
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clarkdale Stories and Exploring Clarkdale Celebrate Clarkdale's Centennial

William Andrews Clark was an ambitious developer in his time wanting to build and own a town that would be “one of the most modern mining towns in the world” according to the written history of Clarkdale. When construction of the Smelter began in 1912, so did the building of a store and a post office, followed by three streets of company homes and individual residences built on leased lots. In 1914, a business block rose between Ninth and Tenth Streets on the south side of Main Street and ‘downtown Clarkdale’ was born. Also in 1914 private residences began construction in upper town. On October 19, 1927 the Clark Memorial Clubhouse and Memorial Library were completed and opened and Clark’s dream of owning his own town with wide streets, subsidized homes and buildings for all types of business, professional and social activities had become a reality.

Today, Clark Memorial Library is still within the Town Complex and just a few steps away from its original location in the Clubhouse. It is operated by a small staff and a troupe of dedicated volunteers working under the Community Services Department of the Town of Clarkdale.

In recognition of Clarkdale’s Centennial, two ongoing programs, Clarkdale Stories and Exploring Clarkdale, present a year-long celebration of the town’s 100th birthday by focusing upon people, places and all things Clarkdale. Programs feature storytelling by residents, old and new, as well as organized guided field trips to investigate interesting locations in and around the town.

The 2012 schedule of Clarkdale Stories and Exploring Clarkdale Centennial programs commencing at Clark Memorial Library is as follows:

- February 15** - Guided tour of St. Thomas of the Valley Episcopal Church-100 years
- March 21** - Reminiscing About School Days: stories from students and teachers
- April 18** - Guided tour and history of Tavasci Marsh
- May 16** - CLARKDALE: A College Town, the story of Yavapai College, Clarkdale
- June thru August** - Focusing on the Verde River, an Art In Public Places exhibit of artistic expression and vision for the Verde River in Clarkdale
- September 19** - A Historical Perspective of the Clarkdale-Jerome Lions Club
- October 17** - Guided tour “Behind the Scenes” at Verde Canyon Rail Road-100 years
- November 14** - Stories about Main Street Clarkdale, Then and Now
- December:** Annual Clark Memorial Library Open House and Historic Home and Building Tour-date to be announced.

Clarkdale Stories and Exploring Clarkdale meet at 1:00pm in the Multi-Use Room of Clark Memorial Library. To participate in any of these **FREE** Centennial programs, please register as space is limited. You may register by visiting the Clark Memorial Library located at 39 N. Ninth Street, in the Town Complex, during regular hours: Mon-Thur 8:30a-5:30p, Sat 12:30p-4:30p or call (928) 639-2480. Only those registered in advance may participate in the guided tours. Same-day registration will be accepted only if space is still available.

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