

Caregiver finds Wickenburg's history includes many interesting stories

By Patti Jares, Special to The Sun

In an era when times are changing so rapidly in Wickenburg and everywhere else, it is comforting to have someone in town who is dedicated to preserving our past.

Scott Taylor has a deep respect for history, and has collected 150 stories about the wilder times of Wickenburg -- around 70 from local senior citizens -- and shares them during his Wickenburg Legends and Ghost Tours. Started by his sister Heather Taylor, Scott and his mother took over the business when Heather relocated out of state.

Anyone who is out and about has probably spotted him or his mother, Gloria Brewer, dressed in period outfits, either walking with a group of people or driving them around in their six-passenger "Ghost Coaster," telling the stories of Wickenburg's beginnings. (Many probably remember the Ghost Coaster in the recent Light Parade, winning first place in the Western Division.)

"We love the stories and want to keep them going," said Scott, who considers passing on stories a form of communication that is being lost.

He gained respect of spoken history from his grandmother, who sat down with him shortly before her death and told him her life story. Realizing it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve family history, he grabbed paper and pen and took notes, recording stories nobody else in the family had ever heard.

As a volunteer caregiver for R&R Respite and Hospice of the Valley, Scott has done the same thing when centenarians begin telling stories -- their earliest memories of Wickenburg.

"Some of the stories I've been told don't exactly go along with what it says in the books," grinned Scott, referring to the more "colorful" accounts of town history. "But I think we try to cover up the dirt. The dirt's the fun stuff to tell, and that's what I tell. It's a collection of family stories, legends, area folklore, Marshall Trimble (Arizona's official state historian) stories and stories seniors tell. This town has a lot of history."

With a profound respect for old-school morals and family values, he credits his mother's kind and compassionate nature for nurturing his caring side, along with a dangerous intersection he was raised by in Washington State that gave him plenty of experience in first aid.

"Even as a boy, I gave aid to people in traffic accidents," remembered Scott. "There were many situations when I was faced with caregiving."

In 2004, Scott left Washington State and came to Wickenburg to help care for his ailing grandfather and then his grandmother.

Those experiences led him into caregiving as a profession, and it is something he loves, and the stories he has collected along the way he considers amazing -- "stories that have to be told."

A lot of stories Scott has collected are ghost stories -- according to him, a town with a history like Wickenburg can't help but have ghosts.



Scott Taylor

"They're echoes from the past," explained Scott, "whether they are spirits or impressions left from the past."

Scott acknowledges there are many skeptics, but notes that he's been told by ghost hunters that they get more activity in Wickenburg than anywhere in the country, adding that the Gold Nugget was and is the most haunted building in Wickenburg.

On the tours, Scott takes on the persona of "Raze'n Cane," and Gloria becomes "Madam Mariah." In addition to storytelling, the two will act out scenes throughout the tour.

"We become the characters in the stories," chuckled Scott. "If I can tell a story and transform it to life and see the surprise and laughter on people's faces, I've succeeded."

Scott likes what he does and is quick to point out that not many people get to do what they like for a living.

"You can't be a bystander in this life," grinned Scott. "Be a participator and you'll see some amazing stuff."

To schedule a Wickenburg Legends and Ghost Tour or for more information, contact Gloria Brewer at (360) 609-2280.

Weekly Circulars



PetSmart USA
Expires this Sunday



Target
6 Days Left

[See More](#)

Copyright © 2014 Wickenburg Sun. All rights reserved.