

Timeline

Chapter 3 1944 to 2007

1945 to 1949 High Jinks mining claim and ranch changed hands several times. Here are the recorded owners:

1945 Mr. and Mrs Jennings

1947 May John and Jennette Carr

1947 June Arthur C. and Elizabeth Sears

1949 Helen L. Brown purchased High Jinks. She later married Howard Reynolds. They owned High Jinks for 15 yrs.

1964 Lester and Dorothy Nauman purchase HJR and were the owners for 11 yrs. Lester Nauman was an electrical engineer. He added the pine paneling, installed the 220 V heaters (now removed), and much of the building wiring.

1975 Elton Dean Prichard and wife Liz purchased High Jinks. Dean owned High Jinks for 35 yrs, raising five daughters. He built many of the out-buildings and put in the pool. He rode in local parades posing as Buffalo Bill with his friend Jack Assini playing Johnny Baker.

1996 La Casa del High Jinks was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Dean's partner at the time, Laura Valade, filed the paperwork. For 20 years Dean Prichard served on the Arizona Trail Association and was trail warden for the Cody Trail Number 9 section of the Arizona trail. It's no coincidence the trail runs right by our front door.

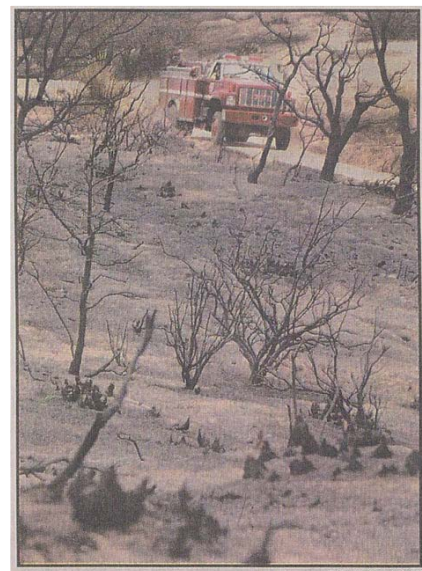




1998 A glider pilot snapped this great aerial shot of the ranch.

2002 July 16. Arizona Daily Star article: Oracle Hill Fire Day 3 Weather halts blaze's spread. "A downpour saved the ranch's buildings from destruction... {Prichard} owes a heavy debt to the firefighters... That wall of flame was like a slice of hell."

2007 March 18. Dean Prichard passed away..



A.E. Aralza / Staff
A firetruck passes through a blackened area near the ranch. A wall of flames forced firefighters to retreat.



Story and photo in the Oracle Public Library files.
April edition of *The Oracle* (by *Ellie Matausch*)

He Rode the Wind

Dean Prichard, of Oracle's historic High Jinks Ranch, died March 18. He was a long-time journalist. Most recently he was editor of the national edition of the *Tombstone Epitaph*, that was read by historybuffs around the world.

He was one of the founders of *The Oracle*. In the early years he wrote a one page column on local politics using the name *Cy Clopps*.

Prichard was a World War II veteran and 1950 graduate of University of Arizona. He worked for the *Arizona Daily Star*, *Kansas City Star*, *Detroit Free Press* and the *J. Walter Thompson Company*. At *Fairchild Publications* of New York he was the bureau chief of Northern Europe and the Soviet Union. At the *Reader's Digest* he covered Asia and Australia.

Upon his return to Arizona in 1974, he purchased Buffalo Bill Cody's ranch. It is a National Historic Site and a stop on the statewide and a stop on the state-wide Arizona Trail where Prichard volunteered as a steward.

He was also a founding member and a historic member of the Oracle Historical Society.

Prichard set about teaching journalism at the U of A, and writing and editing a local weekly newspaper serving the surrounding area. He also produced the *Epitaph* each month using the old type faces and style of the original *Tombstone* newspaper.

In 2004 he wrote and published a science fiction novel. *Tinn's Journal – The Alien Prophecy*.

He had a tragic accident last year that left him paralyzed. He spent his last days in a nursing home in Tucson. A memorial service was held Oracle State Park.

