

# march 2016

## 5 THE JOURNAL

People, places and things from around the state, including a look back at iconic photographer Edward Curtis; the history of Arizona Falls; Coronado National Memorial; and the best supper club in Yuma.

## 16 DESERT WILDFLOWERS

Our annual portfolio of lupines, primroses, Mexican goldpoppies ...  
*Edited by Jeff Kida*

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Bees can be dangerous, but their wrath is nothing like their reputation. Besides, we need bees. Especially honeybees, which play a vital role in the pollination of the nation's fruits and vegetables. Unfortunately, some domestic bee populations have plummeted, but Arizona, because of its climate, has the potential to be a national honeybee hub.

*By Terry Greene Sterling  
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It's been 50 years since work began on the Trans-Canyon Pipeline, which runs for 16 miles down the North Rim, across the Colorado River and up to the South Rim. Although it still stands as an engineering marvel, the aluminum pipeline is wearing thin, cracking and leaking all over the place. A replacement would cost an estimated \$150 million, but without the money, things will get worse, and the park could face shutdowns.

*By Annette McGivney  
Photographs by John Burcham*

## 52 SCENIC DRIVE

Saguaros and Mountains Loop: This 37-mile scenic drive through Saguaro National Park West and Tucson Mountain Park features the iconic landscape of the Sonoran Desert, which, in March and April, gets even more beautiful with the arrival of spring wildflowers.

*By Kathy Montgomery  
Photographs by Michael Jennings*

## 54 HIKE OF THE MONTH

Sabino Canyon: Deep canyons, soaring ridges and a rich riparian habitat fed by Sabino Creek make this hike one of the best hikes in Arizona.

*By Robert Stieve*

## 56 WHERE IS THIS?



● POINTS OF INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE

► Droplets of dew form on a desert globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*) in Florence.

*Eirini Pajak*  
CANON EOS 5D MARK II, 1/100 SEC, F/3.5, ISO 200, 100 MM MACRO LENS, 24 IMAGES STACKED

FRONT COVER: The walls of White House Ruin frame a young Navajo woman at Canyon de Chelly. To see more of Jerry Jacka's photos from the canyon, turn to page 34.

*Jerry Jacka*

BACK COVER: Blooms of desert onion (*Allium macropetalum*) grow around the spines of a prickly pear cactus in the Mazatzal Mountains northeast of Phoenix. *Paul Gill*  
CANON EOS 5D MARK III, 1/320 SEC, F/22, ISO 1600, 100 MM LENS

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A honeybee is shown in flight, carrying a yellow pollen sac on its abdomen, positioned between several bright yellow flowers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. A large, decorative yellow swirl graphic is on the right side of the page.

LET THEM

Bees can be dangerous, but their wrath is nothing like their reputation. Besides, we need bees. Especially honeybees, which play a vital role in the pollination of the nation's fruits and vegetables. Unfortunately, some domestic bee populations have plummeted, but Arizona, because of its climate, has the potential to be a national honeybee hub.

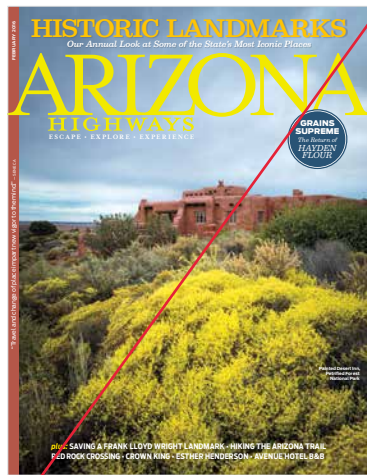
BY TERRY GREENE STERLING

PHOTOGRAPHS BY EIRINI PAJAK

## I LOVED THE ARTICLE

titled *Historic Places* in the February 2016 issue. I was especially drawn to the Painted Desert Inn. Each year there's a bike ride through the Painted Desert that's sponsored by Northern Pioneer College. It's a great ride. Along with the beautiful scenery, I look forward to coming upon the Painted Desert Inn each year. It's a wonderful rest area and provides another place to take in the rock formations and colors.

