



The Mohave Museum
of History and Arts
Mohave Memories

July - August 2021

Letter from the Director:

I want to implore you to visit a new and vibrant Mohave Museum. The Museum grounds have made the transition from hollowed to hallowed. The covid's (I dislike the thought of capitalization of the "c" in this word), far reaching tentacles tried to drown this institution, the Museum responded with the quiet reverence that is housed within its walls. The waiting game is over and the Museum Complex (Rt. 66 Museum, Mohave Museum and Bonelli House) are now in full swing.

The Asian and European guests are still lacking, however the ever expanding local visitors are increasing. The time that the Museums were closed gave us an opportunity to update and change exhibits and remodel aging areas. The intent might not have been to focus on any particular group, the reality is that the appeal of Rt. 66 and the Grand Canyon has sprouted new wings. The new watchword from guests is "I've been through Kingman dozens of times but have never stopped by the Museums". It is truly karmic that when one door closes another opens.

I frequently talk about the range and scope of our Museum and more times than not, I feel like I fail to do it justice. The Museum is multi-faceted in the experiences that it provides: you can simply take a tour of our spectacular exhibits, do research in our state-of-the-art research facility or visit our beautiful gift shop. My recommendation is that you participate in all of the above activities and for dessert visit the Rt. 66 and electric car museum coupled with a bonus visit to the Bonelli House. You will not be disappointed!

I spend a portion of my time at the Museum in the lower artifact storage area. I usually am task oriented and thus oblivious to my surroundings. One day last week I took the time to sit in one of the vintage school desks and just look around and my eyes focused on our saddle collection. The saddles are beautiful but more than that they represent a living history, they are rich in the DNA that built this land. And for a few brief moments I was there working alongside the men and women that tamed Mohave County.

Shannon

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Our "Fourth" of 1906

By Claire Whitley

Let it never be said that Kingman doesn't know how to throw a party.

Kingman threw one massive celebration July 4-6, 1906. A massive, brightly colored bill on the wall of the archives advertises the event as a "Red Hot Carnival of Sports" and a "Triumphant March of Fun."

If we want to get technical, festivities for this event actually began on Monday, July 2, 1906. Four tribes were present and started their "big cry" on that Monday and kept it up until Wednesday morning. The Cocopahs, Supais, Mohaves and Wallapais all attended the cry. According to the report from Mohave County Miner, the Mohaves sent 100 people while 400 Wallapais attended. The chiefs or head men of the tribes were dressed in their tribal regalia, and hundreds of onlookers went to the camp to view the events.

The morning of July Fourth, one of the events was a Native American parade as they dressed in war bonnets and painted on war paint. After the parade, the horsemen rode through the streets on the run and then to the camp, where the clothes worn during the cry were piled high on the council house and then torched. The whole thing was destroyed "thus carrying out the custom of the tribe."

Bands and games decorated the nearly week-long celebration beginning Tuesday. The Fort Mohave band met with praise from the Mohave County Miner as being "among the good bands of the country."

On the Fourth of July, The Elk's Hall held several exercises, and speeches. Rev. Frank Farr delivered an oration and Isabel Blakely read the Declaration of Independence.

And then the baseball games began.

The first game was between the Wallapais and Mohaves, but the game ground to a halt when "one of the severest rain storms of years" descended upon the ball grounds. Despite the rain-out on the Fourth, there were still fireworks. It was reported that over 1,000 people were on South Front Street to watch the display.

The Wallapai-Mohave game was resumed the following day and "was one of the best witnessed in Kingman." The Wallapais won 9-6. There was also bronco riding, burro races, sack races, fat and lean man's races, and girls and boys races.

In the afternoon, there was a drilling contest held on Front Street, now Andy Devine. The contest was to see which team could drill through a large rock, said to be the hardest piece of selenite in the county. Three teams entered, but it was Joseph Oneto and Cloyd Richardson that ended up winning by drilling 23 inches.

The Carnival Ball in the evening was the main attraction of July 5 and several people attended it and stated it was the "finest dance they ever attended in the territory."

Cont...

