

January 26, 2023

Mr. George Harvey Balazs  
992 Awaawaanoa Place  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
RE: Museum donation, olla and trophy

Dear Mr. Balazs,

Thank you for your interest in donating your olla and Grubstakes soapbox trophy to the Hi-Desert Nature Museum. On November 8, 2022, the items were presented to and approved by the Town of Yucca Valley's *Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission*, which also serves as the Museum's collections advisory board.

On behalf of the Commission, the Town of Yucca Valley, the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, and our visitors, I would like to thank you for your generous donation to the museum's permanent collection (Accession # 2022.005). In order to complete the donation, please complete both copies of the Deed of Gift, and return the original in the self-addressed envelope enclosed. You may retain the second copy for your records. I have also included two Provenance Questionnaires for you to complete about both items you donated. If you have any questions regarding your donation, I can be reached at (760) 369-7212.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Cantú  
Museum Registrar and Exhibits Coordinator  
Hi-Desert Nature Museum  
Town of Yucca Valley



The Town of  
**Yucca Valley**

57090 Twentynine Palms Highway • Yucca Valley, California 92284  
760/369-7207 • FAX 760/369-0626



**Hi-Desert Nature Museum**  
 57090 Twentynine Palms Highway  
 Yucca Valley, CA 92284  
 (760) 369-7212 Fax (760) 369-1605

*Fill & Return*

**PROVENANCE QUESTIONNAIRE**

DONOR(S) NAME(S): GEORGE HARVEY BALAZS

OBJECT (or group of objects, if acquired at the same time from the same source):  
olla

1. How did you acquire it? (please check)

Purchase       Found       Gift       Inheritance

Other (explain) IN MY FAMILY SINCE FOUND IN 1954 BY MY FATHER WHITEWATER CANYON HIGHT. 2004 PASSING OF MY FATHER.

2. When did you acquire it? (please provide date)

3. If the object was purchase or inheritance, do you have a bill of sale, certificate, or any items relating to the transaction or authenticity? NO (No/Yes)  
 If yes, please attach a copy to this questionnaire.

4. Were there any previous owners? NO (No/Yes)  
 If yes, please list all known previous owners and their relationship to the donor(s):

NOTE - THE UNKNOWN INDIGENOUS ARTISAN.

5. Do you have any published information about the object? NO (No/Yes)  
 If yes, please attach a copy to this questionnaire.

6. Do you know the exhibition history of the object? NO (No/Yes)  
 If yes, please list:

NEVER EXHIBITED - IN MY SAME YUCCA VALLEY HOME SINCE FOUND IN 1954

Accession # 2022.005



7. Have you performed any repairs, made changes to the object or contracted a professional to perform cleaning or repairs prior to or while this object was in your care? NO (No/Yes)

If yes, please list names, dates, cleanings, changes, etc. and attach copies of any pertinent paperwork and photographs.

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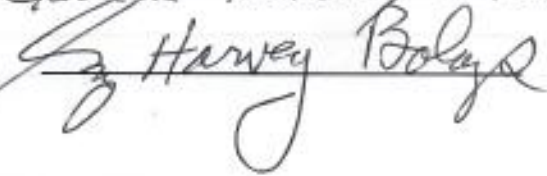
8. Please provide any history or tales associated with the object:

IN 1954 MY FATHER, GEORGE BALAZS JR., WAS A SURVEYOR'S ASSISTANT DOING WORK IN THE WHITEWATER CANYON. HE SPOTTED THE CLAY POT UPSIDE DOWN FITTED OVER A SMALL TREE STUMP OR BRANCH, AT A HIGH ELEVATION PLACE IN THE MOUNTAINS. HIS FIRST THOUGHT WAS THAT IT WAS A HUGE MUSHROOM, OR SOME OTHER FORM OF STRANGE PLANT. HE BROUGHT IT HOME WHERE IT WAS DISPLAYED WITH PRIDE. HE PASSED AWAY IN 2004. I AM THE SOLE SON OF GEORGE & EMILY BALAZS. THE POT NEVER LEFT OUR HOME ON YUMA TR. UNTIL I TOOK IT TO VANESSA AT THE

DONOR(S) SIGNATURE(S):

GEORGE HARVEY BALAZS

YUCCA HI-DESERT MUSEUM.



