

WILLIAM COLES-BASHFORD HOUSE



Sharlot Hall Museum Archives.

On April 19, 1974, the Bashford house was escorted on rollers down Gurley Street to its present location at Sharlot Hall Museum.

By Elisabeth F. Ruffner

In 1878 William Coles Bashford, a son of a Prescott pioneer, Coles Bashford, purchased a simple, two-story frame house on the corner of East Gurley and South Pleasant Streets for his bride, Mary Louise Evans, also of a pioneer family.

The Bashfords soon set about creating a magnificent Victorian home to take its place among the other distinguished residences lining Gurley, Prescott's main street. They joined the social and business community of the town and remained in the house until they moved to California in 1904.

Over time, the Bashford house was converted to apartments and finally was sold to the Delbert Pierce family. In 1973, the owner informed this writer

that he had run out of time to give title to the land beneath the building to the Ralston Purina company, owner of the Jack-in-the-Box drive-through restaurant franchise. Pierce agreed to give a group of Prescott citizens three months to move the building off the site to avoid the historic home's demolition.

A committee was formed under the guidance of Kenneth Kimsey, who had recently taken the position as director of Sharlot Hall Museum, and the museum board enthusiastically supported a capital campaign to fund moving the house. They also succeeded in acquiring the corner of West Gurley Street and South McCormick Street as the new location for the transient home.

Funds were raised by many groups and from generous individuals: Jack-in-the-Box graciously contributed \$2,000;

a federal bi-centennial grant of \$5,000 made up the difference in the \$25,000 goal, and on April 19, 1974, the Bashford House was escorted on rollers five blocks along Gurley Street to its new location.

A complete interior and exterior restoration was carried out by the museum staff. The Alta Vista Garden Club designed the landscaping to replicate historic landscaping, complementing the Victorian style of the house. Prescott High School Future Farmers of America excavated the grounds for a sidewalk, and built a picket fence replicating the 1896 original.

On May 15, 1976 the dedication of the new addition to Sharlot Hall Museum opened the third annual Folk Arts Festival with all the ceremony due an Arizona American Revolution Bi-Centennial Project. The Prescott Bi-Centennial Committee heartily supported the grant proposal.

A part of the grant to Prescott also supported the first historic preservation survey in the state, and the formation of Yavapai Heritage Foundation, a citizens' group that recognized the need for systematic, long-range planning in order to avoid another expensive crash program to save an historic building.

As a final renovation project, paint studies were conducted on the Bashford House, revealing eleven distinct layers of paint, the last being white. To capture the flavor of the 19th century past, the original colors of forest green with accents of antique white and a rust red trim, were applied and are maintained as near to the original as possible with today's paint palettes.

(Continued from page 71)

Marge, who received the revered Gail Gardner Award at the Cowboy Poets Gathering in 2007, has volumes of poetry in her repertoire.

Her favorite among the many she has written is "The Woes of a Cowwoman." "Everybody loves it," she said. "It's funny. I try to get humor in all of them." The 14-verse poem laments:

**Sometimes I wish I was
different.
Had the amenities
of a man.
Who has no problem when
nature calls.
All he has to do is stand.**

**It is a problem out
on the range,
When you can't find a tree.
When the rest of the crew
is all men
And there's one woman
— Me.**

Nevertheless, "I was a cowboy," Marge said, "not a cowgirl. I rode like a man for many years."



A PORTRAIT PARK by J

Three National Winners & Three Local Winners

In the 17th annual TINY TOT Portrait Contest cosponsored by Trauma Intervention Program (TIP), A PORTRAIT PARK by J, and our hometown businesses. The national winners are Levi Kinsley, Mathew Degoey, and Hailey and Hanna Roundy. The local winners are Silas Montandon, Jonathon Moody, and Torry Garver. Prizes to our home town winners were provided by LAVENDER'S BLUE, SAVOINI'S WESTERN WEAR, CORRAL WEST, and A PORTRAIT PARK by J.

The first twenty five contestants to enter received "JABO" bags containing gifts from Kendall's Famous Burgers, Taco Bell, K-Mart, Frontier Village Cinema, Bill's Pizza, Prescott Gateway Mall, Baskin Robbins 31, Kidzam Dentistry, Freedom Station, and Wal-Mart at the Boulders.



928.776.1311
www.portraitpark.com



YOUR FUTURE IS AS BRIGHT AS YOU MAKE IT.

A comfortable retirement. Money to help your family. Travel to dream destinations. Design the future around your ideals with a strong investment plan. Women are living longer and spending decades in retirement, so planning today is especially important. As Financial Advisors with Wachovia Securities, we offer sound advice and tailored products that can help you find the freedom to achieve your goals, whatever that may be. Visit us today or call 928-778-7780 to schedule your free consultation.

Wachovia Securities

100 East Sheldon, Suite 200
Prescott, AZ 86301
928-778-7780 . 800-765-7780



Securities and Insurance Products:

NOT INSURED BY FDIC OR ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY. MAY LOSE VALUE. NOT A DEPOSIT OF OR GUARANTEE BY A BANK OR ANY BANK AFFILIATE.
Wachovia Securities, LLC, Member SIPC, is a registered broker-dealer and a separate nonbank affiliate of Wachovia Corporation.
©2008 Wachovia Securities, LLC [69206-y1-0808] 0808-96897