



# THE MOHAVE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ARTS MOHAVE MEMORIES

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2019

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is way too often that our profound thoughts ride the tide and are smashed on the shore. I wish I could recount the times my communication skills have come into question. The one exception to intellectual intent being mangled by the surf, is this opportunity to communicate to you the state of well-being the Museum is in. The first quarter of the fiscal year has been kind to the Museum, there are new exhibits in the works and community programs to be hosted in the auditorium.

First on the agenda for fall is on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>: “Our Time, Our History” featuring a presentation about “Arizona Military Sites”. This is a program sponsored by the Sounds of Kingman. The next event is an open house featuring the “William Porter Native American Paintings Collection”. This spectacular group of works will be on display November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6p.m. to 9p.m. and refreshments will be served. Bill passed away on August 14<sup>th</sup> and gifted the Museum his collection. I regret that I do not have all the space to list the accomplishments and support that Bill gave to the Museum, Kingman and the State of Arizona. Bill’s death has created a void that will only be filled by his legacy of passion and support for all that is good in Arizona’s historic preservation. The gift that Bill gave to me that I will miss most is the opportunity to call him a friend.

November 9<sup>th</sup> the Museum hosts a program by the Soroptimists and November 16<sup>th</sup> lends the auditorium to the “Quilts of Valor”. December 7<sup>th</sup> the Museum will have two events: 1) the volunteer brunch and 2) the Museum’s annual Christmas program. If you have any questions about time or subject matter on these events, please call the Museum at (928) 753-3195.

It is my honor to have the opportunity of wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has been a great year for the Museum complex (so often I forget to mention Route 66 Museum and the Bonelli House). The expectation for 2020 is even better. In a civil climate that seems fraught with drought, the Museums seem to be an oasis of positive and dynamic waters. Thank you for the continued support you give to this fine organization.

*Shannon*

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**COME ONE!! COME ALL!!**  
to an  
**OLD FASHIONED HOLIDAY GATHERING**  
and  
**CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG!!**



Please join us  
**SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 2019 AT 2:00 P.M.**  
at our home...  
**THE MOHAVE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ARTS.**  
400 West Beale Street

This year the Program will feature local artist  
**CHRIS COMMISSO IN CONCERT!!**

Chris will perform many traditional and favored Christmas Carols.  
All are invited to join in and sing-a-long with your favorites!  
There will also be a surprise performance that we think you will enjoy very much!

This event was so popular last year that we are doing it again!  
Both young and old are welcome to join us in kicking off the holiday season.  
Light refreshments will be served and best of all  
**ADMISSION IS FREE!!**



**The Mohave Museum Gift Shop Announces its Annual Christmas Sale!!**

Don't miss this opportunity to find truly  
special and unique gifts for everyone on your Christmas list!

The sale features 10% off all merchandise with the exception of consignment items.



Museum members will receive a total of 20% off all merchandise  
with the exception of consignment items.



The sale runs November 25th through December 31st 2019.

Come on in to the museum and check out the surprisingly eclectic  
array of gifts for little ones, teenagers, and adults.  
You'll find clothing, books, jewelry, craft items, food items and more.  
Don't wait too long...our merchandise moves fast!

## THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER

CONTRIBUTED BY CHARLES COOK

I became of legal age to operate a motor vehicle during the presidency of Dwight Eisenhower. I knew I couldn't afford an automobile of my own if I was going to stay in what I felt was Indentured Servitude to my father. My father's idea of childhood labor laws bordered on nonexistent as far as I was considered. Building barbed wire fencing, digging post holes, feeding livestock, milking cows, cleaning corrals and keeping track of his animals was how my young life was to be conducted. My wages would be two pair of Levi jeans, a pair of roughout boots, a brimmed hat to keep the sun from burning my face and neck, room and board and occasional small amounts of money for occasional forays to the State movie theater in Kingman.

