

# MOHAVE MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ARTS

# MOHAVE MEMORIES

March—April 2017

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### FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the years of accountability rapidly encroach on me, I have a tendency to procrastinate. My wife disagrees with this assessment and insists that waiting until the last minute is ingrained in every fiber of my being. In order to prove her wrong, I am beginning this letter hours before the established deadline.

February holds a special place in the chronicles of Arizona history because of the 14th, the day that brought Statehood to this western territory in 1912. And in the year 2017 this month marks the 49th anniversary of the Museum's beginning. The Museum is on the precipice of celebrating its 50th birthday in 2018 and she doesn't look a day over 25! I am hoping that we can put together an event that will properly honor this fine institution.



After the Ides of March we welcome St. Patrick's Day on the 17th and to some this is a day to celebrate with corned beef and spirits, and that it is, plus much more... It was the day that the pure Irish, and of course those that wanted to be, got together at the Foley's and hoisted a cup for the Irish. Although Pat won't be here this year, his gracious spirit will be amongst us forever.

I have always maintained that the Museum is dynamic by nature and, therefore, is always evolving. Einstein said that energy cannot be destroyed but only changes form; when that form takes on an historical shape, the Museum will preserve and proudly display it. I am pleasantly surprised how many new exhibits that were in the planning stage have made it to the public view.

The Museum has gained two new bus tour groups that lodge in Laughlin and make Kingman their destination for a day to eat, and visit the Museums. Vicky has put in a lot of time getting these tourists here and giving them a tour that always receives a round of applause. If you have the time and desire to tag along with a bus group, and experience first-hand the way she makes history come alive, just call the Museum and find out the date of the next scheduled tour.



Again I want to express my gratitude for being a part of the evolution of Kingman's fine Museums. Please come down and observe the changes for yourself, and any constructive input will always be welcome!

### NOTES FROM THE RESEARCH LIBRARY

The winter season settled in Mohave County and our heating bills were on the rise, but winter is short around these parts and, with spring at our doorstep, we've moved ahead with enthusiasm... Besides, we keep warm with all the activity at the research library!

Interesting folks have stopped by, and through them we have been introduced to a "passle" of things about Mohave County and the related research projects. Some of these projects have been especially intriguing—everything from investigating a mysterious "grave site" to returning a pressed coin to a teenager who sent us a penny and two quarters from his home in Massachusetts.

Volunteer and Board member, Andy Sansom, recently handed over the production of our Mohave Memories Newsletter to me. Andy had picked up the Newsletter "baton" after Pat Foley left us and has published it for about two years. Thanks to Andy for all his hard work and for making this a smooth transition; we know how important the *MMN* is to all of you.

In early January I was invited to make a presentation to a small group at **Harrison Haven** about our three Museums. These mostly new residents of Kingman were happy to learn about the great resources we offer, and had many questions—good discussion. They were especially glad to know more about Kingman and discover new museum-related activities for family members who visit them. Of course I highly recommended Museum membership... and volunteering with us.

It's never a dull day at the library!

### Calendar of Events

**Mohave Memories On The Internet**  
[www.mohavemuseum.org](http://www.mohavemuseum.org)

#### **Mohave Museum of History & Arts**

The Mohave Museum of History & Arts invites you to participate in preserving our past and building toward the future with a Museum annual membership.

**General Member** \$30.00  
Includes member and immediate family free admission to Mohave Museum, Powerhouse Route 66 Museum & Bonelli House.

**Supporting Member** \$100.00  
Includes all General member benefits: plus no-charge research assistance from the Museum staff.

**Business Member** \$200.00

**Director's Circle** \$500.00

Application available at [www.mohavemuseum.org](http://www.mohavemuseum.org)  
Or call/visit the museum, 928-753-3195



### PHOTOS OF OLD KINGMAN WANTED!



Are there some **great old photos** hiding in your closet, attic, basement, or shed?  
Historical shots of Kingman downtown or surroundings—**circa 1890-1950**?  
Bring 'em in!

