



The Mohave Museum of History and Arts Mohave Memories

July-August 2018

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It has become all too apparent that we are living in a time where facts are being distorted in order to manipulate reason. Why, one might ask is this phenomenon taking place in this century? The answer is twofold: Number one, those responsible have something to gain; and two is, simply because they can. The Museum has been instrumental in slowing down any deception connected with Kingman and the surrounding area. This wonderful institution not only houses a research facility that bears photographic and written evidence of past events, but it also exhibits artifacts that grant 3-D empirical evidence of a time where hard work and determination were the outline by



which life was lived abundantly. Their clothing was utilitarian, the tools were rugged and the people that wielded them were tenacious beyond belief.

Times have most certainly changed. Now we can view historic relics remotely and in three dimension, and there are those that believe this is the best way to relate to our past. I must disagree. The tools of the 21st Century (cell phones, computers etc.) are devices that should only whet our appetite and encourage us to travel to see objects and towns and put ourselves in touch with living history. I applaud the Museum for giving the world a place to do just that.



Stability in the preservation of history takes time and forethought coupled with laborious cataloging and the method has been called a product of the dinosaur age or an endangered species. In reality, it is probably a combination of both. The system might be slow but it affords a ninety percentile accuracy, and that is something in which we can take immense pride.

The Museum celebrated its 50th birthday on April 27th, which is a testimony to the fact that we got it right. I wish the Museum the happiest of birthdays and anticipate a bright future to this Grand Institution. There truly is peace in the valley.



Shannon

TOP LEFT: HUALAPAI ELDER WAYLON HONGA; BOTTOM, FIRST MUSEUM DIRECTOR, ROY PURCELL. TOP RIGHT, HUALAPAI WOMEN ELDERS IN BEAUTIFUL "BIRD DANCER" COSTUMES. PHOTO CREDIT, CLAIRE WHITLEY

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Mohave Memories

Newsletter and Museum Memberships

AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.mohavemuseum.org/resources

Or call, 928-753-3195

MOHAVE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Invites you to participate in preserving our past and building for the 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

FROM THE LIBRARY

We never tire of thanking our VOLUNTEERS for the many hours they share with us. Year after year at the Route 66 and MMHA venues our many cheerful greeters welcome our visitors. We're thankful you found your way to our side to help make these places outstanding sites of historic preservation and education!

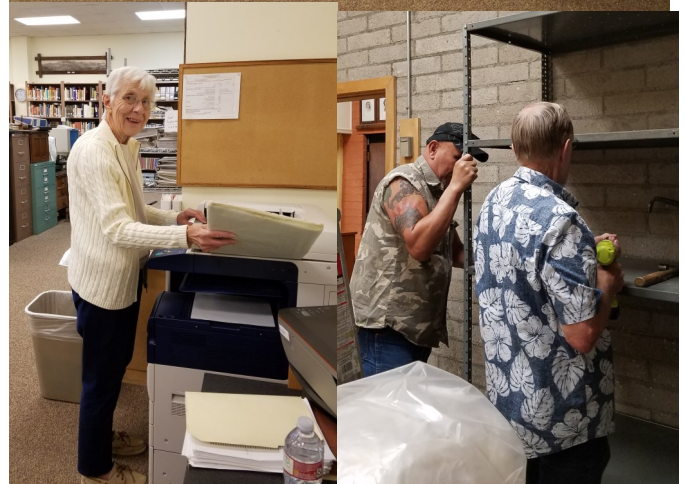
These are the "nuts and bolts" of volunteerism with us:

1. **Greeters:** You can coordinate your schedule of hours and days at each location. Weekdays, either a 9-1 shift or a 1-5 shift. Four hours, one or more days per week. Weekends are different so check with our Volunteer Coordinator, Louise for details (928.753.9889).
2. **Special Projects:** These are usually a short-term commitment doing something you enjoy. For example, the map encapsulation project began in February has an anticipated completion date of August 31st. Volunteers can move on to another special project, or take a break.

The list of special projects changes as one is completed and another need arises. We may publish specific needs in the Newsletter, but for fresh details call Cathy at the Research Facility (928.753.3195).

The Museum is a great way to get acquainted with your community, meet and work with people with similar interests, and help preserve history in many different ways. Come on down!

What interests you? Check out the opportunities and contribute to a great cause that benefits you, the community, and provides an outstanding experience for those who visit.



VOLUNTEERS MICKEY, GARY, AND JIM WORK ON MAPS, WHILE JULIE COLLECTS HISTORIC DATA, AND MIKE HELPS SHANNON WITH THE HEAVY LIFTING—THANKS!