Sarah Fox, Show Low, Arizona



February 2016

As a longtime practicing veterinarian from Bisbee, and having spent many years working on the Slaughter Ranch when the Ramsowers ran horses and cattle there, I'm surprised that no mention of the four artesian wells in back of the house was in the article [*Historic Places*, February 2016]. Mr. Slaughter himself put in the casing to form these wells. I'm not sure how he did this, but when you look down the wells through the crystal clear water coming up, you will see many bends in the casing. The Ramsowers were perfect clients and custodians of the ranch. They always had a wonderful lunch or dinner waiting after a hard day's work. In my retirement, I always think this was one of the highlights of my career.

Charles A. Behney, D.V.M., Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona

My grandfather Ralph C. Peppers, unfortunately long deceased, enjoyed the American Southwest so much that he gave me a year's worth of *Arizona Highways* back in the 1980s. I had to throw away my last *Arizona Highways*, a 1984 issue featuring Zane Grey, because there was mildew on the pages, but I reread the articles dealing with Zane Grey and the "wars" in frontier Arizona, and was thrilled. I'm thinking about ordering one or two of your books, such as *Arizona's Scenic Seasons: Remembering with Raymond*, and just wanted to let you know how much my grandparents both, and now I, appreciate your portraits of

"old-fashioned" and "wild" Arizona.

Catherine Peppers, Berlin, Germany

My first copy of *Arizona Highways* arrived today [February 2016] — it's a Christmas gift from my wife. I excitedly opened it up, and when I got to page 10, what a great surprise. I was born in Tucson in the mid-1940s. My parents were originally from Chicago, and back in 1952, they moved back to Chicago. My father had a small construction company in Tucson, and around 1949 or 1950, he built a photo shop for Esther Henderson and Chuck Abbott. They liked his work, so they asked him to build them a house. As soon as I saw the photo on page 10, without even reading it, I knew who they were. The photo captures just the way I remember them. I don't think I ever saw Chuck Abbott without his cowboy hat. I miss Arizona very much, but if my parents hadn't moved back to Chicago, I wouldn't have met and then married my wife. This year we will have been married 50 years.

Kenneth Connor, Plainfield, Illinois

My first taste of your magazine was in elementary school in the 1950s, at my uncle's house. After living in Yuma for two years in the '90s, I really enjoyed *Arizona* and your magazine. Upon returning to Missouri, my husband subscribed to *Arizona Highways* for me. Now, in response to a comment by Ms. Tucker in the February 2016 issue

[*Letters*], I really believe she should pay less attention to people's legs and more to their friendly faces.

June Woodcock, Joplin, Missouri

Wow! What a blast from the past [*Avenue Hotel B&B*, February 2016]. My father was born near Douglas to Hungarian immigrant parents who were homesteading without running water or electricity. He was born in 1912. In 1967, my father took four of his children to Douglas to view the old homestead. My father reconnected with his old friend Frank Bruno in the Avenue Hotel. As I recall, Frank was living in the hotel, and it wasn't open as a hotel. It was pretty run-down, but we really enjoyed our stay there. I remember there were glass bricks in the second-story floor so that the light from the first floor could shine through. He put all five of us up for the night and was very hospitable. Later, he sent me one of his paintings. The last time I was in Douglas, the homestead on Kings Highway was gone, and I couldn't pick out which building was Frank's hotel. If I'm ever back there, I'll be sure to drop in now that I have a name and an address. The lobby looks great.

Susan Furedy, Phoenix

**contact us** If you have thoughts or comments about anything in *Arizona Highways*, we'd love to hear from you. We can be reached at editor@arizonahighways.com, or by mail at 2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009. For more information, visit [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com).