All photos will be scanned and returned safely to you.  
Contact Cathy, Andy, or Dale at the Library

928-753-3195

### **Museum Business Membership**

These are some of the Business Members who support the heritage and culture of Mohave County

- T. R. Orr, Inc.
- Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce
- UNS Electric, Inc. - Bill DeJulio

# 50 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

## March-April 1967

Mini skirts, scanty swim suits, television shows and other issues were discussed candidly by sixth grade students for a PTA audience at Palo Christi school recently. The panel members were volunteers and were selected by classmates to represent them.

The museum curator asks for artifacts to complete displays at the new museum which will open in the spring. Long-time residents and collectors may have many items which can be shown to tell the story of Mohave County and Kingman from the early days.

This year students at Mohave County Union High School find expanded opportunity for education in many areas. One of these is the business department which has expanded with new courses, new equipment, and revised objectives. The new emphasis is on "job readiness" in new office procedures.

"Ageless" Archie Moore, one of the all-time great boxing champions in world history, will come to Kingman Sunday for the open house at the Kingman Jobs Corps Center. He will be the principal speaker on the program and the public is invited to attend.

There's going to be a reunion with a decided Kingman flavor at Danang, in South Vietnam. Steve Whaley and Paul Torres are stationed only a quarter-mile apart at the big Marine base there, and they plan an early get-together with John England who is quartered nearby. Steve, Paul, and John were classmates at Mohave County Union High School, graduating in 1965.

A monument will be dedicated at the new Burro Creek Bridge Saturday at 2 p.m. at the site south of Wickieup on U.S. Highway 93.



Railroad officials and residents are issuing complaints of rocks being found on the railroad tracks, mainly behind

Hood's Market on Hilltop in the cut and behind the Ramada Inn. These rocks, apparently placed on the rails as a prank, could derail a train and cause serious injury and loss of valuable property, police chief Carl Fisher warns.

The new section of Interstate Highway 40, now being built just north of Kingman, will increase rather than decrease the town's tourist business, according to Melville Templeman, executive secretary of the Kingman Chamber of Commerce.



An official of the Southern California Edison Company has minimized possible air pollution and flatly stated there would be no steam pollution from his company's huge Mohave Generating Station to be built near Bullhead City.

## **SOUNDS OF KINGMAN PRESENTS**

### **"OUR TIME, OUR HISTORY"**

**Saturday, March 25, 2017 @ 2:00 P.M.**

Mohave Museum of History & Arts

### **ARIZONA SONGBIRDS: THE LIFE STORIES OF MARTY ROBBINS AND LINDA RONSTADT**

Steve Renzi's presentation will explore the lives and careers of these two popular music giants who grew up in Arizona and placed an Arizonan musical influence on our national cultural map.

**[www.soundsofkingman.com](http://www.soundsofkingman.com)**

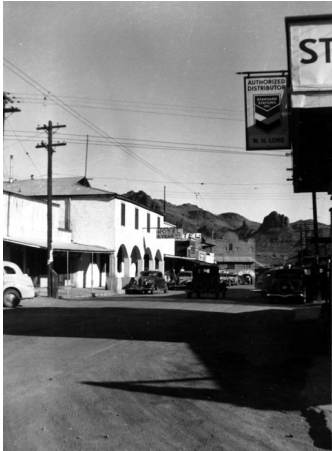


## 80 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

### March-April 1937

J. B. Knox, manager of the Grocerteria, has just completed remodeling and repainting his store inside and out, making the interior of the Grocerteria as attractive a store as can be found in Kingman.

Death Valley Scotty, who has been spending a few days in Kingman, will leave tonight for his castle in Death Valley.



OATMAN, CIRCA 1937

Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., visited Mrs. Emmaline R. Walker at the Mohave General Hospital Wednesday.

Oatman: The remodeling of the Hotel Everett, formerly named Hotel Durlin, is nearing completion. The building was remodeled both inside and outside and new furniture installed.

Two new microscopes were added to the biology department of the Mohave County high school because of the

large number of biology students.

Billy Russell, who has interested thousands in many eastern and western states with a 'freakly' developed faculty (ability) which seemingly offsets the loss of sight, is to appear in Kingman Saturday afternoon to drive a new Pontiac car while completely blindfolded.

