

Apache Blvd Stories Project

Overview:

Seattle artist Benson Shaw is seeking anecdotes and stories about Apache Blvd and canals in the region. Please send stories from your family or personal experience. Humor is good but not required. From the collection of stories Shaw will choose examples which lend themselves to simple text or imagery. These examples will be presented in Shaw's mosaic artworks at the four Valley Metro Light Rail stations. Text will be inscribed in stainless steel medallions. The artwork will incorporate 50 to 200 stories.

Shaw is most interested in personal experiences, especially those which show how Tempe changes. Did your Gramma bring a cake to the workers during church construction? (ask her!). Send stories from any source, in **any language**, and related to any time. Send as many stories as you have.

Not all submissions will be used. Selections adapted to the artwork may contain only a portion of your original story - paraphrased text, an image, a color, a pattern. Story authors will not be acknowledged in the artwork. Submissions may become public record. They may be archived by VMR, Tempe Historical Museum or other public agency for public access and review.

Email your stories to: apachestories@bensonshaw.com Do not send images.

Instructions:

1. Interview yourself, acquaintances and family members for their interesting personal stories and experiences relating to Apache Blvd, the Tempe Canal, other canals in the region, and other aspects of life in Tempe. Note the year or decade!
2. Write as if you are telling the story verbally. Don't worry about grammar, spelling or writing style. Just tell the whole story. Include the year or decade!
3. Start with these ideas and see where the conversation goes. Note the year or decade!
 - A. Why were you there at that time? What did you do? see? experience? (Food, ethnic market, bowling, movies, stay in motel, milk barn, nightclub/bar, church/after church, school/after school, live stock, festival, lived there. . .)
 - B. How did you get there? What kind of car? Bus? Horse? Walk? Anything special about the car/bus/horse - color, smell, size, make/model? What were you wearing?
 - C. Have you ever seen or heard of strange objects or occurrences in or around the canals?

Sample stories, station artwork drawings, more: bensonshaw.com

Here is part of a story from a woman who grew up in the Hudson Park area:

Well then that's great! I'll be writing. I'll remember to tell you about Tex, who used to ride his horse and and tow the other along, from way on the other side of Apache Highway, from somewhere behind the old Oxbow Tavern, to our field of wild oats wedged between Cedar Street and the train tracks. My girlfriends and I would run to visit with him while the horses, Redbird and Sugar? grazed in the tall plants. We had our secret tunnels running through the high oats, hiding our little nests. However, one day Tex and his horses found my brother's secret underground fort, which he and his friend had dug out to quite a depth, covered with 2x4's, and replaced the sod for the roof. No one knew it was there, except us girls of course! . . . 1958