



The Mohave Museum of History and Arts

Mohave Memories

MARCH-APRIL 2019

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

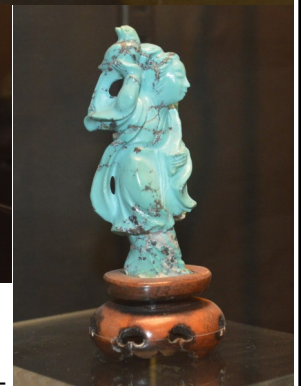
The infatuation with time seems to weigh people down. I have too often heard the inquiry, “Why do you wait until the last minute to write your newsletter?” In order to prove the naysayers wrong, I started this Museum communicate two weeks prior to its due date. I must tell you that I am somewhat out of my comfort zone on two realms: Firstly, something monumental could happen in the fourteen days of my planned reluctance that might go unreported; and, secondly, I believe that “last minute” seems arbitrary when you factor in Biblical time. Nonetheless, I consider it a privilege to have any opportunity to talk up the Museum.

The new turquoise display is complete for now, meaning that we will be enhancing it as we receive new minerals. I cannot emphasize enough how important the Colbaugh Turquoise Collection is to this Museum. It tells the world that Kingman is a repository for some of the world’s finest minerals.

All the fine exhibits in the country would be lackluster without a substantial building to house them and I am here to report that they are being preserved and exhibited in one great structure. The Museum might have some age, but structurally and architecturally it is yet a youngster.

Buildings develop a spiritual feeling, either by design or usage, and this Museum has become a citadel of history not only by its housing of antiquities but also by the reverence shown it by both guests and members. Yet I must say there are occasional detractors that totally miss the Museum’s intent and purpose. A few months ago, I was called on to ask someone to leave because they were claiming to be the “King of Hawaii.” After a brief discussion that included my skepticism, the “King” vacated while mumbling something that seemed to imply that I most certainly was the king of some negative realm. I entertained the notion that perhaps if he had walked the halls of the Museum, he might have experienced something that could have given him some peace; I will never know. I personally would like to thank this Institution for the positive experiences it has afforded me throughout my tenure.

The Museum’s message to all who enter is that there is positive experience for everyone to be had. The Museum is more than pockets of history, it has a message that is graciously systemic about the history of a strong and enduring people.



Shannon

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Mohave Memories Newsletter and Museum Memberships

APPLICATIONS 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 RESEARCH FACILITY

Mike Ryan stopped by in January to present a copy of his book, [The Great Turquoise Rush \(1890-1910\)](#), to our Library. This colorful hardbound book is an easy read and tells the story of how south-western turquoise first took its place in the world's mining and jewelry market. The book is the first of a two-book series, [TURQUOISE IN AMERICA](#), and is co-authored by Ryan and Philip Chambless. This pair of writer/researchers have been historically involved in turquoise matters for many years, Chambless as a historian and noted jewelry designer in New Mexico. They devoted an entire chapter to Mohave County's Mineral Park turquoise mining. Their second book, still in the works, will cover the years 1910-1990.

The Great Turquoise Rush is available for purchase at Amazon.com. At the website (www.greatamericanturquoiserush.com) you can find the latest news and updates on their book projects. Take a look at the book in our research facility, or jump in and purchase a copy for your own enjoyment at home. This is just one of the many assets the Mohave Museum provides for its members and visiting public.

The Museum is back on track with the encapsulation project as the second of our two grants checks arrived in January. Supplies are in and work is progressing. Gary and Mickey Chace are "in-house" on Wednesdays and Thursdays, diligently pursuing the goal of putting all our historic maps in perfect order, under protection and safe storage. We are in need of willing hands on these days to assist in the work so that we can complete the project this year. Training is not complicated; all it takes is a willing heart and steady hands.

Of course, the regular stream of visitors provide us with lots of interesting research to do around our day-to-day tasks putting inventories, shelves, and files in order so this place can continue to be a haven for serious researchers.

"THERE'S NEVER A DULL DAY AT THE LIBRARY!"



MIKE RYAN PRESENTS BOOK TO CATHY KREIS

TALES OF THE NOT-SO-WILD WEST

CONTRIBUTED BY CHARLES COOK

My grandfather, Herb Cook, was a Mohave County deputy under Sheriff Ernie Graham during the 1930-1940's. He would often enthrall us youngsters with tales of official law enforcement excursions he had to make to the mining town of Oatman. Gramps like to spellbind us with all the color and relish he could muster, as he watched our young eyeballs bulge out of our heads in amazement. Three stories he shared with us involved a dead body, a prisoner escape, and rowdy celebratory dances regularly held at the Desert Inn Café and Restaurant.



