

(This document written in 1980 was found in the Mountain Club archives. At the end it is marked: "Prepared from many documents by Violet Black and Helen Taylor." It has been re-typed here just as it originally appeared, including two handwritten corrections—a "true copy.")

HISTORY OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUB

What is the Mountain Club all about? is a question that needs answering from time to time. Some of the "old timers" are still around, but their number is diminishing. Therefore, there is a need to put some of these facts together for those who are newer.

Milton Smith, as principle founder, had a dream which he put in gear in 1926. In 1929 the Lane Smith Company sold more than 450 lots, which were developed as the Hassayampa Mountain Club by the Hassayampa Land and Development Company. The original area faced out on both Copper Basin and White Spar Roads much closer to their junction than now. The development reached a plateau in 1937 with outstanding financial obligations. It seemed to be in the best interest of the then property owners to organize a group to establish a sound financial position in order to insure continued service and create an attractive area for Phoenix, and other Valley residents as a summer recreational Club. So in the year 1937 the Mountain Club was formed as a non-profit organization and incorporated in 1938 by the following Phoenix, citizens:

Charles H. Dunning
W. K. Humbert
W. W. Lane
Sidney B. Mouer

Maurice Obear
Bailey A. Phillips
John W. Spalding
C. P. Stephens

Prestigious people were involved from the beginning!

In consideration of this new organization assuming a \$2,600 mortgage on the Club House and other outstanding obligations, Hassayampa Land and Development Company transferred title to the real properties in the Mountain Club area 'together with pumps and water lines, most of which were on top of the ground.' Nearly every home being of summer construction owned by Phoenix people, the water lines were uncoupled and drained before the frost season and placed in use again the next spring.

The new organization adopted by-laws, rules and regulations, established the payment of new membership fees and annual dues. By careful and prudent operation and cooperation of nearly 100 members, the indebtedness of the Club House and outstanding debts were paid in full in 1946, and as the years rolled on and funds were available, the water system was steadily improved by larger pipelines, new meters, booster pumps and by now only one member has a water line above ground

World War II brought a shift in the membership of the Club due to the rationing of gasoline and tire, making it difficult for the Phoenix and Valley members to frequent their summer homes. Meanwhile a shortage of housing and rising prices in the Prescott area made it beneficial for many members to dispose of their summer homes to Prescott people. It was a group of these new Prescott owners living in the northwest section who banded together to have the water pipes laid underground, providing the first year-round water service for the Club.

Page 2

Through subsequent years many new houses have been built because of the attractiveness and exclusiveness of the area. By 1964 the membership had doubled to 200, and now, in 1980, there are 280 members.

In 1959 two classes of membership were established, active and associate. Active memberships cost \$350.00, the associate was \$75.00. Associate members could not hold office or board position until 1972, when this change was voted. In 1975 this membership distinction was dropped. Membership still runs with the improved property within the boundaries of the Club and all dues paying members hold an equal share in the other improvements. These are the Club House, playground, truck and other miscellaneous equipment and tools. All the assets belong to the whole of the membership, and are used for their benefit. Every member is urged to make use of the Club House and playground according to the rules and regulations

Among some of the changes that have been made during the years of the Club's tenure, has been the one time stable property and also a "fire department".

The stables were used to house horses of members, which were used by a small minority. They were sold in order to provide funds for the water line improvements.

Mountain Club purchased a fire truck in 1954 and built a building to house it at the playground. The Central Yavapai Fire District was formed in 1964 which was able to provide better equipment and trained firefighters, so the Club sold the truck to Central Yavapai in 1965. A curious bit of history is that whenever a new house went up "in the olden days", it was numbered as to which sequence it fell into in the whole area - such as 1,2,3, etc., regardless of its location. So, of course the house numbers did not reflect proximity to anywhere. The present system of numbering was changed in 1969 to fit in with the City of Prescott's street numbering system. Dwight Bennett provided the leadership for this undertaking.

Many and varied have been the social activities centered in the Club.

In the early years the social life of the Club could really have been called a "Whirl". A full time director of activities for all ages was employed. Many families came at the end of school and stayed until it resumed again in the fall, in order to escape the summer heat in the Valley.

Pot luck suppers have always been a friendly and cordial affair and probably the most popular. The ladies Koffee Klatch, originated by Ruth Heiman is the most consistent, meeting on a regular day each month. In the last 2 years there has been no children's summer program because of such a small amount of interest, probably reflecting the greater participation of activities in the city.

The Club has enjoyed the cooperation of the County Engineering and Road Maintenance on its roads and some flood control in Manzanita Creek. Only a few of the main roads are paved, and these were done by the property owners in conjunction with the County in former years.

page 3

In 1973 the Mountain Club News Letter was renamed as "Lines From the Pines" which is published intermittently.

There was an organized attempt to incorporate the Club into the City of Prescott in the mid 70's, but about 90% of the members objected to it, so the matter was dropped. There have been changes in the area of the Club from time to time, however, by annexation of a few houses at a time, or a few streets here and there. Mountain Club has never been very static in its position with the City and County, but it certainly has its identity.

Many have been the volunteer hours contributed by board members. officers, and committee members from the early days right up to now. However, the Club also appreciates the services rendered by various superintendents and maintenance men, who handle our water and garbage problems, and many unsung details. The Club also has employed a bookkeeper for several years.

All in all the Mountain Club is a proud entity and grateful for the opportunity of serving these many members these many years. Long live the Mountain Club.

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