



The Mohave Museum  
of History and Arts

# Mohave Memories

January - February 2022

## Letter from the Director:

I never realized how intertwined the Museum and the Kingman community are until the other day when I stopped at a local lumber yard and had to answer a scrutinizing question: "Why is the Director's newsletter full of words that average people don't understand?" My answer was simple, "there are no average people"! I write to Museum Members that are far above average, a group so extraordinary that I consider myself lucky to be able to communicate with them through this newsletter. However, this being said, he did have a point; there is no need to heap flowery praise on this Museum or its members. The beauty and history housed in these walls speak volumes by and for themselves and our members have contributed to both.

There seems to exist a mist or more of a fog made up of chronological time particles that envelope all things from human beings to cyber technology and this aging process has been more than kind to the Museum. The Museum is dynamic, always absorbing the current history while keeping the past relevant. I have been fortunate to be a witness to the silent whisperings the Museum makes after guests and staff have left. I'm not talking about ghostly apparitions but rather a feeling you get that tells you: history is more than preserved objects, it's the promise of a bright and wondrous future. Christmas will be a week past and the tree still looks good. The New Year is rolling in and the Museum is still an integral part of Kingman, Mohave County and Arizona. The only changes I see for the future are new exhibits and new faces enjoying them.

My lumber yard friend was right: "words do matter". My answer to him: "I use above average words, but I am in fact addressing them to extraordinary people". We live in a day and age when mistakes are made, but rather than try to fix them, one is content to find someone to blame. I am here to assign blame to each and every one of you for the Museum's success. I salute all of you that have given of your time and resources to make the Museum a stellar example of the correct way to preserve History. I applaud the daily efforts made by volunteers, staff, members and the Board of Directors to keep the Museum beautiful and relevant.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Shannon*

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Sue Snell, Secretary

Shannon Rossiter, Director

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The following is an excerpt from “That Cowboy From Burro Creek” written by Grace Neal and published by the Mohave County Historical Society. This excerpt first appeared nearly 20 years ago in the 1992 October-November issue of the Mohave Museum Newsletter. This timeless, entertaining and historically educational book written by Grace Neal, a member of one of the best loved pioneer ranching families in the county, is available for purchase through the Mohave Museum gift shop for \$22.95 + tax.



\*\*\*\*For several months, rumors had been circulating that “something big” associated with the war effort was about to happen in Mohave County. All indications suggested that this would take place in the Lake Havasu area, well away from the population center of the county, in Kingman. In April of that year, the War Department officially announced that, because of the ready availability of open country and the usually year-round, good flying weather, Kingman was one of six sites in the United States that had been selected for the development of a Flexible Gunnery School.

By December, 1942, construction of the Kingman Army Airfield was underway, as well as six other sites in Mohave County, with a significant installation being built at Yucca named the Yucca Sub-Base. Building was completed in a very short time, and, although it had been over eight months since the official announcement of the base, Kingman was still unprepared for the actuality of 7000 servicemen and their families arriving in town. From peacefully fulfilling its role as the seat of Mohave County government and the commercial center for the surrounding ranching and mining industries, Kingman boomed overnight. Until the departure of the troops in 1946, over 35,000 Service men and women were to call Kingman their temporary home. This training base was the last stopping place for many before they left for overseas duty. Some of the servicemen were accompanied by their families, determined to spend as much time together as possible before a parting from which there was a possibility of no return.

It was very difficult, in many ways, for this small, easygoing town to cope with this sudden influx of residents. Housing was the biggest problem for the newcomers, and servicemen and their families found shelter anywhere they could, no matter how basic, crude and expensive it sometimes was. Many residents opened their homes and rented accommodations. John and Amy Neal, now living in their new house on Park Street, were among the first to do this. The ever obliging Ed moved his quarters to the back porch, and the Neals rented four of their five bedrooms to Army personnel. Their tenants were mostly Colonels and their wives, and to the amusement of Amy’s family, she quickly organized these people, who were so used to giving commands themselves, into a strict and structured schedule. Each couple had an allotted time in the bathroom, and Amy always seemed able to arrange for one of the wives to help out around the house. John, in typical fashion, refused to allow his guests to leave home without a good meal. He was in the kitchen early each morning to prepare a ranch style breakfast before the men and their wives left for the base. John and Amy were very experienced at having people around them and this proved to be a great asset, under the Circumstances.\*\*\*\*

John and Amy Neal  
#3036



Grace Neal  
#12621

Postcard: Kingman  
Army Air Base aka  
Kingman Army  
Air Field #12043



Kingman Army Air  
Field mail call  
ca 1942  
# 9643

# **“Our Time, Our History”**

Upcoming Events.

