

# MOHAVE MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ARTS

# MOHAVE MEMORIES

July—August 2017

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## FROM OUR DIRECTOR

It seems that the mantra for the 21<sup>st</sup> century is: “not to worry about tomorrow, all we really have is today.” This appears to be not only self-serving but also seems to ignore our connection to the past. The Museum, however, has found a way to network all three (past, present, and future) into a homogeneous group. The plan comes in the form of an LED sign which will replace the “past its prime” plastic-letter marquee that now occupies space at the entrance to Historic Downtown Kingman.

You might be wondering how electronic signage can serve as a network that ties all three chronological time sequences together. The answer is simple: The sign itself is in the present, flashing images of things to come, and things that once were.



The Museum has partnered with the City of Kingman to make this electronic billboard possible. The placement of this sign is ideal to notify passersby of upcoming events at the Museum, and Kingman’s Tourist Center. It can also be used for public announcements such as Amber Alerts and dangerous road conditions. It appears that this is a win-win, yet it does not come without anticipated criticism about how better the money might have been spent. I have found that most skeptics who cry “Foul!” usually have no skin in the game. So, rather than lament over their concerns, I choose to applaud the people with vision who, after careful planning and due diligence, came up with an idea that will undoubtedly make this City a better place.

We have enjoyed an influx of tour buses whose passengers not only praise our Museums but also enjoy meals and shopping in Kingman’s Old Towne. Kingman used to be thought of as a best-kept secret; that is no longer the case. There is no secret to this success and my praise goes out to the people who are rebuilding the downtown and the people who work for the City of Kingman, along with merchants who take pride in restoring our historic district.

## PHOTO #2479: KINGMAN, AZ, CIRCA 1910.

This photo, and over 15,000 others are available on our website. From small town to county seat...one hundred seventeen years ago residents had a vision of growth for the benefit of their families, businesses, the community, and the region in general. What do you see?



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

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## **MOHAVE MEMORIES ON THE INTERNET**

[www.mohavemuseum.org](http://www.mohavemuseum.org)

### **Mohave Museum of History & Arts**

The Mohave Museum of History & Arts 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.

**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

Applications available  
[www.mohavemuseum.org](http://www.mohavemuseum.org)  
Or call 928-753-3195



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The logo for Retro Plumbing Inc. is enclosed in a blue pipe-like border. It features the company name "RETRO PLUMBING INC." in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Below the name is a small illustration of a plumber wearing overalls, holding a wrench. The background of the logo is a light blue color.

# 50 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

## July-Aug. 1967

Nancy, the female Sealpoint Siamese cat, age 13, must think the Mohave County Miner is the "cat's meow" or she wants to keep up on things in the cat world. She's the first to read the paper at the R. J. Miller household at 301 Silver Street.

Work leader John Bower this week is supervising 18 youths from the Kingman Job Corps Center on a cleanup at the Mountain Cemetery at Kingman.

An environmental survey of Kingman and its surrounding area indicates that nearly 30 percent of its residential housing is either "deteriorating or dilapidated." The figures came from a survey prepared for the Mohave County Board of Health by Terry Rice of the Arizona State Health Department.



Arizona Game and Fish Regional Supervisor Wes Martin inspected a 12-inch Gila Monster caught on Spruce Street by Jim Harris. The beaded lizards are protected by Arizona law, and the specimen was released out of the residential area on Hall Street.

Plans to acquire a post office at Lake Havasu City have been announced by Postmaster General Lawrence F. O'Brien. The building will be located on the northwest corner of Civic Center Boulevard and Mesquite Avenue.

A Kingman man has been selected for service in the Peace Corps. Paul Farley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Farley, will serve in Chile.

Joe Chastain has returned from a year's duty in Vietnam. He has also received his discharge from the U. S. Army.

Plans and procedures for establishing a junior college in Mohave County will be discussed by Dr. John Condon, state director for the Board of Junior Colleges, in a public meeting to be held in Kingman in the Mohave County Union High School auditorium. All interested citizens are invited.

Don Healy, organist at Christie's Restaurant, has announced the guest appearance of his personal friend and famed opera star Reginald Nichols at a live performance from 9:30 to 10:30 this Saturday evening at Christie's. The performance will be broadcast simultaneously on Healy's radio program.

An historical research library devoted primarily to Mohave County and the surrounding Colorado River area is now available at the Mohave Museum of History and Arts. The unique facility, under the direction of the staff librarian, Mrs. Franklin W. Younger, currently contains over 500 volumes ranging from biographies and journals of the early explorers to the extensive collection on general history.

The sportsmen of the Kingman area will again be able to participate in a turkey shoot August 13th sponsored by the Mohave Sportsman Club at the rifle range one-half mile west of the 93 inspection station on Highway 68.

Mrs. Fay Logsdon, longtime teacher at Mohave County Union High School, has been appointed head of the English and foreign language department at the school.

