



# The Mohave Museum of History and Arts Mohave Memories

JULY-AUGUST 2019

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is once again time to put words to paper, meaning to words, and hope nothing is lost in the translation. The Museum World seems to be simply creating an environment that links Museum guests with objects and explanations of past eras; where, in fact, it is a deep crevice that can only be crossed by a complex series of bridges.



PURCELL CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF MINING IN MOHAVE COUNTY

First and foremost, one must have the passion to preserve the past. Secondly, there must be a way to house and display objects of history. Thirdly, comes the management of the facility and preservation of the artifacts. Fourth, you have to have an audience either in person or through digital representation. Last, and most important, comes the question: “why”?

The Mohave Museum of History and Arts has been able to create an aqueduct connecting each of these requirements through unity and tenacity. The Kingman Community has come together to build and maintain a sustainable working Museum and Research Facility, and



PURCELL’S NATIVE AMERICAN ETCHINGS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A STUNNING WORK BY ARTIST, OZZ FRANCA. MORE WORKS OF ART ARE SCHEDULED TO BE PLACED ON DISPLAY SOON IN THE LIBRARY.

that in itself is a great feat. The question of “why” is where the true essence of this town lies. The people that are involved in this Museum realize that to honor the past is to give hope for the future. Thank you all for the selfless work you have done!

The Museum celebrates its 51<sup>st</sup> birthday this year. We are proud to have a new Roy Purcell exhibit in the Library. It is only fitting that his work be portrayed, not only in the original front part of the Museum but also in the Research Facility, placing an emphasis on the arts in every part of this building. Roy has graced this Museum with his prolific words and visual displays that have lasted since its inception. I would like to thank the staff and volunteers that took the initiative to enhance our Library walls with the creative donations that might have not otherwise been seen. Please take the time and come in to see the work that is being done!

*Shannon*

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Mohave Memories  
Newsletter and Museum Memberships

**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE**

[www.mohavemuseum.org/resources](http://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**

Summertime!!



**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**SOUNDS OF KINGMAN**



**CONCERT IN THE PARK**

Sunday, July 28, 4:00—6:00 P.M., Metcalf Park  
"Tosha & David"

Sunday, August 25, 4:00—6:00 P.M., Metcalf Park  
"Goodheart"

[WWW.SOUNDSOFKINGMAN.COM](http://WWW.SOUNDSOFKINGMAN.COM)

## MAKING GOOD DURING THE BAD TIMES

CONTRIBUTED BY CHARLES COOK

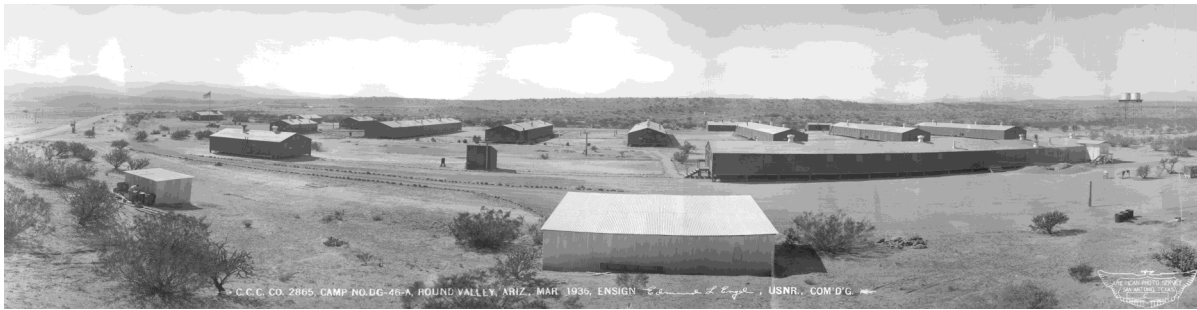
The United States fell on hard times during the Great Depression of 1929 when banks and businesses failed and the economy came to a virtual standstill. A large number of Americans lost their jobs, homes, and farms due to this man-made disaster. Unemployment skyrocketed and left a large segment of the population out of work. Men who were willing to work couldn't find work.

The Federal Government got busy and came up with a plan that would help alleviate the burden of unemployment on the citizens of this nation. This new plan was called the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC. Young men between the ages of seventeen and twenty-eight were asked to volunteer to work in the new program, and projects were found in public works areas around the country. Building of campsites, maintaining and planting new forests, grading and repairing roads, were just a few of the jobs the CCC volunteers carried out.

