

# Viewpoint & Opinion

Quote of the week— *Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you!* -- Pericles (430 B.C.)



Deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. Thursday. Letters must include name, address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published, but are needed for verification of authenticity. Please keep your letters to 300 words or less and please do not use CAPITALIZATION for emphasis.

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## Veterans Day Parade

I would like to give a big thank you to the City of Apache Junction, the Apache Junction Police and their Auxiliary, to the Fire Department, Parks and Recreation, Public Works and all the people who worked behind the scenes to make the Veterans Parade a success. The City has given outstanding support this year and in years past.

Another big thank you to the Commemorative Air Force and Allen Arnold for arranging the WWII SNJ flyover that started the parade: The U.S. Air Force for the "punctuation" mark halfway through the parade.

I also need to thank the A.J. Mounted Rangers for keeping an eye out for any trouble: VFW Post 9399 for all of its hospitality as the host: The Chamber of Commerce, the Parade Committee Members, all of the entrants, the list goes on and on.

Thank you Apache Junction, and most of all, thank you Veterans. God Bless America.

Glen Koepke, Apache Junction  
Parade Committee Chairman

*Editor's note: And a big thank you to Glen Koepke and the other volunteers who assisted in putting together the parade and events.*

## Reply from Ohio

As a former long-time resident of Apache Junction, I like to check out the AJ News on-line once in a while, just to see if I'm missing anything. But no, everything is as it should be including an irate neo-con ranting about a Democratic President. I'll take a little walk through Don Smith's literary pasture (Letters to the Editor, Nov. 7, 2011) and see if we can't separate the wheat from the chaff.

Smith states the President is using our tax dollars to campaign. He doesn't spell this out very well, but I'm guessing he means Obama is using Air Force One to fly to different cities for fund raising rallies. A little history lesson here, Don. Every President since Kennedy has done that. Why do you think JFK was in Dallas, his health?

The second point brings to our attention concerns a favorite right wing boogie man, the media. Don has two sub points here. Contention A) The media is blaming Congress for the President's lack of leadership. The President can do many things, but one thing he can't do is propose a bill before congress. He is the Chief Executive Officer, have one of your Tea Party buddies look it up for you.

Contribution B) The media is making the Republican candidates look bad. No, they are doing that all by themselves. In no order, Mitt was pro health care, pro abortion and pro gun control before he was against it. Bachman was glad to visit the home town of John Wayne (Gacy). Perry should be a blond, great hair, but that's it. Cain has a tax plan that will put the country deeper in the hole. Yep, the dirty left wing media did all that. It sounds kind of self inflicted to me, Don.

Smith closes with Tea Party v. OWS. I will close with this. OWS is protesting the 1 percent taking advantage of the rest of us. The Tea Party is owned by the 1 percent.

Phil Fugate, Fairborn, Ohio (formerly of AJ)

## Babeu in Congress

Just a few lines to answer that piece Babeu wrote in another newspaper. We already have a messed up Congress and Babeu wants to run for Congress. That would be like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. He speaks of events that call him to rerun for sheriff. As far as I can see, the only people that want him to run for reelection for sheriff is people that he has given so much B.S. to and they believe him.

He speaks of fighting crime in the county and he talks about Attorney General Eric Holder. Come on Babeu, you can't hold a candle to him.

As far as your working to rid us of this cartel that is supposed to be in our county, you really have a great imagination. And blaming our attorney general for guns found in the desert!! I want to know this— when do you ever get off your butt to do anything other than go to events?

You and your brother need to find jobs you can handle. We need a sheriff that works and not just pats himself on the back all the time. You spend our hard earned tax money like it is candy. Do your job that you are hired for and stop spending our tax money on toys!

I just wish people would wake up and see just what hasn't been done for us and what it cost us for all this do nothing work! And yes you would fit right in with Congress. The do nothing Congress!

Marshall Kenote, Apache Junction

## Looking for an old friend

I am looking for an old friend- an artist named Robert (Bob) Arent whom I believe still lives in the Apache Junction area. I would like to get into contact with this gentleman. If he or anyone who knows him would contact me, I would really appreciate it. Thank you.