NIAGARA FALLS IN MOHAVE COUNTY

CONTRIBUTED BY CHARLES COOK

During the latter part of the 1880s, one of the largest discoveries of horn silver* in Mohave County was made by a Native American and Anglo cowboy looking for stray livestock. According to a former Mohave County historian, "In the winter of 1891 a snow storm was raging and the local cowboy asked Jeff (Hualapai Jeff) to help drive some cattle which had wandered from Gold Basin down the canyon toward the desert below the White Hills in northwestern Mohave County. Jeff agreed to help and one night they camped near a place where, in 1887, Jeff had located 'ceremonial paint.'"

The highly metallic ore was scattered around the site in great quantities. It was used by the local tribe for their ceremonies. That body paint turned out to contain high-grade horn silver,* and traces of other metals.



WHITE HILLS OFFICE BUILDING IN 1974 (MMHA #12302)



STAMP MILL AT WHITE HILLS PROCESSED ORE FROM OCCIDENTAL MINE (MMHA #14772)

When he returned to the ranch near Gold Basin, the cowboy informed local developers about the find, and the rush was on. Hundreds flocked to the barren area near the northwest slope of the White Hills, about twelve miles north and west of the present community of Dolan Springs. A number of individuals from Kingman were among the developers who would eventually use what profits they gained for their commercial holdings in Kingman.

By 1892, hundreds of fortune-seekers had built homes and businesses in the valley town they named White Hills, in close proximity to a vast number of working mine properties. The boom times were in full swing. There was an air of permanence to the community.

Then in 1899 disaster struck the town of White Hills and the surrounding mines in a matter of minutes. According to an article in the Mohave County Miner, "Early on the morning of August 5th a cloudburst in the hills took the desert by surprise and poured water down the town's streets. Water came tossing down like rapids above Niagara (Falls), the waves seeming to run four or five feet high." White Hills was in the midst of a huge flash flood. Buildings were caught up in the deluge and washed away. Mine shafts and tunnels began to fill with water and muck, and miners had to scramble to safety. Two feet of silt was deposited on the main road, making travel virtually impossible. The newspaper article concluded, "We might call the affair too much of a good thing. For drinking water sells for one dollar a barrel."



JOHN WARE & SON RICHARD AMONG WHITE HILLS RUINS; DESCENDANTS OF ALLEN WARE, MANAGER OF OCCIDENTAL MINE IN ITS HEYDAY. PHOTO CIRCA 1930s. (MMHA #386)

The aftermath of the flood was devastating. A number of mines had to close because it was just not profitable to restart production. Mining activity in the area continues on a much smaller basis now, but the town of White Hills is basically a ghost. When I last visited in the 1960s there were still some buildings standing. I'm not sure but what the desert has reclaimed all the original structures in the town.

* **Horn silver:** Chlorargyrite (also known as cerargyrite) is the mineral form of silver chloride (AgCl). It's quite soft, and dense; when weathered by desert air, changing its color, it is called *horn silver*.
(Excerpted from www.wikipedia.com)

HAVE A HAPPY SUMMERTIME !



Something New at the Museum!

A brand-new 14.8-cu.ft. freezer arrived in mid-June at the Mohave Museum of History and Arts. Now situated in our Artifacts Department, it will be used in the important process of preserving our donated items, some new and some old.

Exposing objects for a prescribed period of time to freezing temperatures is an effective preservation measure because most damaging pests (such as the dermestid beetle and webbing-clothes moth) are freeze-sensitive rather than freeze-tolerant insects. *Dermestidae* have a variety of habits; most types are scavengers that feed on dry animal or plant material, such as skin or pollen, animal hair, feathers, dead insects, and natural fibers. *Tineola bisselliella*, known as the common clothes moth, webbing clothes moth, or simply clothing moth, is a species of fungus moth that devours natural fibers.

Not only are we at war with such damaging pests, but mold found in some historic paper items (such as documents, maps, books, magazines) and in clothing products, must be eliminated in order to protect the items that are already part of the Museum collection. We are both excited and relieved that we now have such a protective resource for the Museum.



EFFICIENT DELIVERYMEN FROM SEARS IN KINGMAN MADE SURE THEIR PRODUCT IS LEVEL AND OPERATING

We Get Comments From Our Visitors

Michigan: Liked the authentic items in displays, friendly informative staff. Loved the Presidential Portrait Room!

Germany: Liked the exhibits and to learn the history and how the people lived in the past. An amazing museum!

South Dakota: Like the arrangement of each area, very interesting and learned so much. Great place to spend time.

Illinois: The volunteers are very knowledgeable.

Austria: Very cool, interesting!

