

Moon News - August 1977

DONATIONS

Time, Talent and Materials

-Debbie Goodridge



There are many types of donations that Valley of the Moon can use. In addition to a monetary donation, any materials, new and used, are very helpful and greatly appreciated. These are also tax deductible.

Some of the materials needed are: concrete, lumber, electrical items, plumbing supplies, windows, doors, heating and cooling materials, bathroom fixtures and fencing materials.



Many of these items may be used as well as new for there are many areas of the property in which they may be utilized.

Donations of time and talent are also needed although these are not a tax deductible commodity.

Script writers, tour guides, character actors, make-up artists and just plain hard workers will all be welcomed.

LIFE magazine presented a pictorial essay on Valley of the Moon in 1953, and articles appeared in many other nationally known magazines, which, along with other publications and historical information, are maintained by the Arizona Historical Society, and may be seen upon request.



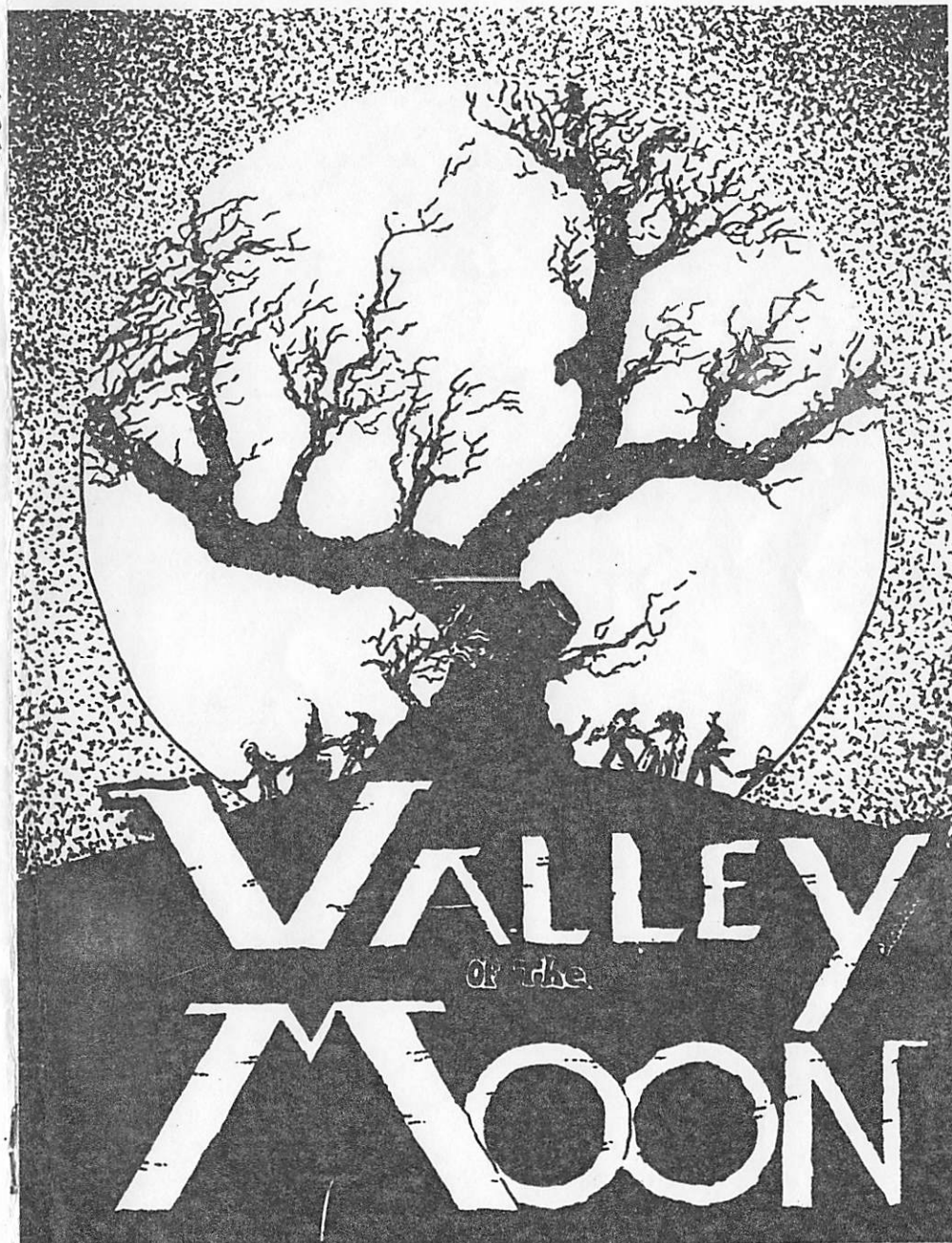
Valley of the Moon

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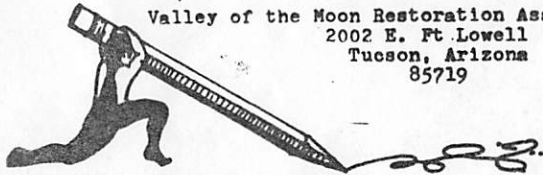
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Illustrations by: Pat Casanova



Valley of the Moon Restoration Association, Inc.
 2002 E. Ft. Lowell #116
 Tucson, Arizona
 85719

TALES FROM THE MOUNTAIN GNOME

I am sure that you have all heard fairy tales many times. So give I. But, I will just bet that you have never seen a place where the fairy tales are no longer fairy tales; they are a reality.

Valley of the Moon is such a place. From the ever present, always noisy, giggling little fairies, to the mean and ugly looking Orks (who rarely are seen outside of their deep, dark caves). Then, of course, there are some creatures here that have never been seen, are seldom even heard.

I am sure that these creatures, like all of those living here, are mostly kind and good. However there is always the chance of having some rotten apples. How can the good fairies be safe from such evil characters? Well, keeping a good hand

and wand on the situation is the great and powerful Wizard Zogog.

With his colossal feats of magic, he has, since time can remember, fought the bad of evil and rewarded the good with kindness. Many times in the ages that I have known this great Wizard, he has pulled a nasty old Ork from the dusty depths of the Mines of Doom and showed them the good and peaceful ways of life.