August 17: Winds of hurricane velocity, estimated unofficially at 90 miles per hour, struck the model city of Lake Havasu City Monday evening about 6 p.m., and wrought almost a half million dollars in damages to posh residences, businesses and mobile trailer homes. Only one person was reported seriously injured.



FAY LOGSDEN

Central Commercial Company will celebrate its 50th anniversary of business in Kingman and Mohave County with storewide festivities, August 17 through August 26.

An ever increasing number of new installations are being made every month in the Bullhead City area by the several utility companies which serve residents here. Last week the Citizens Utilities Company reported the installation of more than twenty-five new telephone services. Most of the new telephones were installed in the area of Holiday Shores and the Colorado Riviera.



## Sounds of Kingman

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

July 9th, 5:00—7:00 p.m.  
Metcalf Park

*Concert in the Park*  
**"The Music Store Group"**

August 13th, 5:00—7:00 p.m.  
Metcalf Park

*Concert in the Park*  
**"The Rivals"**

## 80 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

### July—Aug. 1937

J. E. Pauley of Hackberry was fined \$5 in the justice of the peace court on Monday morning for running over a fire hose during the Glenn Johnson fire last Saturday evening. Burton Porter, chief of the fire department, was the complaining witness.

Swim at the American Legion Pool, open Friday, July 2. Pool scrubbed twice weekly, all water disinfected. Two experienced life guards. Adults 25 cents, children under 6, 15 cents. No suits furnished.

Construction will be started in about two weeks on the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jay M. Gates, Jr., at the corner of Seventh and Oak Streets. O. G. Grunninger is the architect and builder for the place. It will be of frame construction and have seven rooms. The cost, Mr. Gates stated, will be approximately \$6,000.

The Business and Professional Women will have the soft drink and hot dog concession at the ball park in the afternoons during the Fourth of July celebration.

Proof that the Hualapai Mountain recreational area is proving popular with a large number of persons is shown by the official check recently made at the park entrance. During the three-day period of the Fourth there was a total of 562 persons checked in.

The long looked-for time when it could be announced that U.S. Highway 66 was completely paved across the state of Arizona has finally arrived. With the completion of the short stretch of road through Crozier Canyon, Highway 66 is paved entirely across the state.

Central Commercial's lumber yard is now in the process of construction and already carries a complete line of mining timber stock. The complete line of finished material will be available in the first or second week of September.



*Example, using vintage photo of Kingman fire truck*

The Oatman fire department received delivery of a new fire truck this week which is capable of delivering 650 gallons of water per minute and which, together with the added equipment which was purchased with the truck, will go a long way toward modernizing the fire equipment and lessen both the fire hazard and the insurance rate of property owners in Oatman.

## 100 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

### July—Aug. 1917

It was announced this week by Sheriff Cohenour that the six men who have for the past several months been guarding the interstate bridge at Topock will be laid off in a few days owing to a lack of funds with which to pay the men. The bridge across the Colorado which connects Arizona and California has been under the surveillance of armed watchmen ever since the outbreak of the war, it being the belief of the authorities that an attempt might be made by German sympathizers to wreck the structure.

The new Methodist Episcopal church which is being erected in Kingman is now ready to be roofed in and the outside work will be completed in a short time.



**COMPLETED CHURCH BUILDING, CIRCA 1913**

To the strains of the rollicking syncopated music of a jazz orchestra, together with lilting songs by The Players, the Central Commercial Company opened the doors of its new building to the public Monday. Hundreds of people from Kingman, Oatman, Chloride and the Sandy, together with many from Needles and towns east, attended the reception which took on the character of a real social function.



At the Elks Theater, Friday, July 27, General Pershing and the United States Fighting Forces on French Soil.

Mohave County, instead of supplying 81 soldiers for the National Army of the Republic, has been called on to increase its quota to 111.

Howard Smith, son of Anson Smith of the Mohave Miner, expects to leave Sunday for the coast to enlist in the Navy.

Old-timers state that the present summer is the hottest in the past twenty years and that the several deaths, which have been due to the heat, are the first to occur from that cause in many years.

