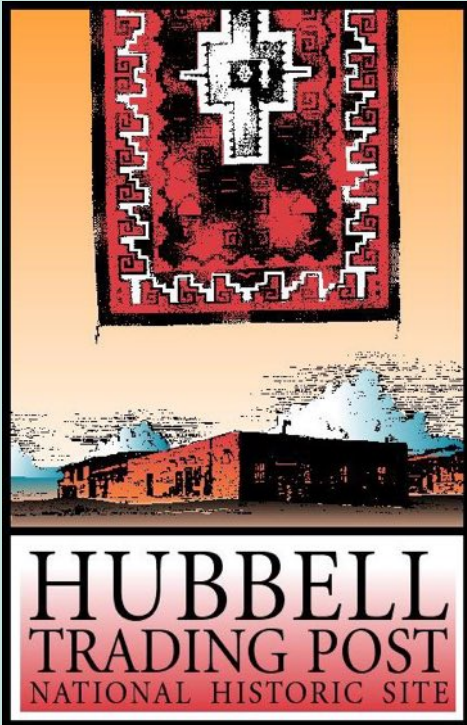


Friends Of Hubbell Trading Post Newsletter



■ Issue No 9 ■ Summer ■ 2020



What's Inside

Chairman's Report

The Legend Behind
Pendleton Indian Trade
Blankets

GALLUP
Real **TRUE**

Chairman's Report

Friends of Hubbell is disappointed to have to notify all buyers, artists, volunteers, and traders that we have decided to **Cancel** the **September 26, 2020** auction in Gallup, NM.

The risks to all involved outweigh the effort to pursue the September auction, and we don't not want to place anyone in jeopardy through travel or gatherings.

We are pleased to announce that 2020 Scholarships (10) will be awarded in late August for the upcoming school year

We are also looking at an Internet Auction and any announcement will be posted on Facebook or through the FOH web address below.

We hope to see you in Gallup at our next live auction on May 1, 2021.

Website: FriendsofHubbell.org

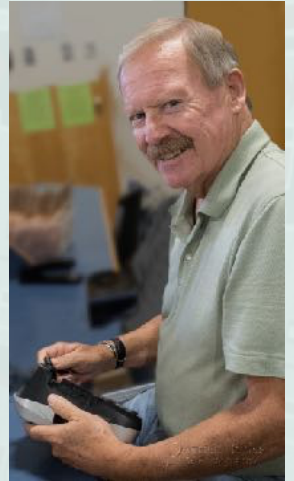
Questions: FriendsofHubbellauction@gmail.com

(Donations/Correspondence)

Friends of Hubbell
PO Box 25603
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Contact us at friendsofhubbelauctions@gmail.com for more information
Friends of Hubbell Trading Post, Box 25603, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

*Frank Kohler, Chairman,
Treasurer*



The Legend Behind Pendleton Indian Trade Blankets

By: Tom Surface

Pendleton Blankets are synonymous with Native Americans. It is definitely the most recognized name when it comes to American Indian Trade Blankets. These beautiful wool blankets with lots of color and different patterns were designed for tribes across the West and Midwest.

Opening his first mill in Salem, Oregon in 1889, founder Thomas Kay processed almost four million pounds of wool during the first year of the mill's operation. Most all of it made ready for blanket production. This ultimately led to the company's first slogan, "From the sheep's back to your back."

Now headquartered in Portland, Oregon, the original plants in Pendleton, Oregon, and Washougal, Washington, are among the few woolen mills still in operation in the United States and Pendleton woolen fabrics and blankets are still woven in these Pacific Northwest mills.



A kaleidoscope of Pendleton Indian Blankets all for sale

The Legend Behind Pendleton Indian Trade Blankets

By: Tom Surface

The Story Behind Indian Trade Blankets

In pre-Columbus North America, Indian blankets were made from hides or pelts of smaller animals which had been sewn together or woven from wool, feathers, down, bark and cotton and, in some areas, shredded cedar bark. When the Europeans came to America and bartered with the native peoples, wool blankets had great value in trading and the brighter the better. Most of the earlier trading blankets were plaids and block designs like the traditional Hudson's Bay blankets. By the turn of the 20th Century the woven Pendleton Indian blankets, with their brilliant colors and sharp details, became very popular after their introduction into what was known as the "Indian trade."

The Pendleton Blanket legend was born at a woolen mill in Pendleton, Oregon, in the early 1900s. The mill began producing striking wool blankets with vivid colors and authentic Native American Indian designs for the Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla Indian tribes in the Northwest. The popularity of the "Pendleton Blanket" began to spread to other tribes and local white settlers. Tourists venturing to the area also purchased the weavings as souvenirs to take home.

