



The Mohave Museum
of History and Arts
Mohave Memories

March - April 2021

Letter from the Director

The year 2021 seems to be carrying some baggage from the previous year, sort of a “brand new saddle but the same old horse”. I prefer to broaden the scope to include the start of a promising new decade. I would like to share with you a small and possibly meaningful insight that I experienced. I have been driving to the Museum for close to 20 years and being a creature of habit, I travel the same road daily. Two miles of my journey include a stretch of Route 66. My calculations based on 320 days a year of coming and going: 6400 trips at 2 miles of 66 traveled =12,800 miles on this iconic road. Now, take into consideration that a majority of those miles found me preoccupied with watching out for impaired drivers (alcohol or out of state), I still had sufficient time to enjoy this grand old road.

The automobiles of today have changed from the past, not only by looks and computer control but by the choice of energy that drives them. The chosen vehicle might be propelled by gasoline, diesel, battery or even nuclear fission.

No matter your car preference, the rubber must still meet the road and one great byway option is Route 66 through Mohave County. Of course you could throttle your way on I-40 and miss the magnificent scenery that “66” provides. Route 66 is so much more than just a beautiful road. It is a journey into the history of cross country travel. Route 66 is the painting on a canvas that represents the foundation of a nation in motion.

As you may well know The Mohave Museum grounds are bordered by Route 66 to the south and U.S. 93 to the north. I have had the pleasure of traveling these roads for the past 20 years and I am thankful for this rich experience in life (exception noted of those few times of getting caught in the Arizona road block where two cars are traveling side by side at 25 miles an hour for an extended period of time).

Spring will soon be here, and I would encourage you to get out and travel Rt. 66 for a pleasant afternoon drive and end the trip with a visit to any or all of the Museums that adorn this road.

Shannon

Officers

Bill Wales, President
Phyllis Eaton, Treasurer

Cathy Ott, Vice President
Sue Snell, Secretary

Shannon Rossiter, Director

Board Members

Robert Ballard	Marilyn Glancy
Jennifer Chambers	Rhonda Hart
Karen Collins	Judy Olney
Mike Dom	Jacob Story
Bill Ekstrom	Brandon Turner

Staff

Louise Benner	Mickey Chace
Jeffrey Brown	Vicky Markee
Andrew Campagnuolo	Cindy Morland
Gary Chace	T.R. Strigley

Nature Marches Forever Onward

Claire Whitley

It started with a brush covered hill, and ended with a nationally acclaimed science program. Well, really, it started with the vision of an amazing science teacher named Sharon Hackley. The Palo Christi Elementary School nature trail was the first of its kind in Arizona when it was finished in 1972, one year after Hackley started teaching at Palo Christi.

The once-ignored wilderness on a hill behind the school blossomed into a sprawling nature trail. There were Native American and geology trails as well as a pond. The plants and natural landmarks of the desert around the school were kept as part of the trail. A hedgehog cactus and a Palo Christi bush also made up some of the sites. "Along the Primary, Nature, Indian and Geology Trails are all kinds of interesting things to see. Among other flora ... are two types of prickly pear cactus, Burbank Spineless cactus, mistletoes, cat's claw, mesquite, euphorbia, ambrosia, Golden Rye, bladder sage, tobacco, buckwheat, grizzly bear cactus, mallow, burr sage, ocotillo, pack rat's nest, compass barrel and lightning rock, three types of cholla cactus, hedgehog cactus, wild cat, rainbow cave, wolfberry, Spanish dagger, Mormon tea, pencil and diamond cholla, beavertail cactus and Mohave Yucca."

By 1978, it was estimated that 4,000 people had toured the trail. The outdoor planning committee -- which consisted of students, teachers, and community members -- had maps and plans for 46 projects, 20 of which were completed within five years. "The next major projects include fencing the nature trail and the building of a nature trail," wrote Jeff Morrissette. Morrissette had been on location to tour the newly opened pond. The pond was a 3,000 gallon pond stocked with leopard frogs, a tiger salamander, waterdogs, six varieties of fish, crayfish and several plants. It also served as a kind of oasis for thirsty desert animals.

But this nature trail wasn't just a science program. Teachers used it for art and math, and even for a quiet reading period. Morrissette said the guided walk through the nature trail took about 45 minutes. The trail guides were fifth and sixth grade students. In addition to those 45 minutes, the Native American trail took half an hour. The exhibit included a replica of Montezuma's castle, which was built by students. There were native dwellings, murals and a carving in a wall.

