



The Mohave Museum  
of History and Arts  
**Mohave Memories**

May - June 2020

### From the Director...

I have too often succumbed to an arrogance regarding the abundance of freedom that I have enjoyed in this life, but as of late, negative socio-medical circumstances tended to steal my optimism. In retrospect, history has shown that any attempted suppression of a resilient people will only be short lived. The Museum is the beacon that reminds us that history repeats itself in a positive and enduring way.

The Museum is not only a collection of past relics but a reminder that previous generations created a beautiful place to live carved out of a hostile landscape. We inherited a legacy that we can not only be proud of but have a duty to take to the next level.

The Museum is here to bear witness to these truths and lay the ground work for the recording of the History being made in this twenty-first century.

As I sit writing this newsletter, the Museum has been closed for about a month, but the Museum is far from laying idle. The gift shop is going through a remodel and any maintenance that could not be done during business is now going forward. I have never taken the Museum for granted and have always addressed its aging needs in a timely manner but I found that even being ever vigilant that one can miss some hidden needs, and one such need was the gift shop. The Museum's gift shop has served the needs of the public for 50 plus years; however, when a new century approached, the gift shop seemed to dig in its heels and stop at the year 2K. The time finally came when it was futile to resist going under the proverbial knife and having any sagging features lifted up and happily embrace "clean and bright" as its new theme.

It has been said: "out of the mud grows the Lotus Flower". The Museum is much more than this building and the artifacts that it contains, it has a spirit that is made up from its founders, members and every guest that enters its door. The soundness of this Institution will long endure. Gratitude to everyone who adds to the mystique of this great Museum.

**Shannon**

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## Fort Beale's Spring

Contributed by Charles Cook

During the early spring of 1875 a caravan of three covered wagons departed Venture County, California destined for the territory of Arizona. The small wagon train consisted of three families headed by my Great-grandfather Joseph Cook, his brother Walter and Walter's father-in-law Newton Bagley. Joseph and Walter had made a goodly amount of money mining gold in Sonora and Grass Valley in Northern California during the California Gold Rush and wanted to farm and ranch in Arizona.

The time involved crossing the Mojave Desert took a toll on their livestock and provisions. By the time they had ferried across the Colorado River into Arizona and proceeded through what is now called Golden Valley they had reached the environs of the old Fort at Beale's Spring. This was a timely spot to take a pause from the grueling trip. It was also a necessity as Walter's wife Alice delivered their second child at Beale's Spring on May 16th, 1875. They named the child Herbert Beale Cook.

The army post at Beale's Spring had been abandoned but a post office existed at the old Fort. The Postmaster at Beale's Spring was Benjamin Spear who would later become an entrepreneur in Kingman and Mohave Valley. Kingman was still seven years away from being founded.

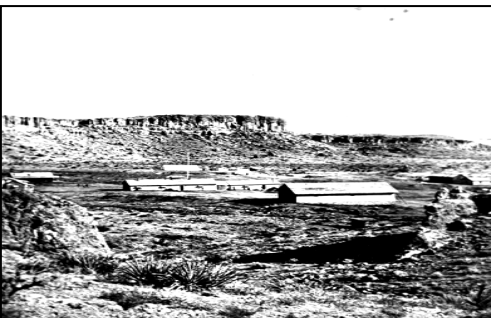
The small caravan rested most of that month at the Spring while Alice regained her stamina for the rest of the trek to their new home in Williamson Valley, east of the present community of Chino Valley north of Prescott. The Cook caravan had finally reached their destination.

There is a far different story that unfolded concerning the Fort Beale's Spring area which predates the 1875 experiences of that small caravan of wagons.

Fort Beale's Spring was an important ancestral location for the Hualapai Nation. The spring and surrounding area served as a gathering place for the Hualapai for centuries. In 1866, the Hualapai people got tired of having their land and livelihood infringed upon by the great number of incoming Anglo-Americans, and decided it was time to get aggressive with the encroachers. From 1866 to 1870 a state of war existed between the U.S. Government and Hualapai Nation. After a truce was negotiated in 1870, the military occupied the Spring and built an army post there. Fort Beale's Spring was occupied by the Army for three years.

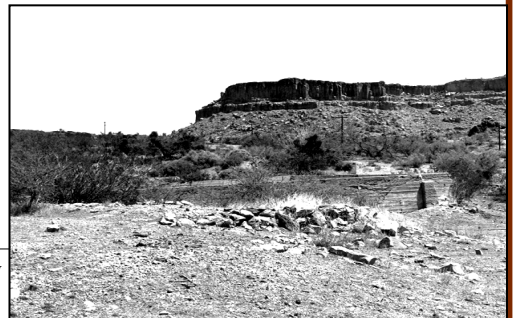
In 1874 the Government decided that members of the Hualapai Nation should be gathered up at Fort Beale's Spring and sent to La Paz County. A number of the Hualapai people died during the trek that came to be known as "The trail of tears". Conditions at La Paz were brutal, and the Hualapai did not feel like the La Paz area could ever be their home. The Hualapai began to abandon the detention facility at La Paz almost immediately and walk back to their ancestral homes. Even the Government realized that the Hualapai Nation could be pushed only so far, so the exodus was allowed and the Hualapai people returned to their ancient environs in Mohave County.