Mohave County had at least a dozen sites where workers were assigned to construction projects. The main CCC camps in our County were located in the Hualapai Mountains, in Round Valley (north of Wickieup), and at McConnico, which is four miles south of Kingman.



MMHA #4882



ROUND VALLEY CCC CAMP

MMHA #11480

One local businessmen who became instrumental with the CCC program in Kingman was William Stewart Thompson, a Mohave County Supervisor, and owner of the Dudley and Thompson Machinery Building at the corner of 3rd and Front Streets (now known as Andy Devine Avenue), where the downtown Kingman Post Office is currently located. Thompson was a second-generation Mohave County resident. His father, Edward, had come into this area with the railroad in 1882, when the town of Kingman was known as Shenfield.



MMHA #1950

William Thompson, who was commonly called by his middle name, Stewart, did a great amount of the preliminary work to establish the success of the incoming CCC, and physically took part in the preparation of some of the camp areas where the CCC volunteers would be living and working. Stewart wanted to make sure that the government project was a successful venture in Mohave County.

The 1930's were very rough economic times for Mohave County. A program such as the CCC made the difference in the economic survival of the county. CCC workers spent the fifteen dollars a month they earned in Kingman businesses, or sent some of it home to family members. A large number of the men who came from hard-hit regions of the eastern United States enjoyed the Kingman area so much that they stayed here. After the CCC program was shut down in 1942, they became valuable citizens of Mohave County.

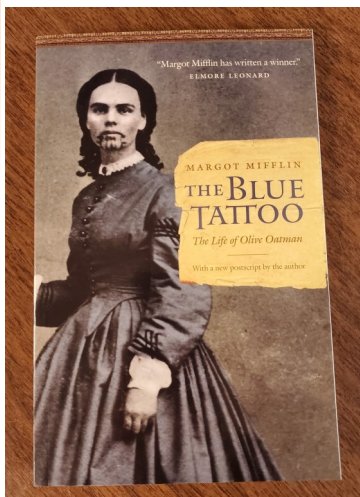
Stewart Thompson said in an interview in the 1980's, "I still think that was the finest thing the government did. It is too bad they don't do some of it now." Thompson himself saw what a depressed economy could do to private enterprise as his own business failed during this American tragedy. But did Stewart Thompson lay down and give up?

Emphatically, no! He used his business knowledge, his propensity for hard work, and got himself back in the game of life. A lesson for us all.

###

## GIFT SHOP BOOK REVIEW

### THE BLUE TATTOO: The Life of Olive Oatman



Our *Gift Shop* is full of interesting things, from Anasazi beans to bookmarks, but top on the list of items for sale is an excellent selection of published books. We've reviewed others in our Newsletter, but this one struck a chord. The book has taken a fresh look at an old story, and it's a winner.

Margo Mifflin artfully blends extensive scholarly research with great creative writing skills—neither dry, nor sensational—so it is compelling, and educational. First reflecting on the Oatman family preparations to leave Illinois and join a wagon train to the West, Mifflin leads the reader through the circumstances leading up to the tragic massacre on the Gila River and capture of two of the three Oatman survivors. The book pulls you in immediately; revealing truths about the clashing cultures and how these two girls survived their treatment as Yavapai slaves and the ultimate trade of Olive and Mary Ann to the Mohave tribe. Mifflin examines the life of Olive's brother, Lorenzo, as he made his way to safety, and the years after his sisters' captivity.

Each chapter picks its way onward, toward Olive's eventual release by the Mohave to representatives of the United States, and in the process the author scrupulously separates fact from fiction. She exposes the horrific advantages taken of Olive after her return to the United States by fortune-seekers bent on capitalizing on her unique appearance and experience as a captive. Both the Yavapai and Mohave cultures and traditions are shared to help the reader gain understanding of their role in Olive's life story.

Mifflin's award-winning journalistic skills are keen; attention to detail, realism tempered with compassion, sensationalism is tastefully clobbered by truth. We learn of life on both ends of the spectrum and wonder, "How did this "white Native American" cope with life in each culture?" Read it; you'll be glad you did.



## From The Library

Good things are happening at the Research Facility/Library, with the help of several volunteers. Volunteers are the backbone of the Museum, and ours join other volunteers who serve at Route 66 Museum and the Bonelli House. We're indebted to them, and the hours and efforts they devote to our Museum projects.

