

# MOHAVE MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ARTS

# MOHAVE MEMORIES

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 2017

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## THE BOARD OF THE MOHAVE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ARTS

***INVITES YOU TO JOIN US  
FOR THE***

## THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING

COME YE... COME YE, to our  
“OLD FASHION CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG ”

Bring all the little ones and join us in the round as we sing your  
favorite Christmas carols and songs with  
**PAUL CARSON** featured at the Austin Pipe Organ.

We're also very pleased to host the **BEALE STREET THEATRE**,  
a group of local performers who will share with us  
their special Christmas presentation.

**\*SATURDAY**, December 2, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.  
Mohave Museum auditorium, 400 West Beale Street, Kingman  
(Light refreshments will be offered)



***Come one, come all***—let's gather around  
and kick off the Holiday Season together!



**For more information: 928-753-3195**

**\*Please note this free program is being held on SATURDAY.**

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

On Saturday, October 7th the Museum hosted an antiques appraisal day with Sean Morton, an expert appraiser from Scottsdale, AZ. The day was a huge success, largely due to Pat Otto's efforts in keeping people engaged while waiting their turn to see Sean. Although some people had to wait two hours, there was never a complaint; quite the contrary, people praised the Museum and the professionalism they encountered from both Pat and Sean.

One pair of participants stopped me and told me how much they enjoyed my page in the Newsletter. I must admit I was honored, and felt an ego-driven impulse to start another adventure by writing my November-December masterpiece.

When I turned to the computer to start my bi-monthly composition, my mind suddenly went blank: "I had nothing" and the harder I pursued drafting something, the more nothing there seemed to be... I mean *nothing*! I dismissed the notion of the glass being half-empty or half-full. There was no glass, no liquid, literally nothing. Then I contemplated getting a MRI, but I feared the results and was further terrified that they might want to use my head in a study of negative space.



The only path I had was to fall back on some obscure memory of a philosophy professor saying, "Nothing is actually something." Building on the idea of "out of the mud grows the Lotus," I embraced experiences of the past that grounded me and let me regroup, namely, the Christmas season.

The past sixteen years have given me many opportunities to share my thoughts with you and it has always been a privilege; this year will be no different. I want to wish you the best Christmas ever, and a New Year that will find you and your loved ones well and prosperous.

*Shannon*



**WINTER SCENE  
DOWNTOWN KINGMAN —1949**

In the days when...

- It snowed heavier, and stayed a while
- Fewer cars were on the road
- Chestnuts may well have been roasting on the fire
- And....(you fill in the blank...)

(MMHA #3042)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### 2017

**SAT. NOV. 4: *WINE, FOOD, AND SPIRITS***  
 MOHAVE MUSEUM HISTORY AND ARTS'  
**ANNUAL FUND RAISER**  
 6:00 P.M.

**SAT. NOV. 18: *KINGMAN QUILTERS' GUILD***  
 "QUILTS OF VALOR" PRESENTATION  
 HONORING VIETNAM WAR VETERANS  
 2:00 PM

**SAT. DEC. 2: *VOLUNTEERS' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON,***  
 11:00 AM

**SAT. DEC. 2: *A CHRISTMAS GATHERING***  
 COME ONE, COME ALL!  
 2:00 PM

**FRI. DEC. 15: *BOARD CHRISTMAS DINNER***  
 6:00 PM

### 2018

**SAT. JAN. 27: *OUR TIME, OUR HISTORY***  
 CASEY DAVIS PRESENTS: '*Hi Jolly*' & *the Mystery of the*  
*U.S. Army Camel Corps*  
 2:00 PM

Find **Mohave Memories** Online  
[www.mohavemuseum.org/resources](http://www.mohavemuseum.org/resources)

### Mohave Museum of History & Arts

The Mohave County Historical Society 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, Powerhouse Route 66 Museum & Bonelli House; 10% discount in Museum Gift Shop.

**Supporting Member** **\$100.00**  
 Includes all General member benefits: plus no-charge research assistance from the Museum staff.