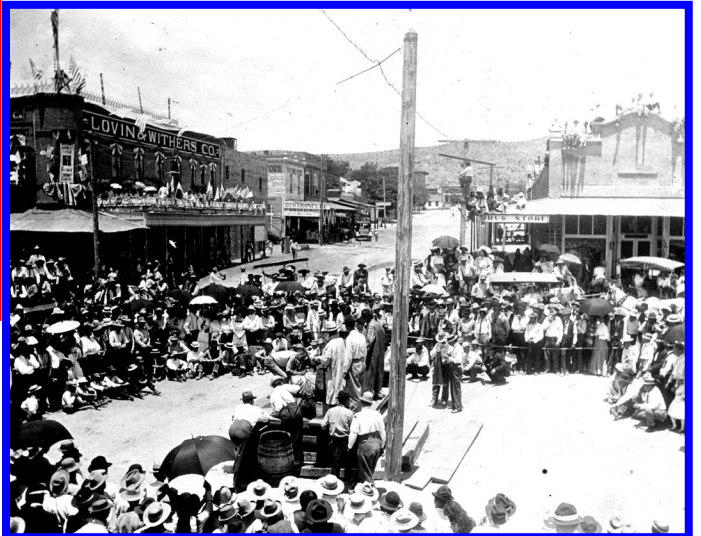
July 6 was the day for sports starting with a pole climbing competition. A greased pole climbing competition. A small boy attempted the climb “but the grease was too slippery and the boy and the five dollars remained parted.”

Then there were horse races and foot races, before a baseball game in the afternoon between Needles and Kingman. It was apparently a slaughter with Needles winning 32-6. The Mohaves then returned to face the Wallapais and it ended in a Mohave victory 13-6. And with that one of the largest celebrations in Kingman history came to a close. For a town that had no natural resources, it really came together to create a once in lifetime opportunity.

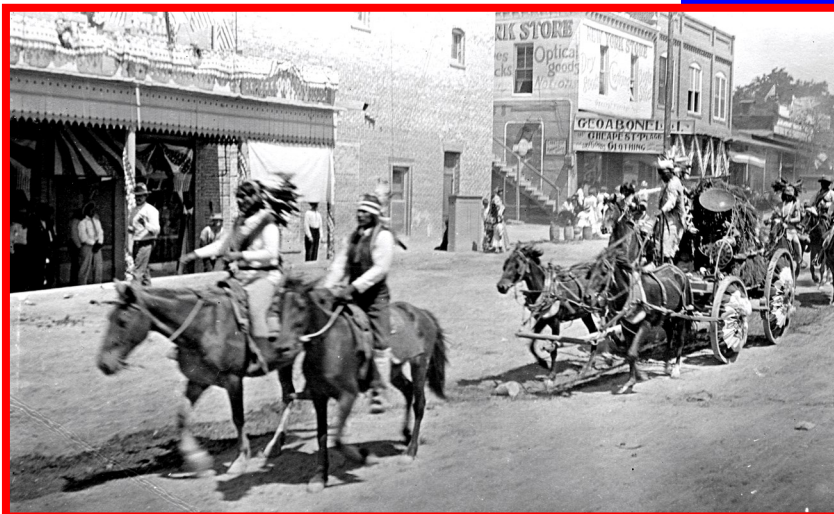
And of course: “Forget not that Kingman will celebrate again...”



Hand-drilled rock contest.