**THANKS VOLUNTEERS!**

You'll see a change in this issue of the Mohave Memories. We've picked up the thread of a great project from the old days called "Footprints in Mohave County". In the process we've loosed our grip on the three segments: "50 Years—80 Years—100 Years", as that project has run its course. Volunteer Luci Pewsey, who has collected facts and topics for many years from the Daily Miner for insertion in each issue of Memories, has continued to prove in this issue that news need not be limited to certain years, and this is very good!

Another improvement here, noted in the **LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR**, is on the walls. We find and hang beautiful works of art, educational maps, historic posters and other items that help create a pleasant atmosphere. Be sure to stop in to take a look, on a Wednesday or Thursday; first-hand is always better than a photo.

We always **need Volunteer help**. We have specific tasks. Let us make a match with your interests. And remember, there's never a dull day at the Library.

# Footprints in Mohave County

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Lafe Miller** who recently returned from France is now working at the Santa Fe Depot.

**Dr. T. R. White** left for Needles Monday. **Mrs. White and Toler** will remain in Los Angeles for the summer and Toler will attend the Polytechnic High School.

**Don Wagner** cut two fingers badly last Thursday.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

**Anaheim White Ribbon Beer.** If you are dissatisfied with near-beers, try Anaheim White Ribbon Beer. It costs no more.



PHOTO CREDIT:  
WWW.VISITANAHEIM.ORG

For sale by Central Commercial Company [The history of Orange County's brewing goes all the way back to the 1850s, when a band of German immigrants established the vineyard colony that 21 years later became the town of Anaheim.]

**Central Commercial Building** (photo on right). The building to its left was known as the Powers Building, named after the president of Citizens Bank; Citizens merged with Arizona Central Bank and the building was purchased by Central Commercial Company [Source: Glenn Johnson].



CENTRAL COMMERCIAL BUILDING, CIRCA 1919  
(MMHA #4462)

**The Citizens Bank** Capital \$150,000  
Kingman and Oatman, Arizona

**Central Commercial Co.** White canvas pumps, \$3.25. White canvas oxfords, \$4.50. White canvas English Walking Shoes, \$5.50. Don't forget our bathing suits of genuine merit in all desirable color combinations, \$4.50 to \$10.00.

## MORE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kingman is to have a boxing contest a week from tonight at the open air pavilion. **Al Swindle and L. W. Cook of Needles** will stage semi-monthly bouts at Kingman, Oatman, and Needles.

**H. L. McCarn** of Chloride motored to Kingman this week in his new "jitney."

**Mrs. Devine** left early in the week for a several weeks trip in the Northwest.

**L. J. Friedell** received a peppering of bird shot when he and **Jack Houts** were hunting a short distance from Kingman.

**M. G. Wagner** has gone to Phoenix and will drive a Buick car back.

**Alta Clack** is spending her vacation at Ocean Park, California.

**Miners at Oatman** Given 50 cent raise by Operators.

Kingman had a narrow escape this week from a big fire in the business district when fire broke out in **Dr. Stark's** office in the Citizens Bank building.



**Shafter Adams** has resigned his commission as First Lieutenant in the U. S. Army and is back in Kingman, bringing with him [his] bride, formerly **Gladys Nelson** of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

## DISASTERS

What one man termed the worst wreck he has seen in 20 years took place one mile above Hackberry Thursday evening. [One engineer insisted, against orders, that he could make Hackberry before #329 arrived. **Engineer Fancher**, after many years of service, lost his job with the Santa Fe Railroad over this incident.] Engine # 1255 was going east. Engine #329 was going west (informant unknown). This photo shows the damage to the back of one of the engines. Several people are milling about.