**Business Member** **\$200.00**

**Director's Circle** **\$500.00**

Membership Application available  
**[www.mohavemuseum.org/contact us](http://www.mohavemuseum.org/contact-us)**

Or call  
**928-753-3195**



**2018 TRAVEL** opportunities for members and friends...

### **CRUISE ON THE ISLAND PRINCESS**

**March 25—April 9**

Ft. Lauderdale to Los Angeles via Panama Canal

*And/Or...*

### **SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS**

**May 4—May 18**

14-Day Escorted Tour

**NOTE:** Important to reserve soon for best prices—these tours have deadlines and fill quickly

**CONTACT: DONNA TOUCHETTE**  
 928-757-3368/897-8592  
[groupspecialist@hotmail.com](mailto:groupspecialist@hotmail.com)



## 50 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

**Nov.—DEC. 1967**

Adults interested in participating in the Christmas time presentation of "The Messiah" are welcome to attend rehearsals each Thursday in the high school music room, beginning at 8 p.m.

The Hualapai Valley Fire District is much better equipped with the arrival of a new fire truck and the gift from McCarthy Motors of an emergency unit last week.

Long-time Kingman chef Charlie Lum now brings the finest eating ever to our city. Beginning November 2nd, Colonel Sanders' World Famous Kentucky Fried Chicken is here to stay.



Mrs. Frankie Younger entertained with a bridge luncheon at her home in So-Hi Estates Saturday afternoon in honor of Mrs. W. L. Eagleton mother of Mrs. Pauline Standifer, from Tulsa, OK.



**COL. O. E. EVERETT**

The Mohave County High School band joined some 3000 high school musicians from throughout Arizona on November 18 for the annual Band Day at half-time program at the Arizona State University—Brigham Young University football game at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe.

Col. O. E. Everett, Kingman City Attorney, on November 6 was admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of the United States of America in Washington, D. C.

Dave and Donna Kowalske, owners of the Kingman Rose Garden, have just moved into modern facilities on Hall Street at Broadway on Hilltop, and have planned a grand opening celebration for December 15 and 16.

Congratulations were in order last Saturday at the Verde Valley country Club for Mrs. Ollie Bond of Kingman. Playing in a tournament on the Clarkdale course Mrs. Bond made a hole in one on the eighth hole, a 122-yard layout over water. Mrs. Bond is well known in Kingman as a long-time and outstanding golfer.

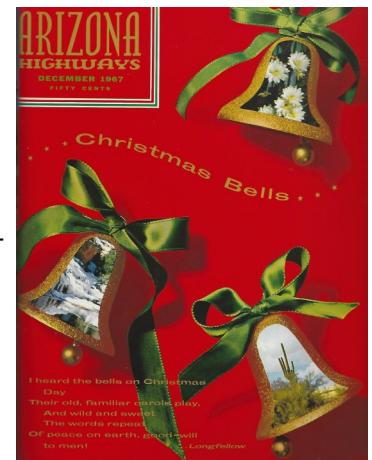
December 9 will be Shrine Day in Kingman. The Mohave Shrine Club will host a day-long festivity which will include a downtown parade, luncheon, ceremonial dinner and dance. Expected to attend are Shriners from Mohave County, Needles, Las Vegas and Phoenix.

A 50-piece band composed of students at Palo Christi Elementary School will perform with traditional Christmas music at the school December 19, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

A soldier from Mohave County, SP4 John W. Hill, III, has been killed in the Vietnam fight. The 12-year-old man was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hill, Jr., of Valentine.

Elroy "Crazy Horse" Hirsch, all-time Los Angeles Rams professional football star and an All-American at both Wisconsin and Michigan Universities will be the principal speaker at the MCUHS football banquet at Manzanita School on December 11th.

Arizona's official Christmas greeting card to the world, the all color December issue of Arizona Highways Magazine is now being distributed world-wide.