California: Liked the Mohave Epic dioramas; the “feel” of the museum (love and caring for Mohave life and history).

Germany: Liked the inside of the caboose. Very good museum!

50 Years Ago from the Mohave County Miner

JUL—AUG 1968

The first shipment of stones of London Bridge was expected in Lake Havasu City this week. London Bridge stones were brought to the United States aboard the S.S. Fossum. More than 850 tons of granite blocks dismantled from the famed bridge, which was purchased by McCulloch Oil Corporation of California, were on the initial shipment.

A petition against gun registration and licensing started by Tim Hicks of Phoenix is now being circulated in 12 other states besides Arizona.



Tickets go on sale this week to leading businessmen and merchants in Kingman which will enable children of the community to attend an old-fashioned tented circuit featuring a star-spangled array of circus stars. The circus is sponsored here on August 30 by Mohave Lions Club.

Former U.S Senator Barry Goldwater will speak at a June luncheon Friday at the Lake Havasu Hotel in Lake Havasu City.

The surplus commodities truck of the Arizona State Department of Public Welfare will deliver commodities in Peach Springs on August 27 from 11:30 until noon, and at the welfare office in Kingman on the same day from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m.

A total of 6,764 county voter are eligible to vote in the primaries on September 10.

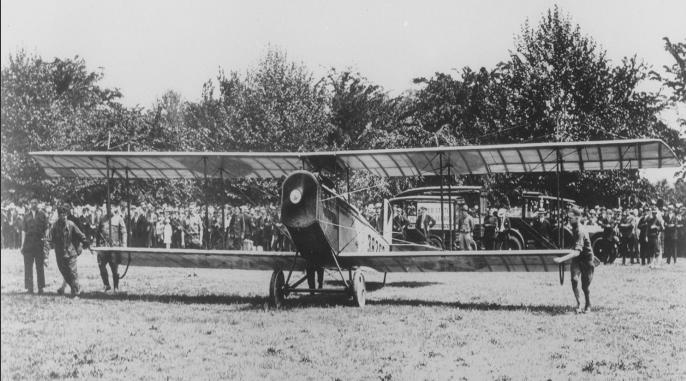


LONDON BRIDGE CIRCA 1900
Photo source: Internet

80 Years Ago From the Mohave County Miner

JUL—AUG 1938

Everyone in the entire county of Mohave is invited to be on hand at the new city ballpark next Monday evening to attend the Elks fireworks display which will be given in commemoration of Independence day.



DELIVERING US MAIL IN THE EARLY YEARS WAS QUITE AN ADVENTURE! (Photo source: Smithsonian magazine)

Letters by the hundreds are arriving daily at the local post office as stated by Postmaster Vernon Hubbs to be sent out from Kingman on the "first flight" of the air mail when such service is instituted at Kingman on the new route between Phoenix, Arizona, and Boulder City and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Coming in just under the deadline, and with 22,879 signatures placed on the petitions, Arizona is assured of a vote again this fall on prohibition. The proposed constitutional amendment will be voted on in the November election.

Last Tuesday evening approximately 60 property owners of Kingman assembled at the courthouse and with comfort in view

seated themselves on the courthouse steps and consulted together upon the proposed construction of sidewalks, curbs and gutters under the WPA.

Through the efforts of the parade committee of the Dig-N-Dogie celebration, a group of Hualapai Indians will be featured in six acts of native dancing on both Sunday and Monday evenings. The Indians will be under the direction of Fred Mahone and will give tribal ceremonial dances in native costume which is calculated to be both educational and entertaining to the numerous visitors to the celebration.

FRED MAHONE AND HIS FAMILY
CIRCA 1956-57
(MMHA #13760)



100 Years Ago From the Mohave County Miner

JUL—AUG 1918

The Red Cross has received orders from Paris headquarters to enroll 300 women motor drivers for overseas service.



NATIONAL OLD TRAILS HIGHWAY, PRECURSOR TO ROUTE 66

Next Monday all of Kingman stores will be closed for all of the day in celebration of Labor Day.

The ever increasing popularity of the National Old Trails Highway and route is being attested daily by the number of tourists using it east and west. Last Sunday saw ten automobiles pass through Kingman to the east and many more came and departed to the west.



WOMEN OF THE UK ARE WWI MOTOR DRIVERS
Photo source: Pintrest.com

By an order sent out from headquarters German will not be taught hereafter in any of the schools of the state, and it is probable that the language will not be revived because of lack of interest.

The first letter sent through the mail by airplane to reach Kingman was received by postmaster Metcalf this week. The letter was mailed by Carl Hayden at Washington (DC) August 3, and came to Kingman via New York.