## A MAN CALLED MATT

Chuck Cook

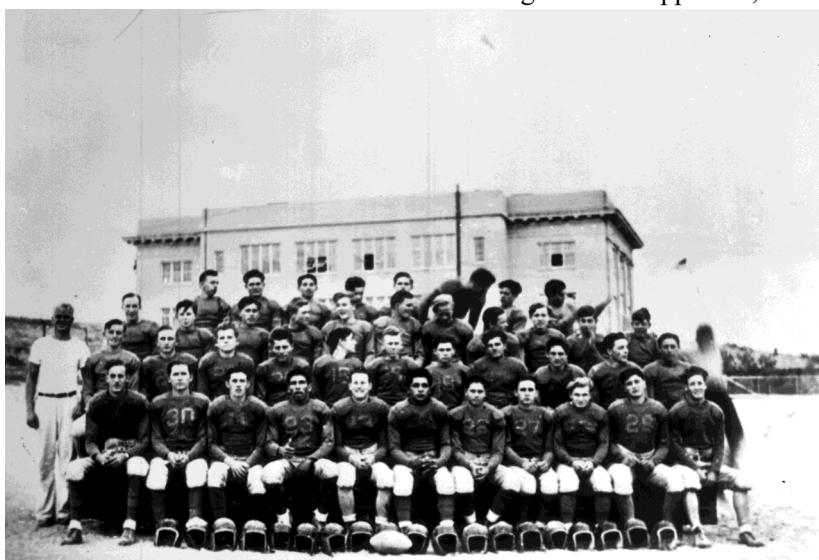
During the late fall of 1960, I was a junior at Kingman High School. We had a very good football team, won our league championship, and had a chance to win an Arizona state football title. One week we made the long bus ride to Phoenix and checked into our rooms at the Bali Hi Motel on Grand Avenue, prior to the playoff game scheduled at Phoenix College.

In the late afternoon we proceeded to the college's Hoy Field to get ready for our game that night. We put on our pads and uniforms and as we made our way out of the football tunnel prior to kickoff, we gathered together for a short pep talk. I noticed a very tall white-haired man waiting for us near the tunnel entrance. He asked all of us if we remembered who he was. I knew exactly who he was before he asked, so I answered, "Yes, you are Mr. Matt Hanhila." I knew him from his teaching days in Kingman and was very impressed that he had taken the time to come watch our game and support us, even though he was then the principal at a school in west Phoenix.

Matt Hanhila was not an American by birth. Born in Finland in 1909, he came to the U.S. as a four-year-old not speaking English. Matt's father was a hard rock miner in Bisbee and that's where he settled the family in 1913. Matt was very ambitious, so after high school he earned a degree at Northern Arizona Teachers College in Flagstaff (NAU). He was about 6'3" and played basketball for the Lumberjacks while in college. He majored in math and, I believe, minored in physical education.

Matt's first job was at Kingman High School as a math teacher and athletic coach. Those were hard times during the Great Depression; money was scarce. He made an instant impression on the students and people of Kingman when he came here in 1932.

He taught, coached, and administered to the needs of his pupils, and was totally involved in the community. His athletic teams were some of the best ever at Kingman High, and the students loved him. He always had a positive attitude and could discipline without being condescending. He had a knack for bringing out the best in individuals he came in contact with...he even talked my father into finishing school at Kingman High after Dad had dropped out of school twice!



FRONT; L TO R—GENE HALE, GEORGE DURIEZ, JACK WALKER, STEVE ZOZAYA, ROY CARSON, SYLVESTER ALVARADO, CHARLES COOK, HOMER FANCHER, ARVIN FLEMING, JIM PERRILL, BILL WADE, COACH MATT HANHILA (in white, standing).

(Sorry, no other names listed on photo...identity information welcome!)



Matt also searched for ways to help the community. A public swimming pool was built in 1944 and Matt was in charge of the facility for a number of summers. In addition to that, he was a volunteer fireman and a stalwart in the Rotary organization.

In 1953, Matt was hired as principal at Carl Hayden High School in Phoenix. The people of Kingman were sad to see him leave after twenty-one years of mentoring local students but realized his talents would take him far in his profession. During his career in Phoenix, Matt served as principal at two high schools then as President at Glendale Community College. His stay at GCC prompted the school to name its football stadium after him. Matt was also inducted into the Arizona State High School Coaches Hall of Fame.

In the writing of this article, I have called Dr. Hanhila "Matt"—however, were I in his company, I would never address him as anything but "Dr. Hanhila." He was such an inspiring yet down-to-earth man. In a way he is responsible for both my father and I leading productive and fulfilling lives. Matt Hanhila will always be bigger than life to me.

# # #

## ARTIFACTS DEPARTMENT RECEIVES NEW ITEMS FOR DISPLAY

Edie Walls, Curator, and the Accessions Committee recently met to receive some amazing historic items to add to our Museum collection. Donated by two separate individuals related to Kingman and Mohave County, they are being made ready for display in two separate places:

**MINIATURES**...a selection of hand-made items depicting people, life and culture circa 17th-to-20th centuries (three samples below); these beautiful pieces will be displayed in the "Doll House Room" along with two furnished doll houses. Each piece was meticulously created over time, based on research and delicate skill with tools and talent of the donor. The donors are Karen Goudy and Fred Leeming.



