

Beyond Words

The Prescott Public Library Mural

Of all the skills essential to the development of human society, two have been pre-eminent: the ability to communicate and to record. The repositories of these records are our libraries. For many centuries, books have been emblems of our culture and regarded as one of the defining characteristics of civilization. The development of the book and its gradual spread to mass markets has brought entertainment, learning, political, spiritual and intellectual change to millions of people over the centuries.

The object of the “Beyond Words” mural (left to right) is to follow the evolution of the alphabet, of writing, of bookmaking and, finally and most importantly, of the public library itself. And additionally to highlight some of the people who played a part in all aspects of the development and history of our present library. These include historic figures, and a number of Southwest and local characters who contributed to the Prescott literary scene.

Historical highlights of the mural from left to right



WRITING

Writing marked the real beginning of civilization as we know it. It began as a conscious and systematic activity in the fourth millennium BC -- its first manifestation being cuneiform tablets now thought to

have originated in Mesopotamia. The tablets were small, squarish clay pillows impressed or inscribed with marks recording business transactions, court decisions, wills, and private correspondence. There followed Egyptian hieroglyphics. And later came the alphabetic script originating in Phoenicia.

As time passed the invention of the printing press, the Industrial Revolution, new advances in type, design and letter forms, advanced technical processes in printing, book and newspaper illustration, and now the age of the Internet all brought and will continue to bring great changes to the way we transmit texts from one person to another. How great a change only time will tell.

The evolution and history of writing is displayed in the left portion of the mural before the stairs. Represented are cuneiform tablets, scrolls, tablets, seals, pictographs, illuminated manuscripts, brush writing and several examples of early book bindings.



PAPER

Paper is a Chinese invention, ascribed to Ls'ai Lun, a member of the Imperial Guard, in 105 AD. The use of paper and the knowledge of paper-making spread westwards during the next thousand years. The first recorded use of paper in Europe was in Spain in 950; reaching Germany in 1282 and England in 1309. Paper only gradually replaced parchment and vellum but was well established in Western Europe by the mid-fifteenth century. Johann Gutenberg produced his forty-two line Bible (the Gutenberg Bible) in 1453-55. It was the first book printed from type. The first American paper mill was started by William Bradford (the Philadelphia printer) and William Rittenhouse in 1690 in Germantown, Pennsylvania. This was the origin of the American trade in papermaking.



BOOKS

The traditional form of the book as we know it today consists of folded and cut sheets sewn together in a series of gatherings and usually enclosed in a binding to which they are attached. Its predecessor was the codex format which first appeared in Rome in the third century BC. Initially it consisted of writing tablets held together with thongs. The tablets were gradually replaced with parchment (split sheep or goat skin scraped and dressed with pumice stone, but now tanned). These codices were cheaper to produce, portable and easier to use than the unwieldy scrolls. Parchment was replaced by paper before the end of the sixteenth century.

The above panel features:

- 1) **Thomas Paine** (1737-1809) Author of *Common Sense*, *the Crisis*, *Rights of Man*, and *Age of Reason*.
- 2) **Benjamin Franklin** (1706-1789) Auctioneer, printer, bookbinder, papermaker, printer...and from the beginning of his life a great reader of books.

Libraries

"To a library come travelers who thirst and are refreshed, who hunger and are nourished. A library is also a magnet which draws the intellectually curious. In a library one meets people from the four corners of the earth, and both sides of the tracks. The children's room in a public library seems to me fully as hallowed a place as a Sunday School. Paradoxically, the public library is one of the few places left where one can be private."
 --Lawrence Clark Powell in *Arizona Highways* (1960).

Notes on this portion of the mural written by Richard Cady

Prescott History



William H. Prescott (1796-1859) a graduate of Harvard, Prescott was a notable historian. He wrote several books but became best known for writing the *History of the Conquest of Mexico* in 1843. His writings inspired many historians and in 1863 the town of Prescott was named after him.



1) Sharlot Hall (1870-1943) and her mother **2) Adeline Hall** (1844-1912) The Halls moved to the Arizona territory in 1882. Adeline was a woman of intellect who inspired her daughter to read, write and supported her interests. Sharlot was appointed territorial historian in 1909, the first woman to hold public office in Arizona. She restored the Old Governor's Mansion in Prescott with her own funds and fundraising efforts, which eventually became a museum, containing her extensive collection of artifacts.