Membership Renewal

Joan McCall
William A. Wales
Robert & Roxanne Freiday
Paula King
Karen & Mike Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Ricca
Jill Gernetzke-Hays
Jeri Short
Jim Short
Dorothy LaPorte-Husser
Bob & Darlene Shaeffer Maher
Mrs. Pat Hartup
Hon. Judge Gary Pope
Shirley Bradley
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yost
David & Tommie Upton
Owen & Kolette Finch
Bill & Judy Smith
Carol Noli
John J. & Anne Collins
Bruce & Sherry Potter
Thelma Craver
Bill J. Bailey
Thomas & Betsy Carman
Barbara Conrath

Culligan Water Conditioning
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cook
Virginia Payne
Verna K. Wright
Dan C. & Jean Bishop
Mr. & Mrs. William Ekstrom
Dwight S. & D. Maxine Burgess
Rex & Judy Becker
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Wolff
Patricia M. & Ben J. Lamb, Golden Valley, AZ
Shirley A. Bedow, Golden Valley, AZ
Jessie Morrill, Yucca, AZ
G. R. Bell, Waddell, AZ
Larry & Sandy Anderson, Flagstaff, AZ
Rick & Jaynell Chambers, Camp Verde, AZ
T. J. McMichael Family, Mesa, AZ
Delbert L. & Dorothy Campbell, Lk. Havasu, AZ
Albert Lemke, Fort Mohave, AZ
Jim Strait, Phoenix, AZ
S. J. "Sonny" Alvarado, Scottsdale, AZ
Leo F. & Wendie G. Black, Mesquite, NV
Mr. John R. Byram, Pasadena, CA
Eric & Sharon Bond, Twentynine Palms, CA
Mr/Mrs William B. Graves, Colorado Springs, CO
Mark & Rita Wilhelmi, Stanley, ND

New Memberships

Pauline Wigginton
Robert N. Palmer
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Messersmith
Doris B. Huff
Morgan R. Wilson
Joan Ransberger
Jerry Woods
Margaret Olsson
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Schritter
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Carpenter, Flagstaff, AZ
Paul W. Wittmer, PhD, Bullhead City, AZ
Ella & Terry Johnson, Las Vegas, NV

ARIZONA HIGHWAYS MAGAZINE PROJECT

THANKS TO EACH OF YOU WHO RESPONDED TO OUR APPEAL FOR INDIVIDUAL BACK ISSUES OF ARIZONA HIGHWAYS MAGAZINE, WE HAVE ALMOST DOUBLED OUR COLLECTION! WHILE WE STILL HAVE "HOLES" TO FILL, WE'RE DELIGHTED THAT WE NOW HAVE A GREAT RESOURCE TOOL FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO DELVE INTO THE HISTORIC PHOTOS AND STORIES THAT SHOWCASE OUR WONDERFUL STATE IN SOUTHWESTERN USA.

**IN THE WEEKS, MONTHS, YEARS AHEAD IF YOU COME ACROSS OLD AZM COPIES, DON'T HESITATE TO CHECK WITH THE LIBRARIAN IN OUR RESEARCH FACILITY
928-753-3195, EMAIL: LIBRARY@MOHAVEMUSEUM.ORG
WE'LL KEEP AN INVENTORY LIST HANDY FOR JUST SUCH AN OCCASION**

TEAMWORK!



Memorials

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

In Memory Of

Gary Orves Markee
Paul James Carson
Gary Orves Markee
Helen Frances (Henry) Dorner McKeehan
Virginia Lee (Virgie) Boyette
Rev. John Ellermann
Alice Mallory

Donor

Karin Goudy
Bonnie Bacon
Dorothy Brown
Patricia Mullen Land & Ben Lamb
Patricia Mullen Land & Ben Lamb
Kay A. Ellermann
Jack M. Kesler



COMING ATTRACTIONS

SOUNDS OF KINGMAN

Sunday, July 15—5:00-7:00 p.m.
Metcalfe Park
Concert in the Park
“Riptides”

Sunday, August 12—5:00-7:00 p.m.
Metcalfe Park
Concert in the Park
“The Rivals”

WWW.SOUNDSOFKINGMAN.COM



METCALFE PARK PHOTOS FROM GOOGLE.COM



Did you know that MOHAVE MEMORIES NEWSLETTER is available to view on our website?

And, did you know that a COLOR version of MOHAVE MEMORIES NEWSLETTER is available by email?

Contact Vicky Markee at 928.753.3195 to request to be switched to email delivery. She needs your e-address, then she will do the rest!

MOHAVE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ARTS

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JULY—AUGUST 2018



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