# THE JOURNAL



## Ready to Drop

Droplets form on the tips of blades of grass in Florence, southeast of Phoenix. Grasses and some other plants expel excess water through the tips of their leaves — a process known as guttation. To learn more about Florence, call the Florence Visitor Center at 520-868-5216 or visit [www.visitflorenceaz.com](http://www.visitflorenceaz.com).

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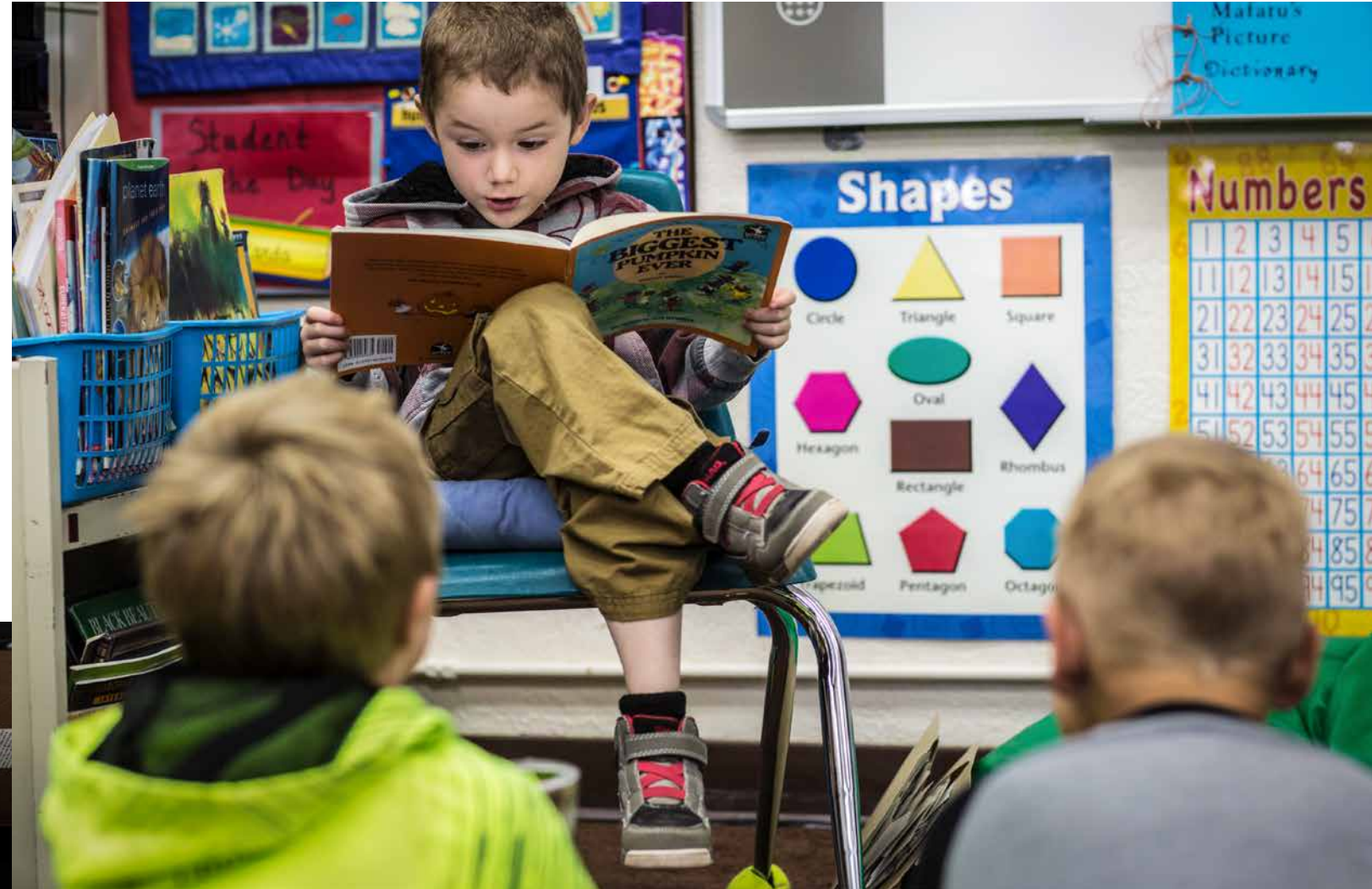
PHOTOGRAPH BY EIRINI PAJAK