SHERIFF ERNIE GRAHAM (FRONT, RIGHT) WITH DEPUTIES
(MMHA #5865)

I caution the reader: There is an element of morbidity in the first tale. Individuals employed in law enforcement, medicine, and fire-fighting are susceptible to forms of post-traumatic stress disorder. I'm sure my grandfather had to deal with this type of anxiety.

The dead body story concerned a suspected homicide victim who had to be removed from the place of his demise in Oatman, about a week or so after the dirty deed had taken place. The body was that of a large person. Conditions of heat, time, and rigor mortis had not been kind to the remains. A coffin was secured and Gramps and another deputy attempted to "stuff" the deceased into the burial receptacle. Apparently it took both of them jumping on top of that funerary crate to get the body completely tucked inside for the ride back to Kingman. Not a pleasant outing for the deputies, but a necessary part of working for the Mohave County sheriff's office.

Gramps also told of apprehending two Oatman ruffians he had to transport to the County Jail in Kingman. He was not concerned with the two being security risks because they were chained to each other. However, on the trip to Kingman, the desperados persuaded Gramps to make a stop, either for a nature call or a smoke break. He decided the stop was warranted, so he parked at the side of the road and the two struggled together about thirty yards into the desert and proceeded to take care of business. Once finished they immediately made an attempt to escape by running awkwardly but as best as they could. Perhaps they assumed they were young and spry enough to outrun a middle-aged deputy sheriff across a hilly, broken desert with an unrelenting Arizona sun beating down on them. They were wrong on all counts as Gramps casually strode after them and rounded them up after their short and taxing attempt at freedom. I think it would have made a great training film for the Sheriff's Department.

Another story he told concerns the old Desert Inn, a huge multi-story building located on Oatman's main street at the turn on Old Highway 66 that took travelers due west to the Colorado River. Quite often in the years prior to WWII, the residents of Oatman and its environs would gather on weekend nights to party and dance at the storied Inn. Its third, or top, floor was designated as a ballroom. Dancers would all make their way up the stairs and proceed to partake in spirits, and dance their cares away. Gramps and another deputy would stand ready on the main floor and occupied their time listening and observing. Quite often the genteel and casual nature of the parties would change, and the sounds of scuffling and "colorful" language permeated the interior of the building. And if, by chance, a person or persons came tumbling down the stairs, or blood was observed, the deputies would have to make their way upstairs to see what had caused the commotion. It was not always a pretty sight or situation.



DESERT INN AND RESTAURANT, OATMAN CA. 1920'S
(MMHS# 5112)

At some point in these stories, Gramps would show us his both his .38 caliber firearm and his trusty "sop"—a menacing weapon of defense and/or offense that resembled a policeman's nightstick, only less lethal. Made of leather, looked like a large sausage about a foot long, and filled with buckshot. He never told us if he had used this instrument of pain while on duty, but you can imagine what we pictured in our minds. My grandfather was such an easy-going and even-tempered man, I don't think he had to use much aggressive action in performance of his law enforcement duties; likely he was able to talk a lot of offenders out of doing stupid things.

Grampa enjoyed his service with the Mohave County sheriff's office, got along well with Sheriff Graham, and enjoyed the camaraderie of his fellow deputies. There is a question I never thought to bring up while I listened to this litany of adventure and has puzzled me most of my adult life: When he filled out his application to join the Sheriff's Department in the 1930's, did he have to inform them that during the 1920's he had run an illegal bootleg liquor operation? Who knows?