This wasn't a small project. It was a five-acre pocket of wilderness. The trail took up most of the northern and northeastern areas adjacent to the institution where the desert begins. Joshua trees and Saguaro spires decorated the hillside. A guide booklet talks about tumbleweeds, prickly-pear cacti, the cat claw bush, creosote and agave plants. "See that bush? That is where a rabbit could hide. Look across the wash at the cave. Did you know the rattlesnake has to have shade in the hot part of the day?"

And it wasn't just flora, but fauna too. Chuckwallas sunbathed on the rocks, deer and antelope visited from the west, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department stocked the pond. There was a Geology Kit section that included black light and fluorescent rock collections, a Geiger counter, a rock hammer and a variety of collecting implements in addition to a rock collection donated from the University of Arizona.

Cont...

There were well-marked stops where children could study marigolds in flower pots, large sea shells, artificial flowers, yellow lizards, rubber turtles, a red dinosaur, colored feathers, yellow centipedes, a rubber snake, an artificial lady bug, a black plastic spider hanging from a web in a hole in a tall rock, an Irish potato, and the list kept going on. It was a community learning experience with partners from the Soil Conservation Service and the Bureau of Land Management and the State Department of Agriculture.

“Take a Quiet Trip,” wrote journalist Dick Waters. “You’ll be glad you made the trip. But if you do go, walk softly and muffle your voice. A big buck or a bobcat or a mountain lion may be watching nearby amidst the boulders and greasewood.”

I’d be surprised if they would still watch. If they could be seen beyond the overgrown, washed out pathways. The only sounds coming from Palo Christi were steady rainfall and a hop and rustle of wings. A flurry of movement in a dead landscape. An owl, blinking slowly, unamused by our trespass.

The trail stands disused locked away behind an abandoned school. A rough idea of where the path might be winds into the hills. Vegetation obscures the sign that reads: “The Sharon Hackley Nature Trail.” A legacy left to the will of the desert.

And nature is slowly taking it back.



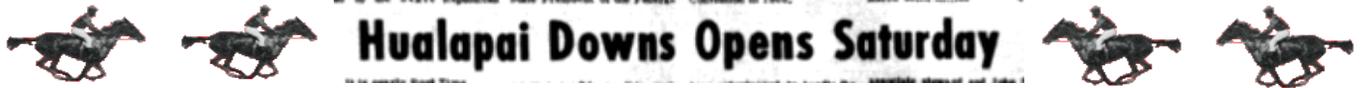
50 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER-1971

Mohave County Miner

• DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE •

Official Paper of Mohave County, Established November 5, 1882.
Published each week at Kingman, the County Seat.

15 Cents Per Copy — \$5.50 Per Year Thursday, April 1, 1971 Volume 88, Number 12



Hualapai Downs Opens Saturday

80 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER-1941

Mohave County Miner

\$3.00 Per Year — 10c Per Copy Thursday, April 3, 1941

Thirteen Men Leave Here For Army Induction Wed., Total Reaches 70

100 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER-1921

10c Per Copy **MOHAVE COUNTY MINER** \$3.00 a Year

AND

OUR MINERAL WEALTH

OFFICIAL PAPER OF MOHAVE COUNTY

Vol. XXXIX. Kingman, Arizona, Friday, April 8, 1921. No. 24.

Friday March 25th 1921

The Miner next week will carry an advertisement calling an election by the property taxpayers of Kingman school District for the purpose of voting on the issue of bonds in the sum of \$125,000 for the purchase of a school site, the erection of a public school building, furnishing same and improving the school grounds.

On sale now in the Mohave Museum Gift Shop:

Arizona Ghost Towns

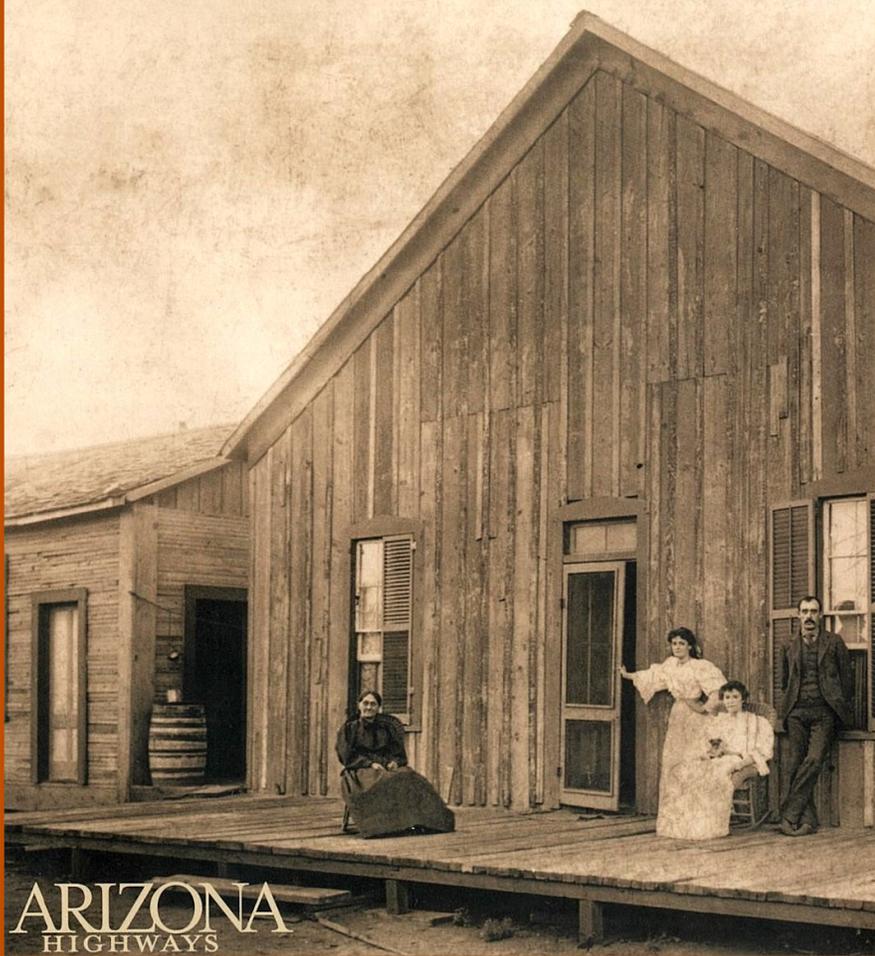
50 of the State's Best Places to Get a Glimpse of the Old West

By: Noah Austin

ARIZONA GHOST TOWNS

50 of the State's Best Places to Get a Glimpse of the Old West

BY NOAH AUSTIN



JEFF KIDA

About the Author

As the managing editor of *Arizona Highways* magazine, Noah Austin has been to every corner of the Grand Canyon State to report on Arizona's places and people. For this book, he spent more than 5,000 miles on the road and hundreds of hours researching Arizona ghost towns' history. He lives with his family in the Phoenix area.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Elmer & Dianna Harvey
 Mrs. Carol Delgado
 Mrs. Luci Pewsey, Surprise, AZ
 Ms. S. Scott, Mesa, AZ
 Mr. Albert S. Jagerson, Jr., Phoenix, AZ
 Mai (Mabel) Gray, Tucson, AZ
 James Byrne
 Gary & Mickey Chace
 Lois M. Pickens, Golden Valley, AZ
 Gaveston K. Brown
 Tamara "Tami" Frank
 Susan Ryno
 John Perko
 Patricia Detko
 Alpha Dunlop
 David A. Wilson
 David & Judy Rhodes, Tucson, AZ
 Clifford & Sharon Preston, Hualapai, AZ
 Mr. Jared Carithers
 Mrs. Ann Weaver
 Susie Gatineau
 Steve & Linda Kocher
 Bruce & Lorraine Leeming
 Camille Brown
 Kingman True Value
 Bill & Linda Miller
 Paul C. Knudson
 Lester & Lyndal Byram
 Larry L. & Christy "Hafley" Otto-Butler
 Joel & Amber Freed
 Mr. & Mrs. John Grunewald
 Ms. Judy Meigs
 Nancy A, Rembolt
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Snell
 Ms. Donna Frandsen
 Scott & Candy Lander Family Trust
 Brown Drilling - Jon & Amanda Kaufman
 Bob & Sue Jaussaud, Mohave Valley, AZ
 Adria Blue-Heil
 Deni Cochran
 Toni Bigelow
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Robert Grounds
 Louise D. Miller
 Jack G. & Nancy J. Munson, Waco, TX
 Arnold & Elizabeth Passehl
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stephens
 Gary & Janet Watson
 Warren & LeAnn Bard

