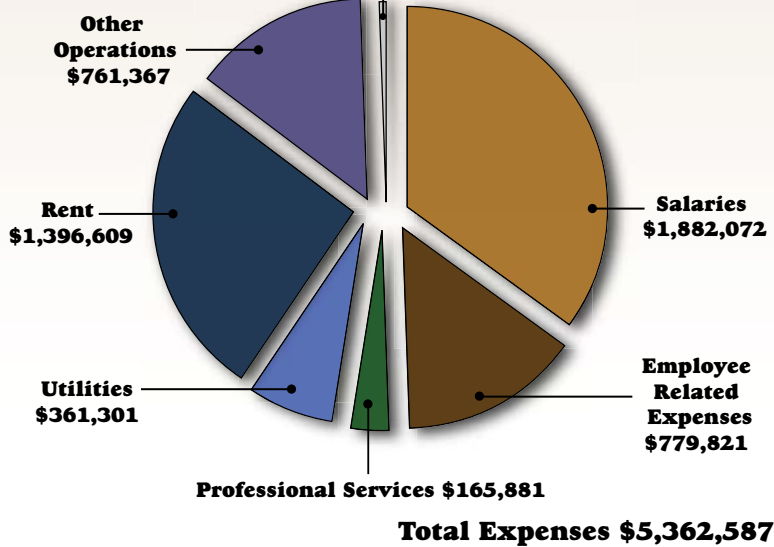
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Revenues

The persistent economic recession has profoundly affected AHS revenues. To meet the budget established by the state legislature and approved by the governor, AHS appropriated dollars were reduced by \$514,000 in fiscal year 2008-2009. This reduction has resulted in a significant decrease in earned income and donated revenues that once supported AHS educational programming, exhibitions, and public access to libraries and museums as these funds were diverted to cover basic operations such as utilities, maintenance, and some staff positions. Furthermore, impact of the current economic downturn is clearly apparent in decreased donations, memberships, and earned income received by AHS as families struggle to make ends meet. In sum, AHS revenues declined by over 18% during the past fiscal year.



Capital Outlay \$15,536



Expenses

As the state legislature grappled with the economic recession, AHS responded by implementing a conservative and cautious expenditure program, while maintaining core services (albeit limited in certain areas), making reductions where necessary, and honoring the continuing mandated hiring freeze. Although AHS reduced appropriated expenditures as required, it became essential to tap non-appropriated revenues and fund balances to address operating cost needs. Doing so allowed AHS to continue to provide services in spite of the \$514,000 appropriated revenue reduction.

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