**LEFT:** The Apache Elementary School class poses on the playground. From left to right are Olivia Blalock, Kyden Wood, Ben Blalock, Landen Humble, Bodie Blalock, Gracie Blalock, Amanda Miller, Moz Mullen, Jake Mullen and teacher Palma Hudson. The youngest student, Jeremiah Hudlow-Chavez, had left for the day.

**BELOW:** Ben Blalock stretches his legs beneath his desk.

**RIGHT:** While waiting for Palma Hudson to finish working with another student, Jeremiah Hudlow-Chavez reads to his classmates.



Teaching multiple grades means students can work where they are academically, regardless of grade. And with a small class, Hudson can spend time with each student.

snakes. They have more problems with bears than with gangs, and, being out of range, Hudson has never had to confiscate a cellphone.

There is, however, a bat that's taken up residence in the tetherball pole. It sometimes surprises students by shooting out the top in the middle of a game. And while most students are unfazed by snakes — for two years, the class kept a hognose snake named Weedwacker — roller-skating is another story.

“Most of my kids had never roller-skated,” Hudson says of a visit to a skating rink during a trip to the state Capitol in Phoenix. Laughing, she recalls that the trip prompted one student's father to ask, “Do you think next time we can find an activity where we stay vertical?”

**I**N THE AFTERNOON, two girls sit quietly at their desks, working on iPads, while two boys quiz each other on spelling. At one end of the classroom, a kindergartner sits, coloring, at a desk next to Guillian, who is working with another girl.

Hudson sits at a table surrounded by four boys with bingo cards.

“Cover the vowel sound you hear in ‘sit,’” she directs as the boys search their cards. “Cover the final spelling in ‘lack.’”

The day passes in this way, with Hudson calling up a constantly shifting constellation of students and moving seam-



lessly from third-grade math to eighth-grade Arizona history. In between, she calls up students individually to go over work they've turned in.

Many of these students have other educational options. Some have been home-schooled. Several transferred from Douglas. Hudson spends a lot of time encouraging good habits and filling in educational gaps. Teaching multiple grades means students can work where they are academically, regardless of grade. And with a small class, Hudson can spend time with each student.

“Kids who are behind come here and excel,” she says. “It's not because I'm a miracle worker. It's because they get the attention they need.”

Parents also get involved, helping with projects and serving on the school board. Hudson generally sees 100 percent participation in school plays and programs, with the larger community turning out for potlucks at those events. And they're passionate about the school.

In 2014, the county school superintendent proposed closing Apache Elementary. Ninety people packed the school board meeting in protest. Some had no connection to the school. Many, such as Chet Miller, had long ties. A member of one of the area's original ranching families, Miller served as school

board president. His father attended Apache Elementary, and his grandfather was among the school's first students. “It's a wonderful school,” he says. “And the history here. To let that go is shameful.”

Surprised by the passionate outpouring, the superintendent quickly backed down.

**A**BOUT 3:15 P.M., students pile chairs on top of desks and gather up their backpacks. At 3:20, they file out, giving Hudson a high-five on their way to the bus. A few of them stop for a hug.

Hudson will spend the balance of the afternoon grading papers and preparing lesson plans. Even with a part-time teaching assistant and a business manager who doubles as custodian, there's administrative work to attend to, state testing to administer and meetings to coordinate, not to mention science fairs, field trips and holiday programs.

“I have to be a jack-of-all-trades,” she says. “I'm the principal. I'm the superintendent. I'm the transportation director. If the lights go out, I call the fix-it man.”

It can be a lot to juggle, she admits, and things can get messy. But it's a way of life that's increasingly rare, and she wouldn't trade it. **AH**