Date: 2-5-2023

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Accession # 2022.005



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 Yucca Valley, CA 92284  
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*Fill and Return*

**PROVENANCE QUESTIONNAIRE**

DONOR(S) NAME(S): GEORGE HARVEY BALAZS

OBJECT (or group of objects, if acquired at the same time from the same source):  
Brunstake's Trophy

1. How did you acquire it? (please check)

Purchase       Found       Gift       Inheritance

Other (explain) AWARDED TO ME IN SOAP BOX DERBY RACE, ACOMA TRAIL 1950s

2. When did you acquire it? (please provide date)

3. If the object was purchase or inheritance, do you have a bill of sale, certificate, or any items relating to the transaction or authenticity? NO (No/Yes)

If yes, please attach a copy to this questionnaire.

4. Where there any previous owners? NO (No/Yes)

If yes, please list all known previous owners and their relationship to the donor(s):

5. Do you have any published information about the object? NO (No/Yes)

If yes, please attach a copy to this questionnaire.

6. Do you know the exhibition history of the object? - (No/Yes)

If yes, please list:

NEVER EXHIBITED. IN MY HOME SINCE AWARDED.  
YUCCA VALLEY

Accession # 2022.005



7. Have you performed any repairs, made changes to the object or contracted a professional to perform cleaning or repairs prior to or while this object was in your care? NO (No/Yes)

If yes, please list names, dates, cleanings, changes, etc. and attach copies of any pertinent paperwork and photographs.

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8. Please provide any history or tales associated with the object:

THE TROPHY WAS AWARDED TO ME  
FOR FINISHING SECOND PLACE IN A  
SOAPBOX DERBY FOR GROBESTAKE DAYS.  
THE RACE, AS I RECALL, WAS HELD  
ROLLING DOWN ACOMA TRAIL.

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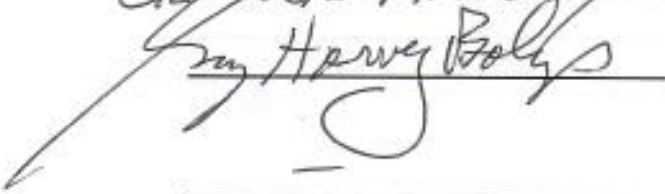
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DONOR(S) SIGNATURE(S):

GEORGE HARVEY BALAZS

 \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 2-5-2023

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Accession # 2022.005

Deed of Gift

Fill & Return

Name: GEORGE HARVEY BALAZS

Address: 992 AWAAWANDA PLACE, APT. A

Phone: 808-683-8402 Date: 2-5-2023

I own the personal property described below and desire to give said personal property to the Hi-Desert Nature Museum. I do hereby irrevocably and unconditionally give and transfer to the museum all right, title, and interest, including all copyright, trademark, and related interests, in and the to the following described property.

Description of Gift:

- 1. 1955 Grubstakes Days Trophy from Sky Coral and Sand Motel Shell Gas Station
- 2. Native American Olla (approx. 15" x 9")

By my signature below, I accept the foregoing conditions and acknowledge reading any attached information.

Donor/agent: *George Harvey Balazs*

Donor/agent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date received: 9/22/2022 Received By: Vanessa Corti

The Town of Yucca Valley and the Hi-Desert Nature Museum hereby express their gratitude for the generous gift of the object(s) described above. The acceptance and receipt of such is hereby acknowledged.

By: *Jepanie Pitts* Title: *Museum Supervisor*



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30 JAN 2023 PM 6



Mr. George Harvey Balazs  
992 Awaawaanoa Place, Apt. A  
Honolulu, HI 96825

96825-263573



BALAZS  
992-A AWAAWAANOA PL.  
HONOLULU, HI 96825



Hi-Desert Nature Museum  
Attn: Registrar  
57090 29 Palms Hwy.  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284