**ANTIQUE "M. SHULZ" ORGAN**...received from Don and Mary Bonelli Ashworth. This beautiful musical instrument was originally in the large bedroom occupied by Clara Bonelli Pahland (circa 1955-1961) in the Bonelli House Museum on 5th and Spring Streets. We are happy to say that it, along with a Bonelli roll-top desk donated earlier, will soon be installed in the House.

We're delighted to receive these precious artifacts and urge members, and friends of the Museum/Historical Society, to make a point to visit our Museums (all three!) regularly, because we are changing and improving our displays often (Mohave Museum of History & Arts; Historic Route 66 Museum; Bonelli House Museum).



## 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>
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Derek "Knut" Brown	Clairann Cave
Kathleen "Katie" Noel Hanson	Clairann Cave
Deborah Jean & Lindsey Beth Hamilton	Clairann Cave
Shirley Ann Shawl Hiestand	Nancy and Archie Kinsel
Donna Jean Semm	William J. Bailey
Dr. Dennis Dale Gustafson	William J. Bailey
Ronald Bradley Weaver	Jack M. Kesler

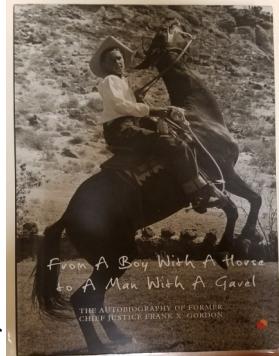
## EXCITING NEW BOOKS IN OUR MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

Sue Snell

The Mohave Museum of History and Arts proudly presents two new, fantastic books for sale in our Gift Shop. Many of you remember Frank X. Gordon, Jr. when he lived in Kingman. His children, Candy and Trey, still make their homes here in Kingman. Judge Gordon has been very busy writing his autobiography and now we have this book in our Gift Shop.

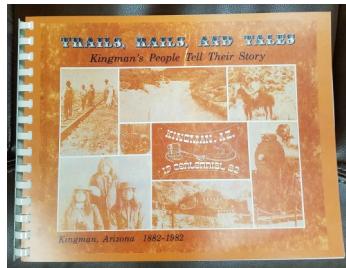
### FROM A BOY WITH A HORSE TO A MAN WITH A GAVEL

Judge Gordon is the former Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. His book tells the story of his life growing up in Kingman, his journey to the Arizona State Supreme Court, and his life after the Supreme Court. This is a must-read for history buffs; especially those who would like to know more about one of Kingman's most prominent citizens.



### TRAILS, RAILS, AND TALES: KINGMAN'S PEOPLE TELL THEIR STORY, 1882-1982

Now available again as a reprint, this book was first published by the Mohave County Miner (now the Kingman Daily Miner) in 1981 as part of the Kingman Centennial observance in 1982.



The Miner has given the Museum permission to reprint this historical book and sell it in the Gift Shop. If you did not get a copy of this book in 1982, or need one for family members, here is your chance to purchase this must-have fascinating book about the history of Kingman and its pioneers based on personal interviews.

Come on in and pick up your copies while supplies last....

### NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

Cathy Kreis

It's taken a while for me to grasp the magnitude of our map collection. Mostly I'm busy helping people find information—photos or files or books in our various spaces—or trying to better organize the space.

In 2015-2016, our library participated in a large project generated by Mohave County when over 5,000 historic maps were “encapsulated.” That project was funded in part by a grant and covered in part by the Museum. The selected maps were carefully repaired and sealed in clear archival polyester for preservation, and protection while being handled. The project also allowed County workers to identify maps that pertained directly to governmental responsibilities. Those are now stored at their Public Works facility.

In the process we gained much needed space in our library; a side benefit was that they generously encapsulated many of our remaining maps with their project materials. We kept six of our horizontal cabinets with ten drawers in each. All but four drawers are still packed full of maps.

Maps of mines, maps of buildings, plot plans, diagrams, maps of developments, topographic maps; and most of these maps are very old and very much in need of protection when handled. Two sets in particular are of interest: The Sanborn maps of cities, and the rare Wheeler survey maps of 1869-1873. We recently discovered that all the Sanborn maps are available online, in color—but our hard copies are precious and will be preserved. The Wheeler collection, commissioned by the Secretary of War in 1869, is a different story; they are unique and may be one of only two or three such sets in the nation. We are currently checking to verify this, and to see if encapsulation is the best method of preservation.



By the time you read this article we'll likely have received a response to our own 2017-2018 AHRAB grant application to help fund the encapsulation of our remaining 1,800-2,000 maps. It's been a learning process for me—and I hope we do receive the grant, but no matter what happens, our maps are available for research... or we can refer you to the County facility where you would also be able to get copies made.

Maps may not be your thing, but remember we also have a fine collection of research books, magazines, oral interviews, photographs, and files on most everything you might imagine about Mohave County and the southwest.

...and it still holds true: There's never a dull day at the Library!

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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**July—August 2017**



KINGMAN UNDER A RAINBOW (crk/8/20154)