Mr. and Mrs. William Skaggs of Valentine will have their new service station and store built by the time the new highway at Valentine is opened, Mrs. Skaggs reported the first of this week.

Tarr, McComb and Ware Commercial company took delivery on a new Reo truck this week.



VALENTINE STORE & STATION, CIRCA 1937

## 100 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

### March-April 1917

From *Our Mineral Wealth*

Hughey Wilson's soft drink resort at Chloride, was entered by burglars early Monday morning and a considerable loot taken.

Tom Devine was flagged down this morning right on the brink of the big excavation behind the Beale long enough to have him confirm the advice that while in San Francisco the past two weeks he had secured a complete line of elegant modern furniture and fittings for the big new house his enterprise is constructing for the benefit of the patrons.

About twenty-five Kingmanites will take the WO.21 Santa Fe train tomorrow at 7:21 to attend the public dedication of the Topock bridge, while several auto owners will motor over.



Mr. Harry McComb of Los Angeles, president of Tarr & McComb, has been in Kingman during the past few days. Mr. McComb is an advocate of a clean town and certainly appears justified in condemning the appearance of Front Street especially. Several property owners along the street seemed to agree with Mr. McComb that now that Kingman is visited by so many strangers immediate action should be taken in correcting this unpleasant presence of dusty, uneven avenues.

F. M. Huddleston, photographer par-excellence, went to the Mineral Park country Wednesday for the purpose of exercising his clever talent in picturing that interesting country.

The most beautifully appointed confectionery and ice cream parlor in northern Arizona was thrown open to the public patronage Wednesday morning, and a large crowd of Kingmanites took advantage of the opportunity to indulge in the delicious refreshments served by the courteous attendants.

The Catholic ladies of Kingman are busy arranging for their annual May Day dance and are greatly encouraged to expect a large attendance from the number of society people who are preparing to attend.



**WOMEN MAKING HISTORY**

Kicking off **NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH** in March this year is the Thirty-Third Annual Women Making History awards ceremony.

Since 1984, this event has honored special women in Kingman, AZ who have made a positive impact on our community in such areas of endeavor as business, education, health, the arts, and volunteerism.

You're invited! Help us celebrate these ladies who have contributed so much in the past year to make Kingman a fine place to live, work, and play.

Mohave Museum of History & Arts  
400 W. Beale Street, Kingman, AZ

**Sunday, March 5, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.**

## Memorials

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

<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Donor</u>
Shirley Ann Shawl Hiestand	Jack M. Kesler
Shirley Ann Shawl Hiestand	Fahndrich and Knapik Families
Shirley Ann Shawl Hiestand	J. David & Janis A. Cunningham
Lloyd Harris	J. David & Janis A. Cunningham
Lucille A. Cisney	Dorothy A. LaPorte-Husser
Lucille A. Cisney	Jerry and Betty Tyra
Betty Joan Hafley-Hacker	William J. Bailey
Rod H. Aguilar	William J. Bailey
Lucille A. Cisney	William J. Bailey
Shirley Ann Shawl Hiestand	William J. Bailey
Lucy Arredondo Braithwait	William J. Bailey
Kenneth Keith Kelley	William J. Bailey
Violet Ann Hall-Davis	William J. Bailey
Louise Wicke Davis	Daughters of The Mohave County Pioneers
Violet Ann Hall-Davis	Daughters of The Mohave County Pioneers
Hazel Mulligan Ehram	Daughters of The Mohave County Pioneers
Letha Jean Gardner	Daughters of The Mohave County Pioneers
Betty Grounds	Daughters of The Mohave County Pioneers
Betty Joan Hafley-Hacker	Daughters of The Mohave County Pioneers
Mary Alice (Duey) "Mimi" Inman	Daughters of The Mohave County Pioneers
Nanette L. Mason	Daughters of The Mohave County Pioneers
Erma Jean Owens Webster	Daughters of The Mohave County Pioneers
Violet Ann Hall-Davis	Clairann Cave
Floyd Acton	Clairann Cave
Joanne Karen Helmer	Clairann Cave
Betty Grounds	The Fry Family