# HAPPY THANKSGIVING



As we celebrate this winter season filled with traditional holidays, let's not forget to touch base with those who are alone, or far away from loved ones.

It takes only a moment to consciously bring warmth to the heart of a friend (or a stranger) at this "family time of year"....

Thanks!

## 80 Years Ago From The Mohave County Miner

**Nov.—Dec. 1937**

When Mrs. Jacqueline Cochran Odlum set her plane down in Miami, Florida only four hours, 12 minutes, 28 seconds after she hopped off from New York, she not only shattered all existing records for the long flight, but recalled to the minds of the local superior court clerk's office that she began her married life in Kingman on May 11, 1936. (CREDIT: GOOGLE.COM)



A change from regular routine is always pleasing so drive out this evening, or any time, to Cool Springs Camp, 20 miles west of Kingman on U.S. 66, for a chicken or steak dinner.

PHOTOS—PREVIOUS:  
ERECTING A NEON SIGN  
AT THE COOL SPRINGS  
CAMP AND EATERY  
(MMHA #10969).  
RIGHT: FLOYD SPIDELL  
STOPS AT COOL SPRINGS  
FOR A BREAK ON HIS WAY  
TO BECOMING A KING-  
MAN RESIDENT. (MMHA  
#10979)



A new popcorn machine arrived yesterday which will be installed at the Chocolate Shop. In addition to this equipment the Manships installed a Coney Island cooker earlier this week. (CREDIT: GOOGLE.COM; NOT AN EXACT REPRESENTATION)

This week a new Chrysler and Plymouth agency was opened at 231 North Front Street in the front part of the Thompson Dudley building by Roy Hicks and L. W. Allard.

## 100 Years Ago From the Mohave County Miner

**Nov.—Dec. 1917**

The final 15 percent of the first contingent of drafted men for the National Army will be called to training camps sometime in November, according to word received this week from Phoenix.

Chloride:  
Very interesting services were held Sunday, November 25, in laying the cornerstone of the new Baptist church building with a good sized audience present.



**FINE SEND-OFF FOR THE BOYS OF CHLORIDE, WWI ARMY TRAINING** (MMHA #9912)

The Tarr, McComb and Ware company has built a neat concrete walk around its property on the corner of Fifth and Front Streets. In making this improvement the old porch of the Commercial Hotel has been removed and a new entrance made to that hostelry, giving it an up-to-date appearance. The progressive attitude of this company is to be commended.



**HARVEY HOUSE EMPLOYEES: NAMES OF PEOPLE AVAILABLE ONLINE** (MMHA #1705)

J. T. Jacobson of Los Angeles, general superintendent of the Western division of the Harvey House eating systems, and G. H. Reed, his assistant, spent Thursday here inspecting the new Harvey House dining room. Both expressed delight with the new structure which is nearing completion.

**KINGMAN HARVEY HOUSE CIRCA 1915**

(MMHA #1703)





# THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC RAILROAD COMES TO MOHAVE COUNTY

(Compiled from articles in the Mohave County Miner)  
Contributed by: Michael A. Goethals (Museum visitor/Author)

## PART ONE (...of a two-part series):

In November 1882, readers of the Mohave County Miner read the news that the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad was progressing west across northern Arizona from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and was ready to enter Mohave County. A letter from Lewis Kingman indicated that the first train would cross the Chino bridge in Yavapai County and that it was the company's intention to reach the Colorado River before the rise of spring in 1883.

Trade from the end of track in Williams, Arizona, was increasing as over thirty teams of supplies loaded and left for Hackberry, Mineral Park, and the railroad camps west of the track each week. The company had some six hundred men at the front laying track, with hopes of being at Peach Springs by the 1st of January.

The November 26th newspaper predicted that "as soon as the tracks reached Peach Springs, everyone would experience the benefits of railroad communication," with faster mail, cheaper goods and mining materials, and a telegraph line within thirty miles of Mineral Park. William H. Hardy, a freight and stage owner, informed the readers that he had established his own stations and was carrying all the passengers, water, barley, oats, and hay that he could using six double teams running between Chino Bridge and Mineral Park. He also boasted being able to deliver the mail to Mineral Park within thirty hours from the end of the track.