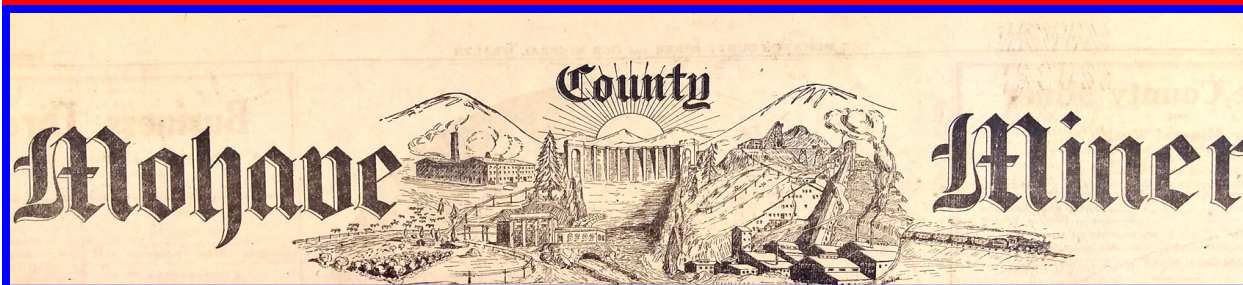


Hand-drilled rock contest.



Walapai participating in the 4th of July parade. George Bonelli's New York Store in background.

A BLAST FROM OUR PAST! 1928



SHERIFF GETS TWO ON CHARGE OF BOOTLEGGING

Two arrests were made yesterday morning at eleven thirty by Sheriff Jasper Brewer, who apprehended two alleged bootleggers giving their names as Abraham Bernstein and Dave Meltzer, about eight and one-half miles out on the Oatman road. These men, supposedly California fruit and vegetable hucksters, were on their way to Kingman with a goodly load of fruits and vegetables to sell, but—looks are sometimes deceiving, and the load of fruits and vegetables was just used to conceal a large shipment of supposedly bonded goods, both wine and gin. Both men are being held in the Mohave county jail.

FORMER KINGMAN BOY WINS DANCE CONTEST TROPHY

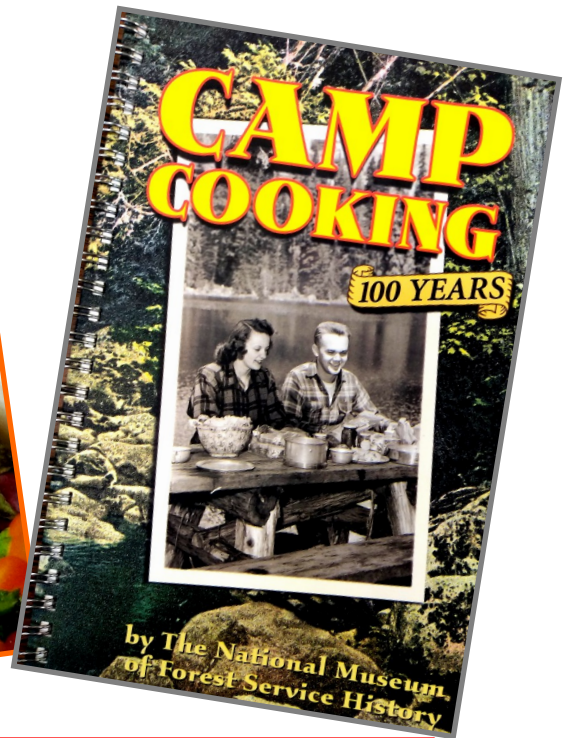
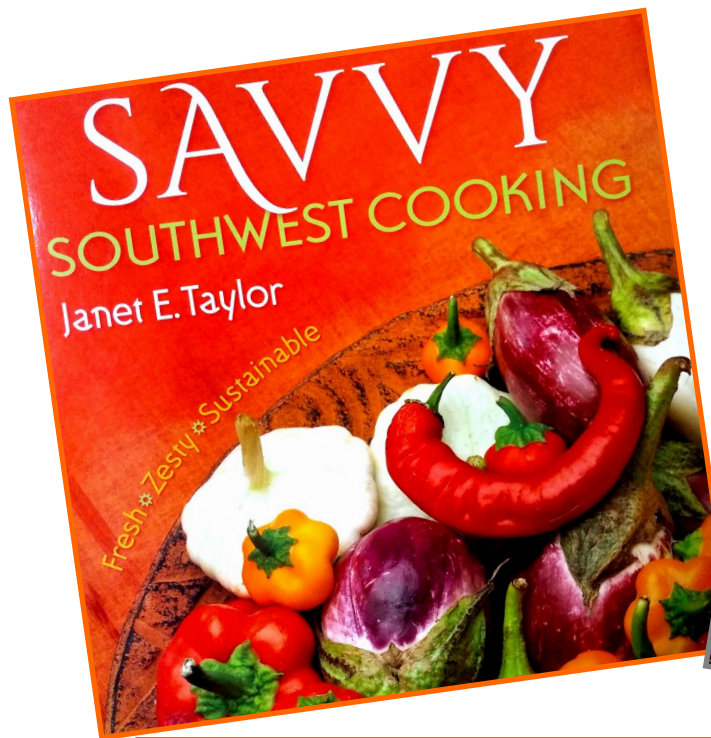
Jack Van Marter, son of Frank Van Marter of Kingman, last week won first prize in the Long Beach Ad. Club dancing contest.