## Membership Renewals

Robert & Arlene Allison  
William A. & JoHanna B. Bowles  
Wayne & Cheryl Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. H. Robert Grounds  
Laird Hiestand  
Carol Porter Langdon, Portland, OR  
Rob Chilcoat  
Steve Smith & Eve Garlyn  
Gary & Mickey Chace  
Paul R. Mackesey & Jacquelyn Kinard  
Charles & Jean Bodden  
Randy Jacobs  
Bill & Linda Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Anderson, LHC, AZ  
Jerald Wienke, DDS  
Cheryl Shaner & Charlene Sellers, Las Vegas, NV  
Fred B. Lingenfelter  
Stuart L. & Carol S. Anderson  
Teresa Seay Cossey & Michelle Seay, Surprise, AZ  
Leslie Burrows James, Sparks, NV  
Claudia B. Casson, Castro Valley, CA  
Julia B. Hutchings  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Yarbrough  
Grace Van Horn  
Joe & Rhonda Hart  
Marjorie Martinovic  
Diana Beatty

Ella Johnson, Las Vegas, NV  
Michael & Sandy Rusinko, Bayfield, CO  
John & Pamela Roberts  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Campbell  
Mr. & Mrs. Luis Vega  
Mike & Debbie Casson, Cottonwood, AZ  
Dean J. & Anna Sachs Thompson, Novato, CA  
Sandra R. Pesce  
Rod & Jane Gestrine  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Schwartzlose, Golden Valley, AZ  
Mr. & Mrs. F. Lee Barrett, Redvale, CO  
Clifford H. Kern  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kern  
Richards & Susie Rucker, Flagstaff, AZ  
Lois A. Landis  
Bernie & Betty Rowe  
Chas. & Paula Burnham Johnson, S. Barbara, CA  
Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph Shelton  
Marshall & Mary Jane Nelson  
Bryce & Charlene Ware  
Stephen & Cyndi Poe  
Elaine Grenz  
Carol Hurst  
Jerry & Susan Zmrzel, Williams, AZ  
Phillip McDonald, Longmont, CO  
Julia Caughlin  
Dan & Kitty Rohler

## New Memberships

Bill Otwell, Prescott, AZ  
Irene Cornwall Wood, Darby, MT  
Robert F. & Donna J. Moody, Tempe, AZ  
Steve & Pat Lee  
Judith Theel  
Janet M. Cusick, Long Beach, CA  
Mary Ann L. Smith  
Richard & Connie Taylor  
Chuck & Lorraine Brownfield  
James & Susie Sumner, Sonoita, AZ  
Wayne & Debbie Davis  
Gary & Janet Watson

Cowboy Dave SFX, Meadview, AZ  
Mary B. Lane, Bel Tiburon, CA  
William L. & Mary Jane Kuhn  
Deborah Liverence  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Messersmith  
Ronald Doty, Golden Valley, AZ  
Richard A. Laxton, Fresno, CA  
Delbert & Kay Bell, Golden Valley, AZ  
Joseph & Elaine Maestas  
Gerold G. & Karen S. Peters  
Carol L. Shaeffer

### SOUNDS OF KINGMAN PRESENTS "Concert In The Park"

Sunday, April 23, 2017—2:00-4:00 P.M. at Metcalfe Park

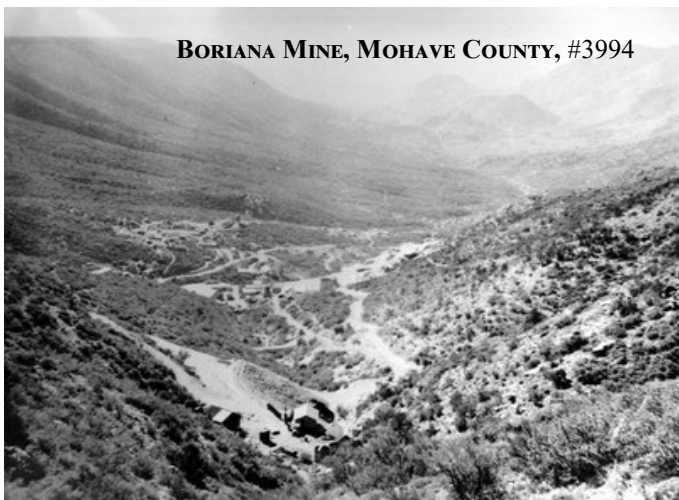
**The Jeff Evers Band**

[www.soundsofkingman.com](http://www.soundsofkingman.com)