During this time, there were more than 300,000 Indians in the United States from many different tribes. Every tribe had different coloring and designs that were specific just to their tribe and their people. In order to make sure that these designs were made correctly, Pendleton sent out representatives to different tribes to determine what needed to be done for that specific tribe. The goal for Pendleton Mills was to weave "the correct designs and color demands by the Indians of the different tribes."

While doing this, the company discovered that "robes with colors acceptable to the Crows in the North were unpopular and not sellable to the Navajos in the Southwest." To correct this problem, the company dispatched design reps to the Native tribes in the American Southwest to develop ideas for designs and colors that might specifically appeal to the tribes of this region. Soon after, trade blankets expanded from the Native nations in the Northwest to the Navajo, Hopi and Zuni nations. These Pendleton blankets soon became basic wearing apparel and as a standard of value for trading and credit among Native Americans. The blankets also became prized for ceremonial use.

The Story Behind Indian Trade Blankets (continued)

Carloads of blankets traveled from Pendleton, Oregon, to the Southwest tribes to be exchanged for silver jewelry, wool, pottery or other items of value. The colorful blankets were integrated into everyday and ceremonial uses; part of a dowry, weddings, gift giving, pow-wows, dance prizes, naming ceremonies, funerals and memorials (sometimes blankets are packed in a coffin or a coffin is lined with a blanket to keep the loved one warm on his journey).

The value of the blanket is practical from an economic standpoint. For a time, there were two things acquired by young Native people for security in case of economic hardship; a Bulova watch for a man and a good blanket for a woman; either one of which could be pawned for a fair amount of money to tide them over to better times. Rarely did the owner not return to reclaim the blanket as soon as possible. One of the reasons for the popularity of these products is the care taken by the pattern designers to learn about the native mythologies and design preferences of their customers.

Pendleton celebrated its 130th birthday in 2019 and continues to produce what are now called “Indian Pattern Blankets”, robes and shawls, which are highly prized by many Native American. In the 21st century, the company is still privately held and operated by the sixth generation of the Bishop family.



Chief Joseph, Nez Perce



A Nez Perce family with their Pendleton Blankets

The Story Behind Indian Trade Blankets (continued)

Editor's Note: On a recent trip to the Hopi Reservation, I traded for a vintage Pendleton Indian Blanket. I traded bingo supplies, a pair of work boots, a pocketknife, and winter jacket for an older (1950s-1960s), but well-cared-for Pendleton. I traded as much as for the story behind the blanket as the item itself. For years, the blanket was used as a shawl and coat by one of the family's grandmothers. When she passed on to the next world, a small piece was clipped from the corner to go on the journey with her.

Pendleton Trivia: In 1960, a little-known singing group known as *the Pendletones* was formed, taking their name from the classic Pendleton wool plaid shirt. This group later changed their name to The Beach Boys and the Pendleton shirt became popular among American surf scene.



Chief Joseph Blanket

Courtesy of The Indian Trader News (New online website)

<https://indiantradernews.com>

Friends Of Hubbell Trading Post

Issue No 9 Summer 2020



Photos by:

Patricia Sides
Photography

Friends Of Hubbell Trading Post

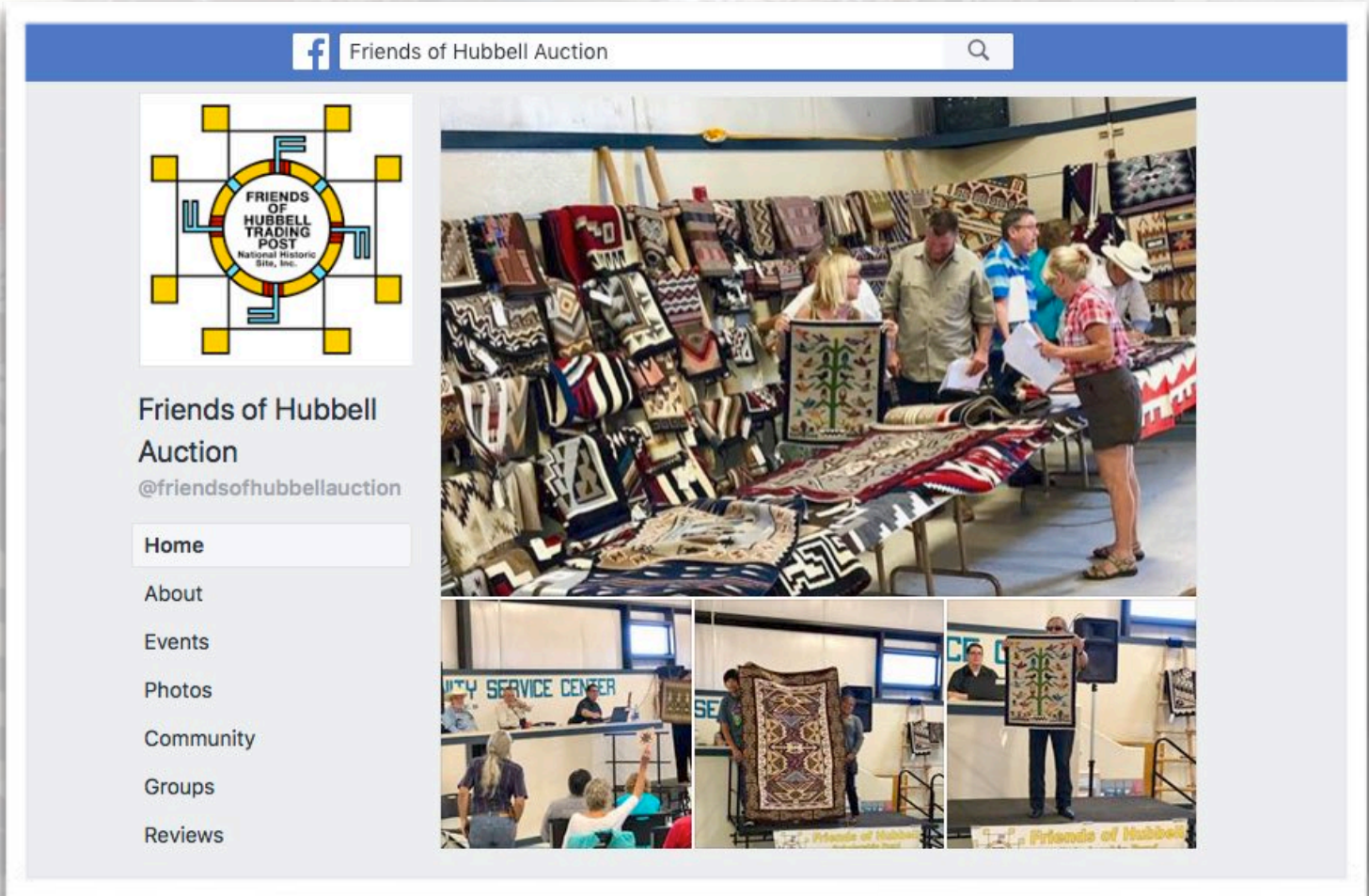
Issue No 9 Summer 2020

Click on the link below to go to Friends of Hubbell Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofhubbellauction>

Please visit our Facebook page where we will share more about artists, events, and happenings about Friends of Hubbell. We encourage you to visit the page and contribute images and articles about the wonderful art of Weaving, Pottery, Carvings, and much, much more.

Please follow us and like our page. Again, thank you for your support, as we could not do this without you.



Friends Of Hubbell Trading Post

■ Issue No 9

■ Summer

■ 2020

Board of Directors & Officers:

- Frank Kohler, Chair, Treasurer, Scottsdale, AZ
- Patrick Blackwell, Marketing / Secretary, Corrales, NM
- Hank Blair, Member at Large, Lukachukai, AZ
- Jeff Clarke, Vendors/Scholarships, Dolores, CO
- Larry Cohen, Membership, Tucson, AZ
- Tammy Denhard, Franklin, CO
- Lise Hicks, Scholarships, Tucson, AZ
- Jay Mahoney, Scholarships, Tucson, AZ
- Bill Malone, Scholarships, Gallup, NM
- Liz Munk, Scholarships, Tempe, AZ
- Colina Yazzie, Scholarships, Gallup, NM



Honorary Trustees and Additional Contacts

- Martha Blue, Flagstaff, AZ
- Martin Link, Gallup, NM
- Janet & Jim Hooper, Tucson, AZ
- Mary Walker, Technology Chair, Gallup, NM

As a federally recognized non-profit organization incorporated in 1990 [Arizona reg.# 02261435], the Friends of Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site, Inc. contributes to the management objectives of the National Park Service at Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site. Related goals include revitalizing Native American arts and crafts, perpetuating John Lorenzo Hubbell's legacy, providing college scholarships to Native American students, and increasing public awareness of the Park. We invite you to assist us in these efforts by becoming a member.

"Everything that is good; the concepts in Navajo of beauty, perfection, harmony, goodness, normality, success, well-being, blessedness, order, and ideal."

Handbook of North American Indians Vol. 10 Southwest, Gary Witherspoon, Language and Reality in Navajo World View.