There are only ruins at Fort Beale's Spring now. No buildings exist, just rock foundations and a government marker with the history of the old fort. In addition to the government marker, there is a stone monument placed by the Hualapai Nation in memory of the tribal members who were gathered at the Spring and forced to make that fateful march in 1874. The Fort Beale's Spring site is maintained by Mohave County as it is an integral part of our troubled history.



Camp Beale's Spring  
military post 1873

Remains of the military  
post in later years.



## !! New Membership Benefit !!

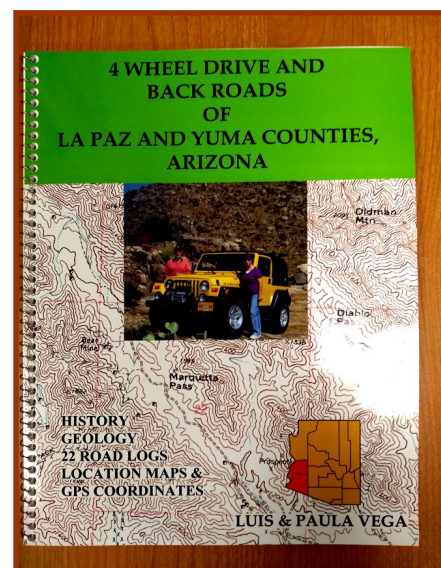
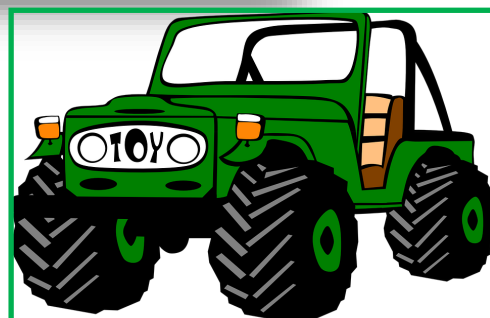
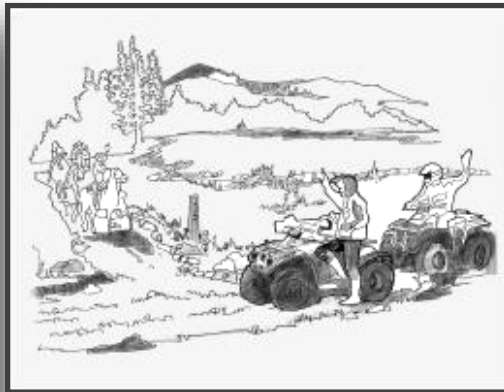
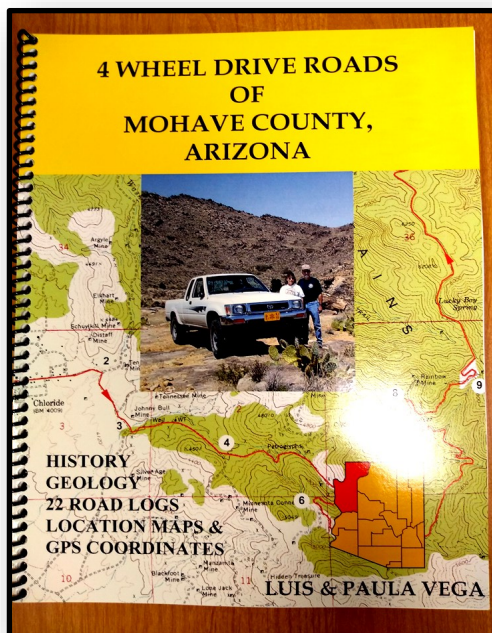
Your yearly Mohave Museum of History and Arts membership now allows your free entrance into participating historical museums!

Current participating museums include: The Mohave Museum of History and Arts in Kingman, Arizona, including the Bonelli House (Museum) and The Arizona Route 66 Museum and Electric Car Museum at the Powerhouse, The Hualapai Cultural Resource Center, Peach Springs, Arizona, The Colorado River Museum in Bullhead City, Arizona, The Jim Fritz Museum in Chloride, Arizona, The Lake Havasu Museum of History in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, The Parker Area Historical Society Museum in Parker, Arizona, The Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association in Goffs, California, The Historical Museum of Needles in California, and The Searchlight Historic Museum, Searchlight, Nevada.

For more information visit our Facebook page:  
Historic Tourism Visit Museums in Arizona, California and Nevada.