Some of the older Orks, so set in their ways, have trouble accepting this new way of living. But mostly they find that the good of Zogog was right from the start, that the evil just brings more evil, and good rewards good.

Well, Pilgrims, it is time for this gnome to go home.

So long to my friends;

-Mountain Gnome



Group proves "Valley" is Real

-Mary Anne Goodridge
 -Debbie Goodridge

One evening in 1972 a group of young people from Catalina High School were talking about dreams. One told of a dream where he was led through a fantasyland by a Wizard who was all dressed in black and performed magic. In the dream he saw fairies and elves dancing in the moonlight. Three others said they'd had the same dream. Another friend said he was pretty sure their dream was an actual place, so they set out to find it.

What they found was Valley of the Moon, sadly overgrown with weeds and badly in need of repair, and the aging Wizard (George Phar Legler). They returned several times, helping Mr. Legler clean up the place while he managed to transfer his dream to them. By the first of 1973 they, with some help from Mr. Legler and a few parents, had formed the Valley of the Moon Restoration Association, Inc.

Restoration began with the rejuvenation of valuable desert plants and removal of weeds and decayed structures. Mr. Legler's papers and books were stored for future organization and reference.

By the summer of 1974 several improvements had been made - repair of existing water lines, modernization of many electrical installations, repair of fencing. All were completely financed by the corporation members and a few friends. Historical tours were begun, presenting a brief history of past activities and explaining plans for the future. That fall, fairy tours were reinstated at Valley of the Moon and, once again, with George Legler happily portraying the Wizard, children's laughter and sounds of surprise were heard at the Valley of the Moon.

In 1975 the members installed modern rest room facilities and complete sewer systems. Cave rooms were restored, landscaping was improved or modified; and Valley of the Moon was granted placement on the Arizona Register of Historical Sites.

1976 was a year of a clamor for tours; so many that the majority of time was spent planning and producing fairy tours. Sadly, eliminated from those tours were several groups that included various handicapped persons who could not safely be accommodated.

By the spring of 1977 twenty-six hundred people had toured Valley of the Moon. It was in 1977 the Pima County Board of Supervisors recognized Valley of the Moon as a PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCY.