John Panchalk, Pittsburgh, Pa. 412-953-2776

## Thanksgiving Day Community Outreach

I wanted to share that per the Thanksgiving Day Community Outreach at CWC, we have had a great outpouring from the community to come and volunteer to serve the community. The *AJ News* has certainly been a huge blessing to us and joining the Chamber of Commerce is a wonderful experience already!

Thank you again for all you and your team does for us and this wonderful community!

Rev. Bob Lenz, Cornerstone Wesleyan Church

## ¿Que Pasa?

### Season of Thanks

As Thanksgiving approaches, I think it's important to take a gratitude inventory. A number of things in life can make us uncomfortable or even a little miffed. But sometimes they are gifts in disguise. With that in mind, here are my top ten things to be thankful for.

- Be thankful for growing older. Not everyone gets this opportunity. Aging with health and grace is a rare and beautiful gift.

- Be thankful that you can read these words. It is a very sad thing that many people do not have the ability to read.

- If you have to wait in line at the supermarket, be thankful that you can afford what you want to eat and have a convenient place to buy it. We are all aware of the many people waiting in line to have a meal at the local homeless shelters.

- Be thankful for the abil-

ity to pay your bills, even if it means that you have to give up some things that you want. Remember that having basic needs met is a luxury for many people.

- If you have to get up before dawn to get to work, be thankful that you get to see another sunrise and have a job to go to. Think about what it would be like if you slept everyday until noon and spent the rest of your waking hours wondering what to do with your life.

- When you're stuck in traffic, be thankful you have a car to get where you need to go and money to buy gas.

- When the kids are screaming at each other, be thankful that you have children to love and who love you, and remember that, at least some of the time, they do get along.

- When your partner is acting grumpy or giving you a hard time, be thankful for



Ed Barker, Editor

having love in your life and someone to grow old with. A life partner is something that less than half the population has. Having your partner is a blessing that needs to be counted several times.

- When your parents are telling you how to run your life, be thankful that you still have them around. If they are no longer with you, take a moment to be thankful for the time you had with them.

- When you sit down with your loved ones for Thanksgiving dinner, be thankful for everyone and everything that makes it possible. Tell your family and friends

of your gratitude for sharing this wonderful time together.

Thanksgiving is a very special holiday. Embrace those around you and your ability to give thanks to those you love.

## More thanks

Andrew Hunter of Dawsonville, Georgia will have a great Thanksgiving this year. Hunter, a 24-year-old server at a taco restaurant, found a lottery ticket in the trash and took it to a convenience store near where he works. He redeemed it for \$3 and used the money to buy three \$1 Mega Millions tickets. In last Tuesday's drawing, one of the three tickets won him \$250,000.

"I would have never bought that ticket if I hadn't pulled the other ticket out of the trash," Hunter said. "I don't think it's really hit me yet."

## Best

## Wishes

## on

## Thanksgiving

## Kollenborn's Chronicles

Read the Chronicles archive at [www.SuperstitionMountain.info](http://www.SuperstitionMountain.info)

### Jim D. Hatt: The Search Must Go On

By Tom Kollenborn  
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Who was Jim D. Hatt? He was a man devoted to finding gold in the Superstition Wilderness Area and his desire and tenacity equaled that of any man who ever searched for gold there. Hatt was born in Lansing, Michigan on November 30, 1949. He attended school in Lansing, graduating from East Lansing High School in the spring of 1967. Jim married shortly after high school and had three sons. He joined the United States Air Force after his marriage.

Jim eventually moved to Florida and attended Devry College where he acquired his knowledge of Nuclear Engineering and became a radiation health technician in the Nuclear Power field. He worked for a variety of Nuclear Power Plants including Three Mile Island, St. Lucie, and Arizona's Palo Verde Plant. Three Mile Island was Jim Hatt's first experience with dangerous levels of radiation from a nuclear source. Jim told me he was involved in the development of a small robot that could be used for clean up in the contaminated areas. It was after all of this he decided to search for gold in the Superstition Mountains.

He first arrived in Arizona about 1989. He worked at Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant when I first met him. He attended one of my classes on rattlesnakes of the Sonoran Desert in 1992. Jim and I were very close friends for almost twenty years. He shared many of his dreams and expectations with me during that time. We made several trips into the mountains together, but he focused primarily on Tortilla Mountain. Ironically, I understood his obsession with the mountain.