After a short delay in track laying, railroad officials announced their intention to cross the Mohave County line by Christmas and have the siding at Peach Springs ready for freight and general service by January 10th, 1883. Hardy, who rapidly adjusted his wagons and stages to meet the progress of the railroad, stated that after December 16th, his stages would connect with the A&P Railroad trains at night; a passenger coach would be running through to the end of the track on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, reaching the end of the track at 8 P.M. and leaving at 5 A.M. the next morning. Passengers and mail matter would be able to travel between Williams and Mineral Park within twenty-four hours, each way.

As the A&P tracklayers laid two and a half miles of track a day, a large party of men had been sent forward and set at work putting down pipe and machinery for the purpose of pumping the water over from Peach Springs to the end of the track. By mid-January 1883, these forty men had a water pipe from the Springs to the depot completed and the water flowing. J. H. Farlee opened a feed yard, saloon, and restaurant at Peach Springs, while Wells, Fargo & Company built an express office and telegraph exchange there as well. By the end of January, the railroad company had plans to locate the terminal freight agent at Peach Springs as tracklayers rapidly traversed the first few miles into Mohave County. With the workers boarding the train, now spurred at the end of track about one mile west of Peach Springs, travel on the road to the end of track increasing rapidly. W. H. Hardy's stage line was taking but twelve hours to reach the railroad depot or express office between Mineral Park and Peach Springs.

However, the western progress of the A&P Railroad was soon delayed by a workers' strike. During late January and early February, the editors of the Mohave County Miner reported that tracklayers were angry over the company's inability to keep them employed due to the delays of adequate supplies. Since the company was only working the tracklayers every few days, and refused to pay them when they were unable to work, the workers were determined to take matters into their own hands. When the pay car arrived in

**HOT WORK ON THE A&P TRACK SUPPORTS** (MMHA #8706)

Hackberry, some of the men attempted to take possession of it, but were scared off when railroad officials threatened to open fire on the crowd if they did not behave themselves. The trouble ended by all the men leaving, about seventy-five going back on the train to Albuquerque, while the rest struck out in different directions.

*(...to be concluded in the Jan-Feb. MM Newsletter)*



**A&P TRACK LAYERS** (MMHA #2719)



## UPDATE: OCTOBER WAS NATIONAL ARCHIVES MONTH (DID YOU VISIT YOUR COUNTY LIBRARY?)



### MOHAVE COUNTY LIBRARY DISPLAY KINGMAN

AT KINGMAN'S COUNTY LIBRARY, **MMHA CURATOR, EDIE WALLS**, SET UP A DISPLAY SHOWING HOW OUR MODERN "SMART PHONES" NOW REPLACE SO MANY OF THE OLD TOOLS OF COMMUNICATION: CALCULATORS, TYPEWRITERS, CAMERAS, AND TELEPHONES AND TELEPHONE BOOKS...

WHEN YOU VISIT OUR MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ARTS YOU'LL FIND A SIMILAR DISPLAY IN THE MAIN AUDITORIUM.

THANKS, EDIE!

### MOHAVE COUNTY LIBRARY DISPLAY LAKE HAVASU CITY

THE LAKE HAVASU MUSEUM OF HISTORY'S DIRECTOR, **BECKY MAXEDON**, AND HER VOLUNTEERS PLACED A LARGE DISPLAY OF PHOTOS AND ARTIFACTS AT THEIR COUNTY LIBRARY IN RECOGNITION OF THE MONTH-LONG EVENT. THEIRS WAS CLEARLY THE LARGEST DISPLAY, AS LIBRARY SERVICES MANAGER, **WENDY WAGNER**, MADE PLENTY OF SPACE AVAILABLE AT THEIR BUSY SITE.

THANKS BECKY AND CREW,  
AND WENDY TOO!