**January 15, 2022 at 1pm at the Mohave Museum.**

Join  
Dr. Jay Cravath  
for a trip back in western musical history.

## **Miners, Cowboys and Washerwomen: The Worksongs of Arizona.**

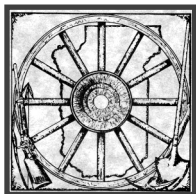
In a narrative and musical portrait of working-class music, Dr. Cravath explores its roots and rhythms in our state. From Hopi basket songs, the cotton fields of Chandler and the crooked streets of Jerome, songs were companions to the immigrants who explored and built our state. Through performance and discussion, these tales, which reveal so much of the nature and character of a people, are explored.

**February 12, 2022 at 1pm at the Mohave Museum**

Join  
Gregor McNamee  
as he presents:  
**Desert Rats, River Runners, and Canyon Crawlers:  
Four Arizona Explorers**

Francisco Garces, a Franciscan friar, arrived in what is now Arizona in 1768. Assigned to the church at San Xavier del Bac south of present-day Tucson, he traveled widely throughout Arizona and California, charting overland routes that later travelers would follow. Near where Garces would meet his death in 1781, an American soldier named Joseph Christmas Ives embarked on an arduous expedition up the Colorado River, one of the first Americans to see what he called the Big Canyon. A dozen years later, the river-running explorer John Wesley Powell would name it the Grand Canyon, and a hundred years after that a writer named Edward Abbey would explore the canyon country, writing classic books such as *Desert Solitaire* and *Black Sun*. In this talk, Gregory McNamee will look back on the accomplishments of these four explorers, each of whom shaped our understanding of this wild, sometimes challenging place called Arizona.

Programs brought to you by...  
**The Mohave Museum of History and Arts**  
in partnership with  
**Sounds of Kingman.**



Mohave  
Museum  
of  
History  
and  
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## Membership Renewals

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Alphia Dunlap	Jacky Polasky, Grapevine, TX



## New Memberships

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 Nancy Jimison, London, England  
 Ms. Gail Salmon  
 Dr. & Mrs. Irving Young  
 Haul & Mary Reddick  
 Bill R. Watson  
 Ryan Esplin  
 Mr. & Mrs. Fud Freiday



## Memorials

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

<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>
Sharon Allen Shelley	Dorothy Elizabeth Patriquin
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Daughters of The Mohave County Pioneers	Margaret Pemberton Koenen
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## 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**

**Applications available online**



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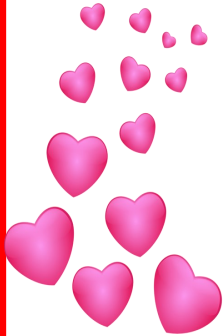
The Mohave Museum of History and Arts along with Sounds of Kingman  
would like to congratulate local Kingman businessman

**Steve Wagner**

on winning the Antique Quilt  
recently raffled at the Museum!!

Thank you Steve for supporting the Mohave Museum  
as well as The Sounds of Kingman!

**We appreciate you!!**



When asked what our visitors liked best about the Museum...

Love the history...great place to spend an  
afternoon. Great work Michelle—Phoenix

The Roy Purcell display-gorgeous & insightful.  
One of my favorite museums ever!  
Maureen-North Carolina

The murals and display composition  
are so well done! Very attractive  
Amber-Tucson

I learn a lot from WW2 airplane, since I love the  
Mustang P-51 Juan-Santa Ana CA

Everything...I'm very interested in old stuff. Lennie

The exhibits were very well done & interesting  
Ruth & Tom Scottsdale

Everything! Very interesting to know more  
about the history and household lifes.  
Anastasia-Moscow, Russia

This is a very impressive tidy, organized, easy to roam through & read, very  
informative. Loved the little theater-turn it up! Patti

**MOHAVE MUSEUM  
OF HISTORY AND ARTS**

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