The prize trophy was an 18-inch silver loving cup called the Sally Phipp trophy and presented to young Van Marter by the moving picture actress by that name.

In an excerpt from the Los Angeles papers it states: "Beryle Munson and Jack Van Marter today are the possessors of two handsome silver loving cups as the result of winning the Advertising club fox trot staged last night as the feature of the annual frolic and ball of the Long Beach Advertising club held at the Majestic Ball Room on the Strand."

Young Van Marter was formerly a resident of Kingman before going to reside in Long Beach and at one time attended the public schools here.

There will be a dance on June 27th at the Open Air pavilion given by Troop 8 of the Boy Scouts. This dance is for the purpose of raising funds with which to purchase added equipment.



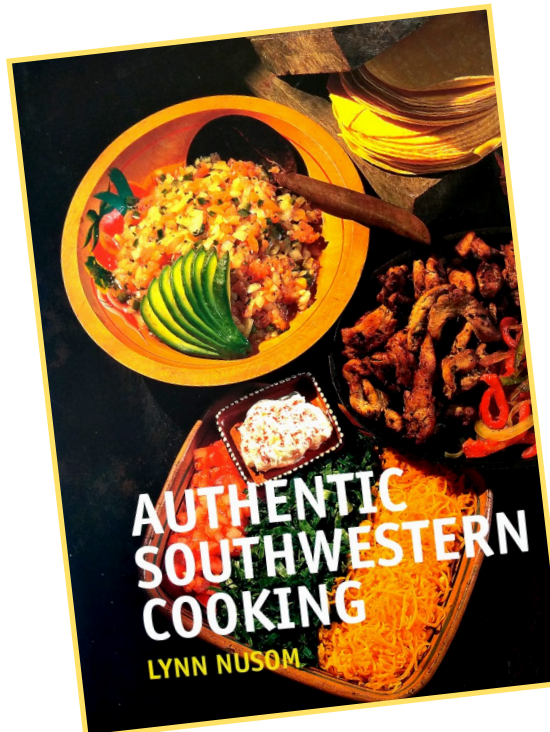
In the Giftshop!

These cookbooks are among the great selection of cookbooks carried in the Museum gift shop!!

Don't miss the array of jams, jellies, spices & Anasazi Beans that are also on hand!

GOOD STUFF!

Purchases can be made by phone @ 928-753-3195



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

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Includes member and immediate family, free admission to Mohave Museum,
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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

Did you know that you can “go green, go paperless” and receive a full color version of the Mohave Memories Newsletter??

If you would like to receive your Mohave Memories Newsletter via email contact the Museum at 928-753-3195 or send an email to:
newsletter@mohavemuseum.org

The Mohave Museum of History and Arts has an extensive (15,000+) collection of historic photos. If you would like to take a look visit us at: www.mohavemuseum.org Mouse over to the “Resources” tab and choose “Search Archives” from the drop down menu. Use search criteria such as: Downtown Kingman, aerial view, Roy Purcell, petroglyphs...whatever your interest is. Feel free to call the Research Facility if you need a hand.

You can also find us on Facebook at: Mohave Museum of History and Arts.

The latest information on upcoming events and other happenings at the Museum Complex can be found at both on-line locations.

*Have a safe, healthy, and happy
Summer!!*



MOHAVE MUSEUM
OF HISTORY AND ARTS

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