MOHAVE MUSEUM PRESENTS

Italian Mosaics / 15 Day Tour
September 29th - October 13th, 2019

This tour offers it all—not only will you visit the main Italian cities—Rome, Florence, Venice, and Assisi—you’ll also get to enjoy the relaxing towns of Sorrento, and Stresa at Lake Maggiore

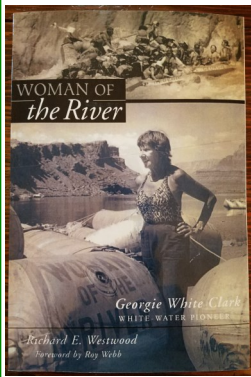
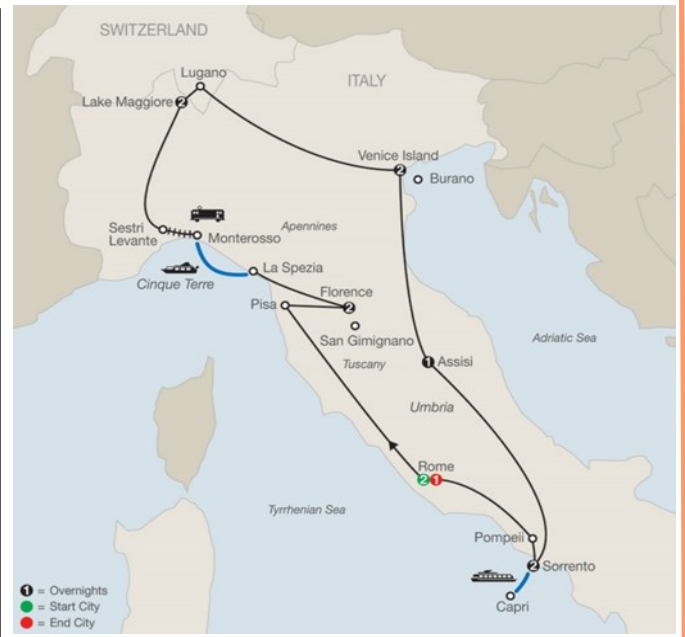
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WOMAN OF THE RIVER: GEORGIE WHITE CLARK, WHITE WATER PIONEER

Jessie, our Gift Shop manager, recommended this book as worthy to review. And, yes, I can attest that it grabs your heart and mind from cover to cover. It’s not a new publication (1997), but one that I could not put down. Colorful—perhaps too much at times—and factual, it’s a story of Georgie’s historic adventures on the Colorado River, as well as other giant river rapids in the U.S. and overseas and the many people who joined her for the ride. It is well organized, well done.

Inside, its 304 pages provide simple maps, plenty of photos, an index, chapter footnotes, and other great reference material. Author Richard Westwood has captured the personality, energy and persistence of a special woman whose life touched others in a big way as together they sought the excitement and experience of whitewater rafting.

Don’t miss this great read, and if you’re a member there’s a 10% discount!

50 Years Ago from the Mohave County Miner

MAR—APR 1969

Motor vehicle registrations in Mohave County increased 15.4 percent last year, for a total of 16,041 vehicles.

A Navy pilot, flying an A-4 one-occupant Navy jet based at the Naval Air Station at Los Alamitos, Calif., crashed into the side of a hill near Oatman Thursday evening about 4 p.m., dying instantly, and scattered wreckage over a one-mile radius. Killed was Lt. Cmdr. David Edgar Best, 35, of La Jolla, California.



BURLE IVES
Getty Photo-Online

Meandering around the river area enjoying the warm sunshine after filming in the cold north last week was Burl Ives. He stopped at Kingman at the bait shop and serviced his camper at Lloyd Nash’s place on Friday afternoon. He gave Nash a copy of his latest album and then he was on his way.

The beautiful new Mohave Museum of History and Arts will be officially dedicated by U. S. Interior Dept. Secretary the Honorable Stewart Udall, here Saturday morning.



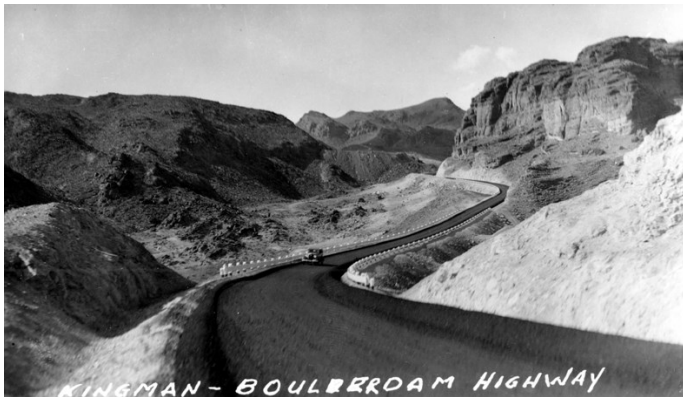
MUSEUM DEDICATION CEREMONY
(MMHA #1900)

80 Years Ago From the Mohave County Miner

MAR-APR 1939

A case of diphtheria was reported from Oatman this morning. County health officer Dr. Toler R. White was informed that diphtheria, while contagious, was not so seriously communicative as measles. He did not advise closing the schools, only quarantining of the family.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lewis have announced that they are opening their Lewis Tavern next Saturday.