Her poems, letters, and collected works have offered a unique look into the window of early Prescott. See <http://www.womensheritagetrail.org./women/SharlotHall.php> and <http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=1LYKAAAIBAJ&sjid=eU4DAAAIBAJ&pg=4089,5967572&dq=sharlott+hall&hl=en>.



Abbey, the mountain lion, was a local favorite at the Heritage Park Zoo. She was rescued at six months of age from a burn pile by Forest Service officials in Montana in 1990. Abbey was one of the first animals Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary acquired shortly after its inception in 1988.

See <http://dcourier.com/main.asp?Search=1&ArticleID=61924&SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&S=1>

The original Carnegie Library is shown with The Monday Club women represented on the front.

From Historical Marker at the Carnegie Library: In June, 1899, Prescott Monday Club member Julia Goldwater wrote a letter to Andrew Carnegie requesting funds for a free library. Carnegie offered half the sum requested with the understanding that first the matching \$4,000 had to be raised in the community. Eventually, the funds were raised and a building lot was granted. But the fire of July 14, 1900 destroyed all of the books for the library. The ladies of the Monday Club pressed on, accepting the donation of replacement books for the library. The Prescott Public Free Library (Carnegie Library), located on the southwest corner of Gurley and Marina Streets, finally opened on November 24, 1903. This library served the Prescott community until 1974, when the current, City of Prescott library opened.



In this portion of the mural, the news carrier holds a newspaper headlining the Great Prescott Fire of July 14, 1900. (The misspelling in the headlines is as printed by the newspaper.) This fire swept through downtown Prescott, almost totally destroying the business district of the small mining town.

The main figures numbered in the mural represent **Southwest Authors**, from left to right:

1) Fran Wildman (1921-2005) was born & raised in Prescott and served in four branches of military service from 1939-1965. He developed an interest in art and education, and taught at Prescott Junior High School, Prescott College, and Embry Riddle. After retirement, Wildman etched the timelines, compass roses, maps, and solar systems into the concrete around Prescott. See <http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=886&dat=19920228&id=HpEmAAAIBAJ&sjid=vX0DAAAIBAJ&pg=4852,5728675>

2) Edward Abbey (1927-1989) was a naturalist, novelist and one-time forest ranger, noted for his advocacy issues and criticism of public land policies in the American West. He was best known for the novel *The Monkey Wrench Gang* and *Desert Solitaire*. Some regarded him as the "Thoreau of the West." His final home was in Oracle, Arizona, but he was known to frequent Prescott. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Abbey

3) Fay Ward (1887-1979) Ward was a renowned horse wrangler and rodeo rider. He illustrated and wrote for western magazines and is best known for his novel *The Cowboy at Work* published in 1958, which was a textbook with illustrations on all things pertaining to old-time cowboys.

4) **Zola Crosby**-- a Ranch woman from Mayer, Arizona. She wrote paperback novels about life in the Southwest but never attained fame and fortune.

5) **Zane Grey** (1875-1939) lived throughout central Arizona much of his life, and helped to popularize the American Southwest through his novels. Grey was the bestselling author of over 85 books, which have sold over 100 million copies worldwide.



1) **Carlos Montezuma** (1866-1923)--was the first Yavapai Indian to earn a medical degree. He founded the Society of American Indians in 1911, the first Indian rights organization created by and for Indians. He also started a monthly magazine entitled Wassaja. He led the resistance to Yavapai removal from Fort McDowell to the Salt River reservation from 1910 until his death in 1923.

2) **Mike Burns** (c 1874-1934) was one of the survivors of the Skeleton Cave Massacre. Barely able to read or write, he his entire life devoted to writing his story into a book for posterity. See <http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=Yu0KAAAIBAJ&sjid=xU8DAAAIBAJ&pg=6320,2795930&dq=mike+burns+indian&hl=en> and <http://www.dcourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&subsectionID=1&articleID=71030>

3) **Sam Jimulla** (c 1877-1940) was Chief of the Yavapai tribe and represented them in many delegations to Washington. He helped to secure their reservation land within Prescott.