I managed to tell my Dad outside employment would serve my wants and needs fully and he seemed to agree with me. Maybe he was just tired of my sullen teenage demeanor and he did have a back up plan to replace me anyway. Two younger brothers would fill the gap that my emancipation would create. My father finally decided to let me venture into Kingman to find gainful employment in the public sector.

I came to Kingman one spring day and the first place I looked for work was a haberdashery known as Alex's Toggery on 4th Street between the Sprouse Reitz five and dime store on one side, and the State Theater on the other.

The owner/operator of The Toggery was Mr. Alex Thomson, a Scotsman from Mississippi who had served with the Navy during World War II. His southern accent was prominently on displayed as he explained to me that the customer always comes first and that I would greet them politely as they entered his store. No exceptions. Compensation for my time and energy would be fifty cents an hour. I was hired on the spot and I felt I could work with his conditions and meager monetary allotment.

The Toggery sold men's and women's shoes and quality men's clothing. I was given a chance to learn about merchandising, sales and customer service and being a professional business man. I gave it a shot. Alex and his wife Maggie May were the confident and informed sales professionals whom I depended on to teach me the ins and outs of salesmanship and service. They did their best and I grew to appreciate their sound advice and the professional demeanor they constantly displayed. The customer did always come first.

I only stayed the summer at The Toggery but I can look back on the fond memories I accumulated while working for the Thomsons. They showed me how tough it was to make a business successful in a small town with a limited clientele. Their business was one of the millions of small-town entrepreneurs which built this country in post-war America.

I spent what money I did earn on some cool clothes that I felt would enhance my chances with the young ladies at school and somehow cover what I considered a serious lack of confidence and coolness for a teenage boy. I had to forget the car.

I also learned to appreciate my father for letting me strike out on my own. After all, he continued to provide me with a roof over my head and food at his table even though I was sure I had let him down that summer.

A city boy I was not.

"Alex's Toggery on 4th Street, J.C. Penney's on left,  
The State Theater on the right ca 1950"



## 50 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE

### NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1969

The Mohave County Cowbells and the Mohave Livestock Association enjoyed a pot luck dinner in the basement of the Elks Club on Saturday evening.

Arizona's official Christmas greeting to the nation and the world, the December issue of Arizona Highways magazine is now being distributed worldwide.

Approximately forty members of the Havasu Garden Club entered a petunia growing contest at the November meeting. A \$5 reward will be paid the winner for the largest and loveliest variegated ruffled petunia.



## 80 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE

### NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1939

Vice-Commander Charles Courtney announced Tuesday evening plans for the Armistice Day celebration of the Swaskegame Post of the American Legion are complete and that, beginning with reveille on Saturday morning, there will not be a dull moment during the entire day.

The ranchers and farmers of Mohave County will convene in Kingman on Thursday, December 7 at 1:30 pm in the Chamber of Commerce rooms.

In order that every assistance may be given to St. Nick this year the local lodge of Elks are making every effort to make the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Charity Ball the best and finest ever held.



# 100 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE

## NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1919

Mrs. J. C. Potts, one of the oldest residents of Mohave County, is visiting in Kingman, being a guest of Hotel Beale. She is now a resident of Santa Ana.

The Rebekahs are planning a grand masquerade ball for Thanksgiving. This will be the first social event of the holiday season.

Henry Lang has his new furnace installed for heating of the theater and it is proving itself to be all that was expected of it.



## 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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### In Memory Of

William "Bill" C. Porter  
 Dawnie Sue Boyd  
 William "Bill" C. Porter  
 Billie Jean Griffith  
 Floyd Tapia  
 Albert B. Noli, Jr.  
 William "Bill" C. Porter  
 Dorothy S. Helmer  
 Peggy Braffet Duey  
 Peggy Braffet Duey  
 Peggy Braffet Duey  
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 Peggy Braffet Duey  
 Peggy Braffet Duey  
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MOHAVE MUSEUM  
OF HISTORY AND ARTS

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