BOULDER HIGHWAY/AZ HWY 93: KINGMAN TO BOULDER CITY
(MMHA #2976)



LEWIS TAVERN (MMHA #14521)

Olson's All-American Red Heads world championship girls basketball team will face the Kingman Bulldogs next Tuesday evening at the high school gymnasium.

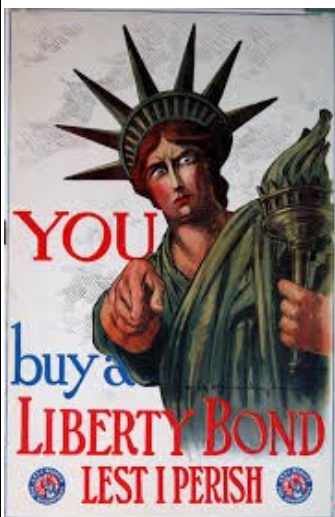
The opening of the Boulder Dam highway brought 346 cars to and from Boulder Dam over U.S. Highway 93 for the one-day opening April 10th.

The ten dollars offered to the pupil of a Mohave County school who would present the Mohave County Chamber of Commerce the best name for the coming fall and Labor Day festival was awarded to Madeline Plummer, aged seven, of the Whitney school in the Big Sandy Valley. The name adopted by the committee is Mohave County's Dig-N-Doggie Days, a Round-up of mine and cattle sports.

100 Years Ago From the Mohave County Miner

MAR-APR 1919

J. D. Loper had a narrow escape from death on the Gold Road mountain Sunday night when his automobile went over the grade at one of the worst places on the scenic drive. The Lopers got out and the brakes failing to hold, the machine started backwards down the road. Loper jumped in and tried to stop its progress but it ran off the grade. Mr. Loper was thrown into the rocks, but his injuries were slight.



The grand rally of last Saturday has now gone into history and with it has gone the fact that never before has Kingman succeeded better in the accomplishment of its purpose because every mother's son and daughter not only enjoyed the day, but went and bought themselves Liberty Bonds.

Did you know that food of all kinds is going to increase in price from now to the end of the war, whenever that may be! Get your own Victory Garden underway and don't lose any time about it. It will pay you to act today.

Mrs. Lucy Bulkely, who has made her home in Mohave County the past 35 years, has announced that she would be a candidate for supervisor of this county at the coming primaries.



(Liberty Bond and Victory Garden images from Google online)

Membership Renewals

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Robert R. Dinneweth
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Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Fellows, Dana Point, CA

Members are our Museum's foundation. 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

Curtis O. Standlee
Leonard "Dean" Honsinger
Carol "Louise" Dinneweth
William Marshall McCall
William Bentley Hopkins
John Wettaw
Leonard Ray Seaborn
Elizabeth "Liz" Ann Mulder
James Dale (Jim) Vandevier
Michael Owen Glancy
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J. David Cunningham
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Jack M. Kesler
Kingman High School Class of 1971 & Pat Mullin
Ben Lamb & Patricia Mullin-Lamb



COMING ATTRACTIONS

Sounds of Kingman

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, March 3: 2:00—3:00 PM

@ Journey Church, Bank Street
KINGMAN CONCERT BAND



Sunday, April 28: 4:00-6:00 PM

@ Metcalf Park
CONCERT IN THE PARK: "GALAXY"

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

WWW.SOUNDSOFKINGMAN.COM

MOHAVE MUSEUM SPECIAL EVENTS

@ MOHAVE MUSEUM AUDITORIUM

SUNDAY, MARCH 3: 2:00 PM

35th Annual Awards Celebration

WOMEN MAKING HISTORY

Celebrating women of Kingman who have played an important role in the economic, cultural, and social spheres of our community by contributing their unique talents, time, and resources.



Get to know your community: **PARTICIPATE**



MOHAVE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ARTS

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

President.....**Bill Wales**
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Printer.....**H&H Printers, Inc.**

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MARCH—APRIL 2019



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