Ms. Julia B. Hutchings
 Ms. Elaine Grenz
 Randy Jacobs
 Mr. Benson Parker, Phoenix, AZ
 Florine Hamilton
 Laird L. Hiestand
 Ken & Susan Boyd
 Ms. Sandra Cofer
 Kingman True Value
 Donna Moody, Tempe, AZ
 J. Grover Thomas & Cathy Thomas, Atlanta, GA
 Wayne & Lori Gunther
 Robin E. Gordon
 Lucy Hackley
 Jack Cunningham
 Mr. & Mrs. Pete Byers
 Christopher N. Cooper, Golden Valley, AZ
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Needham
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Womack
 Eve Garlyn & Steve Smith
 Wayne & Cheryl Smith
 Jerry & Louise Moran
 Joanna Haspels
 Rosanne Rosenberg
 Sue Wade, Hackberry, AZ
 Leonard & Anita Langford
 Elaine & Joseph Maestas
 Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Pehl, Prescott, AZ
 Robert R. Dinneweth
 Theresa A. Langdon, Portland, OR
 James & Susie Sumner, Sonoita, AZ
 Joe & Rhonda Hart
 Bob & Sue Jaussaud, Mohave Valley, AZ
 Robert & Arlene Allison
 Richard & Jennifer Anderson, Lake Havasu City, AZ
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Campbell
 Leslie Burrows James, Sparks, NV
 Teresa Seay Cossey & Michelle Seay McCleery, Surprise, AZ
 Richard A. & Suzanne L. Christman
 Colorado River Historical Society Museum, Bullhead City, AZ
 T. R. Srigley
 Mr. & Mrs. Buffalo Hayden
 Ms. Rita Cownie
 Patrick & Mary E. Cunningham, Scottsdale, AZ

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Vivian & Charles G. Hopkins
 Ms. Shirley M Ryan
 Cindy Vawter
 Kim Dios, Golden Valley, AZ

City of Kingman Visitors Center
 Dave & Cheryl Meek
 Brian & Dawn Bowling

MEMORIALS

If a Memorial donation is not designated for a specific purpose, it will be used at the Museum's discretion.

Donor

In Memory Of

<p style="text-align: center;">Karin Goudy Jack M. Kesler Joan McCall Joan McCall Laurie A. Voss-Barthlow Clairann P. Cave Clairann P. Cave Clairann P. Cave Clairann P. Cave Lewis and Margaret Pehl Kathleen A. Baker Kathleen A. Baker Kathleen A. Baker Clairann P. Cave Clairann P. Cave Darel J. Fruhwirth & Ann D. Newton-Fruhwirth Darel J. Fruhwirth & Ann D. Newton-Fruhwirth Darel J. Fruhwirth & Ann D. Newton-Fruhwirth Ben Lamb & Pat Mullen-Lamb Ben Lamb & Pat Mullen-Lamb Ben Lamb & Pat Mullen-Lamb</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pauline Jessica "Jessie" Morrill Ann L. McCarthy Sandy Hubka Dan Cofer Bishop Dorothy Lee (Hodges) Brown Yvonne Collins Kathryn (Kathy) P. Allen Dan Cofer Bishop Phillip L. Bland Dan Cofer Bishop Dorothy Lee (Hodges) Brown Patsy Jean Neal Judy Ann (Finch) Smith Judy Ann (Finch) Smith William Bailey West IV (Bo) Eugene Ted Wolff Donald A. Welks Judy Ann (Finch) Smith Judy Ann (Finch) Smith George Edgar (Tuffy) Henry Karri Short</p>
---	---

Mohave Memories

Newsletter and Museum Memberships

MOHAVE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

invites you to participate in preserving our past and building our future.

General Member \$ 30.00

Includes member and immediate family, free admission to Mohave Museum,
 Route 66 Museum & Bonelli House.

Supporting Member \$100.00

Includes all General Member benefits, plus no-charge research assistance from Museum staff.

Business Member \$200.00

Director's Circle \$500.00

MOHAVE MUSEUM
OF HISTORY AND ARTS

400 WEST BEALE STREET
KINGMAN, AZ 86401-5708
928-753-3195

Email:
musum@mohavemuseum.org

Web: www.mohavemuseum.org

Published bi-monthly by
MOHAVE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President ···· Bill Wales
Director ····· Shannon Rossiter
Printer ····· H&H Printers, Inc.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kingman, AZ
Permit 41

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

March - April 2021