Valley of the Moon has been closed to the public for the summer of 1977 to provide the time for physical modification of some areas and new construction to provide safeguards for the handicapped, so that in the future tours for these groups will be possible.



All of this must comply with the new county building code regulations. In addition there are more people requesting tours than a schedule of two days a week can accommodate, and quite a back-log has developed.

Up to now the corporation members their friends and relatives, and a very few businesses have financed and contributed the labor for all of the projects and activities - including characters in the tours. The time has come when additional sources of income and volunteer manpower in all categories must be found to keep the dream a reality.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Historic Valley has many Vacancies
-Alan Robertson

There are numerous volunteer opportunities and needs within the Valley of the Moon Restoration Association, Inc. There is a need for professionals in all fields as well as those who are willing to do all the menial tasks that occur.

If you are willing to help with any amount of time, please consult the following lists and select your own choice.

Any amount of time contributed will be greatly appreciated.



TOURS AND RESERVATIONS

-Debbie Goodridge

Fantasy fairy tours for children are being scheduled twice a week for the fall season.

The magical tour runs approximately one hour and is conducted after sunset.

As we acquire more volunteer cast members additional tours will be available for scheduling.

All tours are by reservation, no admission is ever charged. Reservations may be made by calling:

325-7050

Adults must be accompanied by children.

CONSTRUCTION:

electrical
plumbing
landscaping
architecture
engineering
water harvesting
alternative energy sources
painting

and many more

TOURS:

costume (design & sewing)
character make-up
props
drama
special effects
lighting
music
dance
artistry
historian



VALLEY OF THE MOON

History and Origin

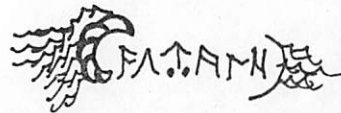
-Kurt Chilcott

Valley of the Moon is many things to many people, but perhaps can best be described as a "magical fantasyland for children of all ages". It's setting amid caves, pools, towers and gardens blends the exotic and natural vegetation and provides an unusual background for any young imagination.

This fantasyland was conceived in the 1920's by George Phar Legler (whose energy and perseverance was responsible for it's development and eventual opening in 1932).

The purpose behind construction of Valley of the Moon and the ultimate presentation of its tours was a direct outgrowth of Mr. Legler's personal life philosophy. The basis of this philosophy is summarized in the phrase of "KINDNESS TO ALL". Mr. Legler believes that happiness is given not sold and hence he never charged for his tours.

In the 1940's the Valley of the Moon Memorial Association, Inc. was founded in order to maintain and add to the Valley's fascinating collection of towers and miniature scenes. Their work is evident in the Valley's ability to blend in with the natural desert, an ability largely due to its "non-professional" construction.

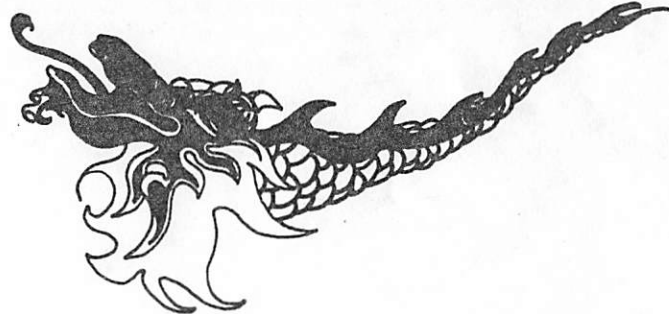


In 1948 Mr. Legler started keeping and training wild and domestic animals at Valley of the Moon. This hobby blossomed into the development of the famous "Bunnyland Theatre" whose success was witnessed throughout the southwest. In 1953 Valley of the Moon was presented to the nation through a four page pictorial essay in LIFE magazine.

The popular tours were given each day, six days a week and continued to delight audiences until 1963 when failing eyesight demanded that Mr. Legler close Valley of the Moon.

It was in 1973 that a group of Catalina High School students banded together to re-establish Valley of the Moon as it had been during the active years of Mr. Legler.

Throughout this period of re-establishment, Mr. Legler, now 92 years young, while again participating in the tours, has also provided guidance and inspiration to the group of young people who are the founders and the charter members of the Valley of the Moon Restoration Association, Inc.; for it is not only the Valley of the Moon itself which they hope to propagate, but also the idea behind its creation: "KINDNESS TO ALL".





