

OCTOBER 2019

BETWEEN THE LINES

PRESCOTT VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Library Hours: Sun 1pm-5pm; Mon-Thurs 9am-7pm; Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 9am-3pm

www.pvlib.net



928-759-3040

Director's Cut

BY CASEY VAN HAREN

The year 1969 was filled with critical historical events that shaped our nation. People were glued to their TV's as the world watched a man walk on the moon. The most iconic music festival, Woodstock, took place on a small New York farm. The U.S. instituted the draft lottery to determine draft in U.S. Forces for the Vietnam War. Richard Nixon became President of the United States. Bell bottoms and tie-dye shirts became fashionable. The Beatles performed their last public concert on top of the roof of Apple Records. ARPANET, the predecessor of the Internet was created. And, most importantly, fifty years ago, in the small town of Prescott Valley, a little library took root on the corner of Robert Rd and Highway 69 in a small corner of Renken Realty.



Fifty years doesn't seem too long. I'm fifty, yet I feel like I am a kid still. When asked to write up a piece for our 50 year celebration, I felt like I wasn't worthy. I have only been here seven years. I did grow up in the Prescott area, but so many others paved the way for our current success as a library. Those two librarians, Ruth Peterson and Fay Nilson, who started our library in 1969, had no idea what their contribution to the town of Prescott Valley would result in. Their dedication to educating a community on a small budget from the developer of Prescott Valley put us on the map.

In 1977, the "Ethel" librarians Ethel Alspaugh and Ethel Dannen, founded the Friends of the Prescott Valley Public Library. According to a document written up by former Library Director Stuart Jean Mattson, "Ethel was an older white haired lady, sweet as can be, a quiet sort and rather shy, but when she picked up the reins as President of the Friends, she was a tiger! She wasn't shy when it came to asking anyone for anything for the betterment



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When Prescott Valley became incorporated in 1978, little or no financial assistance was provided by the town for library services. Two active Friends of the Library members, were also on Town council and convinced other council members to include the library in the Town's budget. By 1984, Library Director Doug Rudd, obtained a grant for a new library to be built, located on Yavapai Rd.



In 1987 Stuart Jean Mattson was hired to be the new Library Director. Under Stuart's direction, the library grew from a 4700 square foot building to overseeing the design and construction of a state of the art new building at 52,000 square feet in 2009. He pushed for automation of library resources, the recruitment of the largest

department of town volunteers and a partnership with the Yavapai Library Network. Stuart retired in 2018 after a 30 year career with the Town of Prescott Valley. If you ask anyone who knows Stuart, they'd say he has the biggest heart and always loves a good joke.

I came from a prior library organization where I was an integral part of the history for 25 years. It was hard to move and quickly accept another organization's heart and soul that I was not originally a part of. After seven years, I have embraced it and this community. I am so very proud to be the director and understand the hard work those before me put in to champion for education and a better-way of life for our community. Here's to the next 50 years and those staff that follow in our footsteps, may you continue to make history with amazing library services that transform lives.