## TALKING ABOUT MINES

Edited by Luci Pewsey

If you have visited the museum's mining exhibit you'll know how important the mining industry has been to the history of Mohave County. Through the 1900's many Kingman families were connected to the industry in various ways. In 1980 and 1981 the museum endeavored to save some of the county's history through a program of oral interviews with many long-time county residents, and many of those interviewed spoke of their memories of local mines and miners.



**BORIANA MINE, MOHAVE COUNTY, #3994**

Edward Covington who grew up in Kingman remembers that miners living in Kingman were mostly lonely bachelors. On Front Street they would give kids money to buy ice cream cones. Many didn't speak much English but had good hearts. Dolly Alger's general store in Yucca served miners from the Borigana until the mine shut down and Mildred Maher remembers prospectors who would come into town for supplies once or twice a year.

Living conditions at the mines were not always the best. Glenna Alger's and Grace Freeburg's families lived in tents in Yucca when their fathers first worked at the Borigana. When her father worked at Goldroad, Lila Fox and her brother would walk over the hill to see silent movies in a company-owned hall. Lois Levy noted that living conditions near the Katherine mine were poor due to bad water that caused amoebic dysentery. Edna Osterman's father and each of her husbands worked at various mines while she ran a boarding house and worked as a cleaner in the Cerbats and Chloride. In addition to working at the larger mines such as the Tennessee, Golconda, and Borigana, Jo Perrill's father also worked at smaller mines like the Katherine and Frisco, and the family often lived at the mining camps in the late 1920's and 30's. Men at the mines lived in tent houses and bunk houses.

The miners often worked under less than ideal conditions. In the late 20's George Brooks worked in the mill at the Kathrine mine until he had to leave due to the effects from cyanide fumes. He later worked in the mill at the Cedar mine where a horse was killed in an accident at the

stable and the mine had to shut down since they had no insurance. James Leonard, who was born in Mohave County, remembers that during the summer, kids would get jobs in the mines, usually as "muckers" for 35 to 40 cents a day. Some kids worked as "powder monkeys" carrying explosives to the men in the mines. Mr. Brooks stated that these kids often got very sick. Grace Putnam, whose husband was in charge of the Tom Reed mine in the 20's and 30's, noted that a good medical doctor was always connected with the mine.

Dr. Walter Brazie was at the mining camp in Oatman beginning in the 1920's. Dr. Brazie stated that conditions at the mines were bad for workers. Because the company couldn't afford proper construction the miners often had to take dangerous chances in their work. The doctors at the mines took care of miners and their families for very little pay.



Pay for the miners was considered good for the 1920's and 30's. Bert Jagerson, who worked at the Klondike running a diesel compressor, earned \$5.50 a day and worked seven days a week. George McDevitt, who owned the North Star and Gold Cliff mines, stated that miners earned \$5 a day, and he did not recall any unions in the mines. Lila Fox's father worked at the Tom Reed and Goldroad, and she remembers that he earned \$4 a day, and that the miners belonged to a union. However, Joe Miller, who worked at the Borigana, Tennessee, and Eastern mines, earned \$4 a day and did not recall any union organization.



**MINERS AT CHLORIDE, #7714**

The only woman working among 250 men at the Tennessee mine was Bernice Richardson, who was a secretary and did the payroll.

According to Frank Ricca, in 1917 Germans set fire to Golconda mine. As of 1980 the mine had not reopened. In her 1980 interview, Glenna Alger noted that "owning a mine is a way of life. There are a thousand mines within a five-mile radius of Chloride."

**The mining and ranching exhibits at the Museum preserve an important part of Mohave County history.**

Mohave Pioneers  
Historical Society, inc.

400 West Beale Street  
Kingman, AZ 86401-5708  
928-753-3195

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