### MOHAVE COUNTY LIBRARY DISPLAY BULLHEAD CITY

WHILE WE WERE UNABLE TO OBTAIN A PHOTO OF THE BULLHEAD CITY COUNTY LIBRARY DISPLAY BEFORE THIS NEWSLETTER DEADLINE, WE WANT TO GIVE CREDIT TO OUR "SISTER MUSEUM" (**COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM**) AND ITS **DIRECTOR/CURATOR, ELSIE NEEDLES**, FOR COORDINATING THE DISPLAY IN KEEPING WITH THE COUNTY'S RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT OF THIS GREAT ANNUAL EVENT....THANKS, ELSIE!

## Membership Renewals

Ann Weaver  
 Cheryl Belding  
 Elizabeth C. Calman  
 Mert Glancy  
 Kathy Ortman  
 Tadas Edelis  
 Penny White  
 Bruce and Cathy Ott  
 Lucille Fairchild  
 M. Dale Perry  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gene Chambers  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Casson  
 Lynn and Peter Armao  
 Bruce and Lorraine Leeming  
 Michael S. & Laura L. Counterman  
 Jane A. Coleman  
 Arthur J. Black  
 F. Marilyn Stover  
 Billy R. & Patsy Neal  
 Paul & Linda Bennett  
 Virginia A. Angle  
 Donna Kowalske  
 Clarence and Nanette Russell  
 Rene L. Chavez  
 Charles & Valerie Kaiser

Tim and Robin Mosby  
 John and Vicki Olson  
 Cathy R. Kreis  
 Dorian Trahan  
 Patricia Green  
 Margaret Welsh  
 Leonard and Shirley Hafley, Hualapai, AZ  
 Susie Patch, Golden Valley, AZ  
 Robert L. Odle, Golden Valley, AZ  
 Peter A. Hansen, Golden Valley, AZ  
 Dolores Robb, Meadview, AZ  
 Sharon A. Shirley, Gilbert, AZ  
 John Wettaw, Flagstaff, AZ  
 Ann Blair Smith, Phoenix, AZ  
 Charles and Mary Graf, Tucson, AZ  
 The Hon & Mrs. Frank Gordon, Phoenix, AZ  
 Ralph and Arlene Stayner, Nutrioso, AZ  
 Mary Jane Bell, Sun City, AZ  
 Jacky Polasky, Las Vegas, NV  
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 Michele V. Price, Portland, OR  
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## New Memberships

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 Robin E. Gordon  
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 Wanda Nowak, Newaygo, MI  
 Joseph Johnson, South Lyon, MI



## Memorials

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

<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Donor</u>
George T. Fass	Jack M. Kesler
Gloria Baskerville Chase Dukeshire	Carol Hurst
Bonnie M. Grounds Gift-Ely	Carol J. Hurst
Bonnie M. Grounds Gift-Ely	Eugene and Linda Wolff
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C. Lorraine (Frazza) Leenhouts	Joan McCall
Bonnie M. Grounds Gift -Ely	Joan McCall
Rose Marie Rosencrans	Joan McCall
Bonnie M. Grounds Gift-Ely	Jack M. Kesler
Tom C. Claw	Jack M. Kesler
Bonnie M. Grounds Gift-Ely	Lois G. Dunn
Evangeline "Eva" Neal	Anne and John Collins
Herbert Padilla	Anne and John Collins
Michael Alan Shaner	Anne and John Collins
Lora Lee Freed	Anne and John Collins
Sue Ann Stallard	Anne and John Collins
Herbert Padilla	The Glancy Family
Sylvester H. Attebery	James Attebery
Edythe Virginia Attebery-Estep	James Attebery
Yvonne Attebery-Slayton	James Attebery
Donna Lindsey Brooks	Clairann Cave
James (Jim) McCarthy	Jack M. Kesler

From the Board, Staff, and Volunteers at our three Museums,  
we wish you a Happy Winter Season...  
Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year.



Your  
Enjoy... Winter Season!



## NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

*In our May-June issue, we reviewed the mystery of young “Claude Th”...a local man whose gravestone was donated to the Museum years after the Pioneer Cemetery closed. A couple of weeks later a gentleman came into the Research Facility on another matter and picked up a copy of the Newsletter. I love a mystery...and so does Ted!*

*Here’s the email he sent as a follow-up ...*

### WHATEVER HAPPENED TO CLAUDE THOMPSON: THE END OF THE STORY??

BY TED MERRILL

“Got home and read the newsletter you gave me, and got intrigued by your 'Claude Thompson' article. I first determined the following info: Claude Thompson appears to have been born February 1891 (1900 census). That matches him dying at sixteen in 1907. The census record abstract shows their residence as 'Chloride', but the image shows 'Pine St.', which indicates that they lived in Kingman. Don't know how they came up with Chloride for that record, unless that is coded in the enumeration district. Someone abstracted Claude's death record; it is on the AZ death certificate site, and cause of death is a curious one-word note of 'Syncope'. I looked that up; something about fainting and then recovering. An odd note for cause of death...



“Claude’s father, Edward Thompson, born December 1852 in California, is shown as a “saloon keeper” (1900 census). The wife in the same census is shown as a Josephine Thompson, born February 1862, New York. (She is shown as 'Josephina' in the 1910 census.) Absent further information, that logically makes her Claude's mother. The children of the family for 1900 are Claude, Stewart, Arthur, and Elizabeth.

“In the 1910 census for Kingman. The family shows up, but Claude Thompson is missing from the 1900 list of children. That further lends credence to this being the family of your Claude Thompson, since he died in 1907. Also of interest is that Edward Thompson is now listed as a “Mining Broker” at a mining property, that they have a servant, and they live next to or near Anson Smith, the founder of the Mohave County Miner. All of that indicates that Mr. Thompson probably hit it big between 1900 and 1910, with something to do with mining—a dynamic which figures into all of the following information.

“In the 1920 census, Edward and Josephine are in Los Angeles. His occupation still listed as “Mining.” Since there are no mines in Los Angeles, a logical presumption is that he is living off of current mining operations somewhere (or maybe he is simply rich, and likes to call himself as being in mining). Their daughter Elizabeth lives with them, but she shows up as ‘Bessie’ Thompson’. The other children are no longer in the household. The 1930 census shows Edward and Josephine still in Los Angeles, his occupation is still listed as “Mining;” all of the children are absent from the household.

“You note in the MM Newsletter that Edward Thompson died in the early 1930s, and that he was buried in Kingman. For someone to have been transported so far to be buried, especially in the dark days of the Depression, also indicates to me that he was making (or made) some good money from whatever mining dealings he did in his Kingman/Chloride days. Being “moneyed” also explains how there was money to dig up Claude and move him from Mineral Park to Kingman’s Mt. View cemetery. And all of that indicates that Edward still had a strong connection to Kingman. Would be nice to know why he left in the first place...

“Your article showed that Claude and his brother “Eddie” were transferred to Mt. View Cemetery at the same time. Since no child named Eddie (or Edward) shows up in the family for 1900 or 1910, I would make a preliminary contention, absent better information, that “Eddie” is simply a duplicate reference to Claude. Since Claude Thompson was the first born male, it *might* logically be presumed that his middle name *could* have been Edward (after his father), and that Claude was generally known as “Eddie” to family/friends/community. (See Librarian’s Note below.)

“If this were more than a 'gee whiz' topic, one could track the descendants of Stewart, Arthur, and Elizabeth. It'd probably be easy to track them up to the 1940 census. It would get very problematic after that due to the common last name. I would also note that the chances of finding out anything more about a sixteen-year-old who died 110 years ago is rather remote. Sadly, Claude Thompson likely vanished from the sibling’s family history no later than two generations after he died.”