As always, check museum operating hours before you visit as hours and days vary.

Back By Popular Demand  
and currently on sale in the Mohave Museum gift shop...





## 50 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

1970

School lunch menu:



Monday May 11, Ground beef gravy, mashed potatoes, lettuce and tomato salad w/ French dressing, peaches, hot biscuits w/butter and honey, milk.

Tuesday May 12, Burrito w/ chili and cheese, spanish rice, coleslaw, cookies, milk.

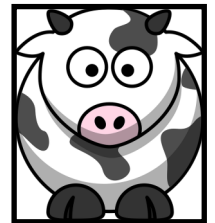
Wednesday May 13, Grilled cheese sandwich, buttered spinach, deviled egg salad, cupcakes w/ pink frosting, milk.

Thursday May 14, Meat loaf-catsup, scalloped potatoes with mushroom sauce, buttered peas, carrot sticks, apple crisp, bread and butter, milk.

Friday May 15, Tuna salad, buttered green beans, relishes, strawberry gelatin w/ fruit and topping, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, milk.



June - The Mohave County Amateur Rodeo Association held its annual Dig and Dogie Days last weekend with the biggest crowd of spectators in the history of the event. More than \$2,500 in cash prizes were distributed among the 200 contestants who participated in saddle and bareback Bronc riding, team roping, bull riding, barrel racing, calf riding and wild cow milking.



## 80 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

1940



May - Dr. Paul V. Long, Arthur Black and Fred Babcock will leave Saturday morning for the Sandy where they will spend three days taking pictures to be used by the Mohave County Chamber of Commerce for the promotion of Highway 93. They expect to make the trip in one of the Phoenix-Kingman and Boulder City Stage Line buses and will camp out the two nights they are in the vicinity.

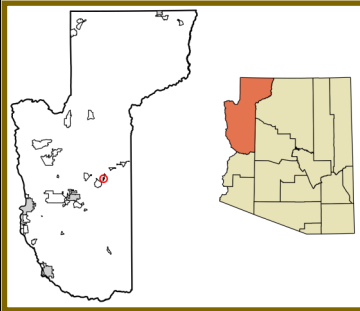
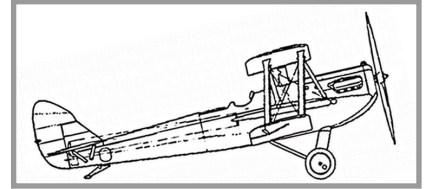
June - Travel over U.S. 66 through Arizona has gained 11,250 cars in the first five months of 1940 over the 1939 figures for the corresponding period of that year, a report from the Holbrook and Kingman quarantine station shows. The gain at the Kingman checking station for cars entering the state from the west or north was 4,250, while that at Holbrook was 7,000 cars entering Arizona from the east.



## 100 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

1920

May - An aviator returning from Los Angeles made the attempt to fly beneath the highway bridge across the Colorado River at Yuma, last Saturday and crashed into an electric light wire, the wing of his plane being destroyed, the wreckage landing in the river. The pilot was drowned and his companion was saved by the good work of a river patrol. The dead aviator was Charles F. Bell, the machine, a deHaviland, was lost in the river quick sands.



June - Ross Householder, a well known young engineer of this county, is working on a map of Mohave County that will be found useful from every standpoint. The map will contain all the important mines, location of ranches, water holes and springs, roads, bridges and ferries, railroads, towns and mining camps and such matters that will be of interest to the people of the county, but also to those owning interest here. While the map will not contain the names of all the mines, because that would be impossible, it will have so many on it that the mine owner may be able to add his property by sketching it in. The map is nearing completion and it is sure to meet with popular favor when ready. The original is 26x40 inches and is to be reduced to one-half that size for printing. The original cost of the map is to be borne by the merchants of Kingman, who are giving advertisements to be placed on the back of it. Five thousand will be distributed free.

### 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**

[www.mohavemuseum.org/resources](http://www.mohavemuseum.org/resources)  
or call 928-753-3195

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

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In observance of COVID-19 suggested guidance for the Tourism industry, the Mohave Museum of History & Arts, the Bonelli House Museum and the Arizona Route 66 Museum (located inside the Powerhouse) will be closed until further notice. Be sure to check back periodically for updates.

In the meantime you are welcome to visit us on our Facebook page at Mohave Museum of History and Arts, or on line at [mohavemuseum.org](http://mohavemuseum.org)

Also check out the new Facebook group, Historic Tourism Visit Museums in California, Arizona and Nevada

Stay well and we are looking forward to seeing you all when the time is right.

MOHAVE MUSEUM  
OF HISTORY AND ARTS

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

Email: [museum@mohavemuseum.org](mailto:museum@mohavemuseum.org)

Web: [www.mohavemuseum.org](http://www.mohavemuseum.org)

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MAY—JUNE 2020