Earl Arthur Hatt, Jim's great grandfather, told him about the Superstition Mountains and the Dutchman's lost mine in 1956. Earl Hatt knew members of the Petrasch family personally and heard many stories about the period 1880-1900. This was Jim's contribution to the Dutchman story.

Jim became very obsessed with the gold of the Superstition Wilderness Area and focused all his resources on the search beginning in 1989. He would take a temporary job such places as Palo Verde, or Ford Proving Grounds, but his search for the old Dutchman's gold was a full-time



Jim Hatt first arrived in Arizona about 1989.

avocation. His sometimes caustic and stubborn attitude made him some enemies, however, most of the time he was amiable and friendly. He sometimes stretched the truth or told a story just to get a rise out of people. The best way to tell his story is to let you read excerpts from a letter he wrote to me on March 4, 1995 from St. Lucie, Florida. Jim worked there temporarily on a six-month contract to supplement his grubstake so he could continue his search on Tortilla Mountain.

"Dear Tom: Just a short note to let you know I am alive and well. I used to love the beach, and the sound and smell of the ocean. I don't know if that love has died or just overpowered by the pull of Superstition Mountain and the burning memories I have of my experiences in the SWA. It really was time for me to back off, and see if it was love or lust, I have for the area. As I was on the sugar white sand of the beaches of Hutchenson Island, I appear content to all that see me, but inside there is a sadness, and words of a great chief echo in my head, "the mountains, the cactus, the bear and coyote all miss me and wonder when I will return."

"Tom, I know you think Al Reser and Clay Worst would never tell me any thing of value concerning their beliefs about the location of the

mine, but I think they have. After spending three years (1989-1992) on Tortilla, I approached them (one at a time) and disclosed what I had found. I described areas in such detail, and showed photographs of things I had found that convinced them I was one determined individual. They both told me other things in those areas that I missed, which I later verified. Then two days before Thanksgiving 1994, I got a call from Clay inviting me for Thanksgiving dinner. Boy was I shocked to arrive and find Al there. There seems to be a sort of fraternity of individuals who have paid their dues on that mountain.

I brought with me, into the Holmes Camp, information from the original Petrasch Camp, that I believe the current Petrasch Camp may not have been aware of it. You at least have never let out anything that leads me to think you are aware of it. But I think you are pretty tight with your secrets! (grin). These things ensure that I will some day be vindicated for my search. There is no way my efforts could ever be looked back on as in vain. I expect to be back this summer to pick up where I left off. Will let you know when I get back. See you this summer. Jim"

The foregoing excerpts from Jim Hatt's letter allows the reader to realize how devoted he was to searching for the



Tom Kollenborn  
For more on the  
Superstition Wilderness  
go online to  
Kollenborn Chronicles

lost gold in the Superstition Mountains and how important it was to be accepted into the Dutch Hunter fraternity. Jim Hatt, like many others, devoted the later part of his life to this search. He was very intelligent, clever and very mechanically inclined.

This letter and several others from Jim Hatt revealed a man with his heart torn between reality and the adventure of searching for lost gold around Tortilla Mountain. So many others have followed this perilous treasure trail through life and found nothing at the end of the rainbow. He was devoted to the search. He chose one of the most rugged mountains in the Superstition Wilderness Area to search. He was determined to defend his ideas and opinions to the end. If nothing else, you had to respect him for his dedication and tenacity.

The last time I visited with Jim was at the First Water Trail Head in late July of 2010 during the search for three missing Utah prospectors. Jim had hiked into the Weaver's Needle area trying to help out. While others remained in the cool of their homes during a very hot summer, there was Jim out looking for clues as to what happened to three lost prospectors. We were all sitting under a mesquite tree in the shade with temperatures around 109 degrees. Jim was coughing quite severely and I noticed blood on his handkerchief. I had no idea he was so ill. Later, after he passed away on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, I learned he had been diagnosed with terminal lung cancer early in the fall of 2009. Jim paid his dues in the mountains; he made his enemies, and also made friends. There were searchers out there that summer who really respected him for his effort.

Jim left behind a sister, Sherry Waller, three sons, and his close friend Doris Abbott. Doris cared for Jim up to the end then he was moved into Mesa to hospice for his last two days of his life.

You might say Jim D. Hatt found his niche in life when he got on the trail of the Lost Dutchman mine.