\*\*\*\*\*

**Librarian’s Note:** Further information has been found.  
*If you’re interested...call the Research Facility on a Wednesday or Thursday.*

## KINGMAN'S FIRST HOTEL

BY CHUCK COOK

When the small town of Kingman wrested the county seat title from Mineral Park in 1887, Kingman residents knew they had to come up with amenities that proved the town worthy to be called the Mohave County seat. At that time the census recorded a population of about 200 people and, although the new railroad came right through town, the settlement lacked a bank, a fire department, and a hotel...among other essential business entities.

Being able to furnish lodging to the myriad of prospective travelers coming through town was a first priority but the three hotels that would later play a part in the housing of travelers, the Brunswick, the Beale, and the Commercial, were all scheduled to be constructed ten or more years down the road.

On March 9, 1997, the Mohave County Miner and Our Mineral Wealth newspaper in Kingman published an article stating, "We hear that Gus Spear contemplates the erection of a handsome building on the corner of Beale and Fourth streets." Then on March 12, the newspaper revealed that, "Workmen have commenced blasting rock to be used in the foundation of Spear's new hotel, which is to be erected on the corner of Fourth and Beale."

Gus Spear was a cattleman from the lower Mohave Valley, apparently with the funds and ambition to build a prominent edifice in the new County seat that would insure the growth of the little town. Construction of the new hotel continued through September as supplies and furnishings were transported by rail and delivered to the site. Finally, on October 24, 1887, the newspaper reported, "When the doors were opened at 8:00 PM on Monday last, the visitors found everything in apple-pie order; every room ...outside of the office and dining room, being nicely carpeted and elegantly furnished."

The Kingman Hotel was a two-story, gabled building of adobe and plaster. It contained twenty-three guest rooms, a large office, a bar with double doors leading into a dance hall, a kitchen, and a grand dining room that seated seventy-five people. It also boasted storerooms, a pantry, and a laundry room. "An elegant stairway leads to the upper floor," praised one reporter, "where glass doors open onto the veranda which extends around the front and north side." A magnificent hotel it was!

And, now, for the rest of the story: For a long time I didn't know that a hotel of this size had existed on the southwest corner of Beale and Fourth. I do recall as a youngster that Babbitt's Department Store occupied the site, and before that the Gaddis & Perry building, along with a small post office on the corner. I never saw the Gaddis & Perry, but I vaguely recall Babbitt's Store and the fire that destroyed that building. I believe some outer walls remained on the site for quite a while. As a Boy Scout, in about 1955, I sold Christmas trees from the floor of the old building, and I discovered a cellar that you could go into, filled with all kinds of merchandise and furnishings from a bygone era.



CORNER OF BEALE & FOURTH, CURRENT SITE OF WELLS FARGO BANK (MMHA #14215)



1895: HUBBS HOTEL—AT LEFT BACKGROUND YOU CAN SEE SKELETON OF THE KINGMAN HOTEL (MMHS #4398)



1920: BABBITT'S STORE—REAR WALL AT RIGHT WAS POSSIBLY PART OF THE OLD KINGMAN HOTEL FAÇADE. (MMHA #2977)

Though I've checked, I can't find a photograph of the old Kingman Hotel in our Museum photo archives. The original hotel burned down less than a year after it was built, in a horrific fire (1888) that took out most of the commercial section of Kingman. We do have a few photos of early Kingman that show the burned skeleton of the hotel in the background, but the images are so bad you really have to know what you're looking for.

I've often wished I could go back to 1887, when the largest commercial building in Mohave County was a brand new, first-class hotel... just so I could take a photo for posterity! We never know what we have, until it's gone.

#####



Mohave Pioneers  
Historical Society, inc.

400 West Beale Street  
Kingman, AZ 86401-5708  
928-753-3195

[museum@mohavemuseum.org](mailto:museum@mohavemuseum.org)  
[www.mohavemuseum.org](http://www.mohavemuseum.org)

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

November—December 2017



1912: CHLORIDE—TEAMS OF HORSES MOVE FRANK RUSSELL HOUSE. (MMHA#3574)