4) **Frances Munds** (1866-1948) is one of several **Suffragettes** represented in the mural. She was elected Secretary of the Territory of Arizona Women Suffrage in 1898, and she was the President of the Monday Club from 1918-1919. She was also the second female State Senator in the US and inducted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame in 1982. See

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=srgKAAAIBAJ&sjid=NE0DAAAIBAJ&pg=6699,2621427&dq=frances+munds+arizona&hl=en> and

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=ocQKAAAIBAJ&sjid=TU8DAAAIBAJ&pg=4778,3551877&dq=frances+munds+arizona&hl=en>



1) **Pauline O'Neill** (1865-1861) was an early member of the Monday Club and wife of Col. Buckey O'Neil. Pauline was the President of the Territory of Arizona Women's Suffrage Organization in 1898. In 1917, she was elected to the Arizona Legislature and served two terms from 1918-1921. She supported many women's and children's issues, including Arizona's ratification of the 19th amendment. See

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=i54KAAAIBAJ&sjid=i00DAAAIBAJ&pg=6818,2374813&dq=pauline+o-neill+arizona&hl=en>

2) **Susan B. Anthony** (1820-1906) and

3) **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** (1815 -1902) were both leaders of the woman's suffrage movement in the United States and formed the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869.

4) **Alice Paul** (1885-1977) founded the National Woman's Party in 1913 and organized flamboyant parades and demonstrations for the women's suffrage movement, including one in 1917 that resulted in her jailing.



Historians:

1) **Ross Santee** (1889-1965) wrote and illustrated for publications such as *Arizona Highways*, *Collier's*, *Red Book*, and *Country Home*. His paperback novels helped to attract audiences to the cowboy way of life. Critics found Santee's stories and drawings to "faithfully describe the real West with candor, truth, and feeling" and to give accurate representations of the Arizona countryside and people who lived there, including cowboys and ranchers, miners, and Native Americans.

http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/educator/modules/teachingthetwenties/theme_viewer.php?theme=culture§ion=cowboy&subject=5

2) **Judge Edmond Wells** (1846-1938) One of Prescott's earliest settlers, Wells played the role of territorial judge and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona. He wrote *Argonaut Tales* and kept scrapbooks and ledgers, which have assisted historians in their studies of early Prescott.

See

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=892&dat=19841127&id=w6AKAAAIBAJ&sjid=2UwDAAIAIBAJ&pg=6768,5681864>

3) **Danny Freeman** (1911-2003) In addition to participating in these groups, Danny documented 60 years of the Yavapai Cattle Growers, three decades of The Westerners, 35 years of the Society for

Ranch Management, 75 years of the Kiwanis in Prescott, 70 years of the Smoki People and was most well-known for 100 years of *The World's Oldest Rodeo* in a book he wrote in 1988.