GEORGE PHAR LEGLER

Wizard, Magician and Historian

-Ken Cummins

George was born in November of 1885 in a small town, Evansville, Indiana. Even as a young boy George worked to bring happiness to others. As a 12 year old he did magic shows for the other children in the family.

He chuckles as he remembers, "Once I buried a can of nickles and told my younger brother we were going to dig for treasure. You should have seen his face when we found the can of nickles. I'll never forget how amazed my father was."

He also gave plays for the children in the neighborhood. The price of admission was a hatfull of rags. He explains: "I made all of the costumes myself and learned how to make them the hard way. At first I cut them all out flat, not leaving

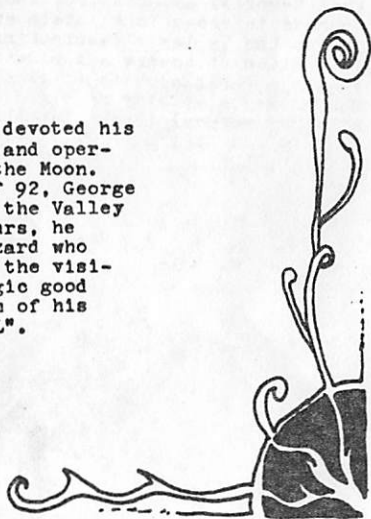
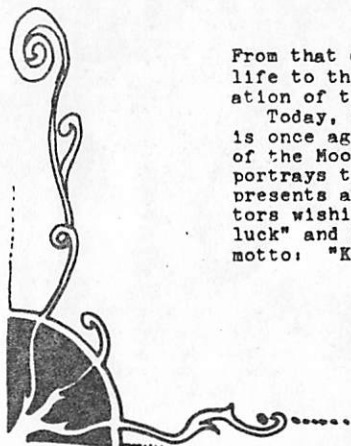
any room where the body isn't flat. They'd always burst in the seat of the pants."

After finishing school, George came west. At the turn of the century, he was in the frontier town of Pueblo, Colorado where he ran for public office. He is now recognized as a founding father of that small town.

George arrived in Tucson just in time to see the removal of the old wooden sidewalks, circa 1910. During his early years in town he worked at various jobs, until he became a mailman. His drive to help others began to gain momentum as he began to work with the sick. "I enjoyed building miniature landscape scenes outside the windows of bed-ridden patients. Some of them even had running streams and buildings that would light up at night", he recalls. It was at this point in life that his mind began formulating the concept of Valley of the Moon. With the help of a local real estate man the Valley of the Moon property was acquired so that large scenes could be constructed.

From that day on George devoted his life to the development and operation of the Valley of the Moon.

Today, at the age of 92, George is once again active at the Valley of the Moon. In the tours, he portrays the ancient Wizard who presents a token to all the visitors wishing them: "Magic good luck" and reminding them of his motto: "KINDNESS TO ALL".



MEMBERSHIPS

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

An Associate Member is one who pays yearly dues to the Valley of the Moon Restoration Association, Inc. Dues are used to fund the continuing operation and restoration of the Historic Site.

DUES: Individual: \$12.00 Family: \$15.00 Student: \$5.00

REGULAR MEMBER

A Regular Member is one who supports the philosophy of the Valley of the Moon, has an active interest in, and is willing to contribute time to the furtherance of the stated purposes as well as paying yearly dues to the Valley of the Moon Restoration Association, Inc.

The Regular Members are the voting body of the corporation. Regular Members in good standing ("good standing" being defined as one whose dues are paid to date on a yearly basis) elect the officers and seats on the Board of Directors. Regular Members are encouraged to participate in policy formulation, to help and guide future development, and to attend all corporate business meetings.

Dues: Individual: \$36.00

Please detach and return this form with your donation for the membership of your choice. ADDRESS: 2002 E FT LOWELL #116 TUCSON 85719

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
VALLEY OF THE MOON RESTORATION ASSOCIATION, INC.
(Please Print)

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Student: ___ Individual: ___ Family: ___

REGULAR MEMBER: INDIVIDUAL: ___

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

VOLUNTEER CHOICE: _____

