

EASY LIVING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2014

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GREEN VALLEY NEWS & SUN 51

**Monikers
no child
should
ever have**



Generosity Today
BY BETTY LEWIS

No, we can't choose our ancestors. They are inherited along with eye color, hair color, height and facial features, and we are stuck with them, whether desirable or not.

Similarly, our names are chosen by our parents, and in some cases we wonder if they were entirely wise at the time.

Hereditary names have long been popular and many children still acquire them, desirable or not. Some ill-fated characters either refuse or are named after, rather than in honor of, their parents.

And then there's Herodias, the daughter of King Herod. When she danced for him and his guests, the king promised her anything she wanted. Her mother persuaded her to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter.

The girl was obedient, but hardly someone you would want your child to emulate. One of my ninth grade granddaughters, just like Herodias, Leif, often called Herod or Herodias, was stuck with that name when she was born in England in 1984.

She may not have liked her name, but she did her best to live up to it. When she was only 14 years old, her first husband, John Hicken, brought her from England to Newport, Rhode Island.

Shortly after, he was taken to court for beating her and soon took off for New Amsterdam with their two children. She obtained a divorce from him in December 1840 and entered into a common-law marriage with George Gardner.

When she petitioned for a divorce from Gardner in 1861, she stated she had little choice but to live with him after Hicks left, as she had no source of income. She and Gardner had several children, including Nicholas, Will, Henry, Belmont, George, and Dorcas Gardner. Some became prominent citizens of Rhode Island.

About 1865, Herodias was married again to John Porter. Due to the loss of Newport records during the Revolution, it's difficult to verify incidents and dates, and there is no record of her life with Porter or any information as to when she died.

One of my eighth grade granddaughters was also saddled with an ungainly name, Mathewallathathah-ben Gorton. This name, given in 1840 to the biblical prophet's son conceived after the Lord commissioned him to warn Israel of their sin, means "quick to plunder, swift to the sword."

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By Alison Duff
With Contributions From David

Sky School connects Tucson students to science on Mount Lemmon

If your solar system were the size of a penny, the Milky Way galaxy would be roughly the size of the United States.

The children hear this and their eyes widen. Lifting a small circle, fifth graders from the Academy of Tucson listen as an astronomer, director of the Mount Lemmon Sky Center, tells them about our solar system and the challenges of space exploration.

As he talks, he passes around a small globe of our solar system. The children take turns examining the globe, which is held in the center space that remained intact after hitting the Earth.

After the lesson, the children are off to bed, ending yet another science-filled day at the University of Arizona Sky School. This new program connects students to astronomy through an immersive residential experience at the Mount Lemmon Sky Center in the Santa Catalina Mountains north of Tucson.

Now in its second year, the Sky School has brought hundreds of schoolchildren to the mountains to experience a wide spectrum of subjects from astronomy and geology to biology and ecology. Programs range from a two-day, one-night stay for grade-schoolers to a four-day, three-night program for high school students. All the programs are led by UA scientists and graduate fellows.

The Sky School programs have become so popular that they are booked through June.

"Demand has outpaced our plan for growth," Strauss said.

TOP: Students gather on Mount Lemmon during the Sky School program.

BOTTOM: UA grad student Nora Hough leads students in 10 minutes of silence to listen to the sounds of the forest.



In early November, 34 fifth graders from the Academy of Tucson spent two days and one night immersed in science from the heights of Mount Lemmon to its 13,000-foot summit. The youngsters connected with their teachers and peers in a new environment outside the classroom.

"It's great to just watch the students having fun," said Celeste Perrotta, a fifth-grade teacher at the Academy of Tucson. She said she enjoyed talking to the children.

"Demand has outpaced our plan for growth," Strauss said.



TOP: Students gather on Mount Lemmon during the Sky School program.

BOTTOM: UA grad student Nora Hough leads students in 10 minutes of silence to listen to the sounds of the forest.

LEARN MORE

The University of Arizona Sky School program was designed to collaborate with local school districts to meet Arizona State and National Science Foundation standards.

Students are divided into small groups and assigned to a specific topic. They are then given a choice of activities to complete, including a hands-on project and a research paper.

Free include all instruction, meals and dormitory lodging. This cost is \$225 per person for the four-day three-night program. Schools pay only for the Sky School student's travel.

For more information, visit the Sky School website: <http://sky-school.org>

Questions? Contact Alison Duff at (520) 426-8121 or aduff@sky-school.org

UP THE MOUNTAIN
The students arrived at Babadag Overlook, the first stop of their Mount Lemmon adventure, around 8 a.m. There they were met by Strauss and Pacifica Bommers, a doctoral candidate in UA's department of ecology and evolutionary biology. Strauss said she enjoyed talking to the children.

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GENEALOGY

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the spot." It is believed Mary, who was later called, was the child born while her father was captured and imprisoned in Boston. Whether Samuel Corson equated himself with the prophet to unlock, but he was a voice crying in the wilderness. Another woman's name, unfortunately fallen into disuse is Aemath, meaning "swift, mis-

fortune." I have several Aemath Smith's in my family tree in the 1700s, none in my direct line. This name would seem to doom its bearer to a life of misery, once she learned the meaning. Family members also may influence a baby's naming. My mother was named Edna Edna, because her Aunt Edna was named after her. Her father had the name Edna, and began calling her Edna. Betty before she was 2 years old. As a consequence, my

mother received only two nicknames but she bore the hated name for life. My grandfather, Louis, was killed by a drunk driver shortly before my birth. Subsequently, I was named Betty Lou. I always envied my sister, born two years later, and given the name Barbara, popular at that time.

Betty Lou Meluskey, a local-voiced genealogist, is a past president of Green Valley Genealogical Society. Contact her at bettylou@meluskey.net or via her society's website at www.meluskey.com/cogp/

SKY SCHOOL

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Sommers distributed a stack of field guides for the children to record their notes and observations. She then split the youngsters into groups led by the other graduate fellows.

After an introduction and short lesson, the children split into several pairs and vans. On the way up to the SkyCenter, they stopped several times to learn about Mount Lemmon's temperate forest, climate, biodiversity and plant life.

The students are encouraged to speculate and ask questions, said Janet Dougherty, a fifth-grade teacher at the Academy of Tucson.

"It's just such a great opportunity for them to get out of the classroom and put into practice some of the things they've learned," she said.

Before each visit, teachers at the Sky School know what they are teaching and what they are interested in learning about, said Rebecca Lipson, a senior instructional specialist for the Sky School and notes and observations. She is a middle school teacher at then split the youngsters into groups led by the other graduate fellows.

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