See

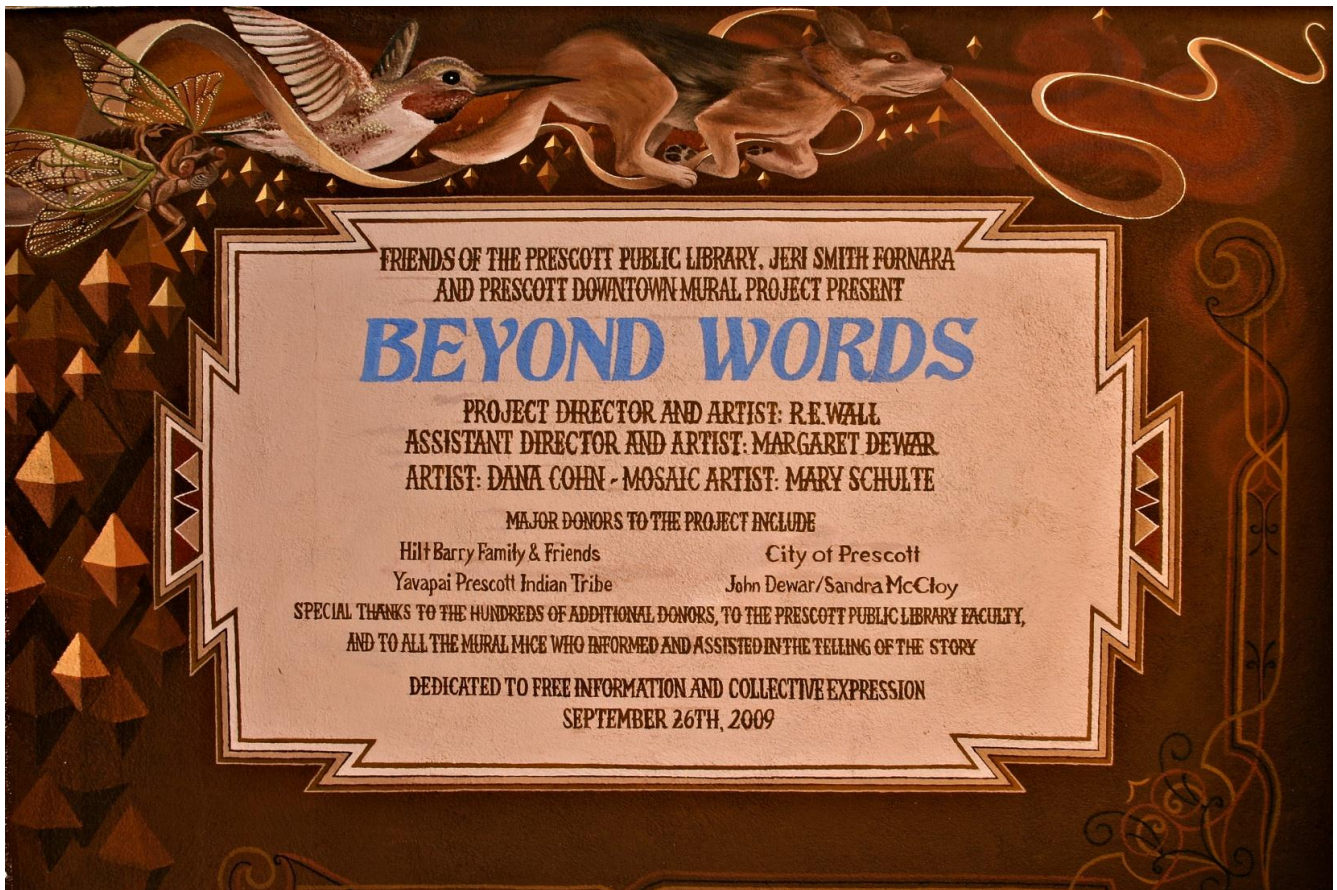
<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=9FYLAAAIBAJ&sjid=3IIDAAAIBAJ&pg=6814,2255851&dq=danny+freeman+prescott&hl=en>

4) Pauline Henson (1914-2002) Wrote *Founding a Wilderness Capital* and also contributed to *Arizona Highways*, *New Mexico Magazine*, *Point West* and *Arizona Days and Ways*.

These notes cover some of the historical highlights of the PPL Mural and are not to be considered a complete description or guide. (Don't miss the dragon's lair under the stairs.)

To find out what *you* can see in the mural, visit the *Beyond Words* mural just outside the Downtown Library's south entrance, at 215 Goodwin Street in Prescott, AZ.





The *Beyond Words* mural began in January 2008 with research done at Sharlot Hall Museum, Smoki Museum, the vertical file at the library and the Internet. The public was surveyed from January through April 2008 and meetings were held with the public to discuss mural ideas and content.

Project Director R. E. Wall and Assistant Director Margaret Dewar began designing the mural, and two sketches were worked up and voted on by the public.

Three painters, R.E. Wall, Margaret Dewar and Dana Cohn, and one mosaic artist, Mary Schulte participated in the construction of the mural. Over 800 Prescott people were involved in the mural process.

The mural took 6 months of planning, and 18 months to paint. The mural was dedicated on September 2009. Major funding was provided by the Friends of the Prescott Public Library and Jeri Smith Fornara.

See <http://www.prescottmurals.com/> for more information and pictures from the Mural Artists.

Notes on this portion of the mural written by Rhoda Spencer