## Membership Renewal

Jim & Anne Dorre  
Morgan R. Wilson  
Debbie Catt  
John & Donna Touchette  
Judge Gary Pope  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Ricca  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yost  
Jim Short  
Bill & Colleen Kirby  
Nora Morrison  
Jeri Short  
Bruce & Sherry Potter  
Robert N. Palmer  
Joan Ransberger  
Shirley Bradley  
Bill R. Watson  
Carol A. Decker-Noli  
Owen and Kolette Finch

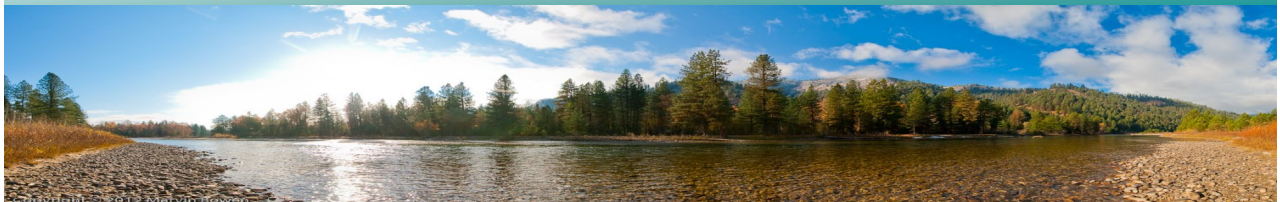
Jill Gernetzke-Hays  
Karen & Mike Thompson  
David Savage  
Judy Olney  
Beverley Potter  
Thelma Craver  
Dorothy LaPorte-Husser  
Bob & Darlene Shaeffer Maher  
Culligan Water Conditioning  
Charles & Margaret Lowes, Golden Valley, AZ  
Patricia M. & Ben J. Lamb, Golden Valley, AZ  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale E. Enlow, Hackberry, AZ  
Paul W. Wittmer, PhD, Bullhead City, AZ  
Albert Lemke, Fort Mohave, AZ  
Jim Strait, Phoenix, AZ  
Leo F. & Wendie G. Black, Mesquite, NV  
Larry & Sandy Anderson, Flagstaff, AZ  
Jeanne Orr Mathiesen, Kansas City, MO

## New Memberships

Patricia Rydstrom  
Mark & Katharine Erickson, Golden Valley, AZ  
June K. Benson, Palm Desert, CA

**Our Members Keep Us Growing...Thank you.**

## Memorials



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

### In Memory Of

Cynthia Lynn Burt  
Pamela Kay Hornsby  
Ila Marie Reichardt  
Kathy Payne Brown  
Ila Marie Corbin  
August E. & Norine A. "Tiny" Reichardt  
Ida Mae Cornwall  
Darrell T. Outlaw  
Carol Jane Daley  
Ruth Shelton-Wiseman  
William Marshall McCall  
Michael Owen Glancy

### Donor

Kingman High School Class of 1971 & Pat Mullen  
Kingman High School Class of 1971 & Pat Mullen  
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Elise (Reichardt) Otero  
Elise (Reichardt) Otero  
Elise (Reichardt) Otero  
Elise (Reichardt) Otero  
Kingman High School Class of 1971 & Pat Mullen  
Xi Beta Phi Sorority and Pat Mullen-Lamb  
Clairann P. Cave  
Clairann P. Cave  
Clairann P. Cave

# What our Visitors are saying...

Marilize, from The Philippines  
Everything [was] interesting and informative. Keep it up!

Robert, from Indiana  
I learned about the town of Kingman; I liked everything!

Will, from Massachusetts  
Very informative, well set up, very complete, beautiful displays.  
Pleasant staff.

Elaine, from Tennessee  
Loved the signage, with the editorial comments at the end. Exhibits are very well done.

Pam, from Washington  
[I liked] Everything! Favorite was the round table with artifacts [Indian Room] — beautiful. And very nice receptionist at front desk

Sophia, from New York  
I learned that jails were made of wood and metal...loved the walk-in train!!  
It was awesome.

Charlene, LHC, Arizona  
My favorite thing at the museum was the ghost towns, paintings of the Presidential couples.  
[You have].. wonderful, helpful volunteers.

Fourth Grade Students from **KINGMAN ACADEMY OF LEARNING** had field trips to our three Museums in May. We share below some of the “thank you” notes delivered to us recently. Their youthful perspectives—some a little more colorful than others—provide us with a light spot to an otherwise dull world, don’t you think? We are happy to host these young people and hope they will develop a keen interest in history!



MOHAVE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ARTS

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

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*Published bi-monthly by*  
MOHAVE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President.....**Bill Wales**  
Director.....**Shannon Rossiter**  
Printer.....**H&H Printers, Inc.**

Non-Profit Org.  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**JULY—AUGUST 2019**



**DESERT SCENE MOHAVE COUNTY—CREDIT: PHIL KELLY 2019, MUSEUM VOLUNTEER**