



The Mohave Museum  
of History and Arts  
**Mohave Memories**

September - October 2020

**Letter from the Director**

The distinction between possibility and probability is a very fine line. Possibility can be answered with a yes or a no, probability involves the odds of answering yes or no. The Museum definitely took a hit during the “pandemic” but is it possible to come back, even surpass our past success? The answer is an astounding: YES. The probability that this will happen: 100%. The failsafe is that the Museum has the product and we are continually finding new ways to market it. When one door closes (or at least partially shuts), another opens.

The Museum has seen an influx of guests from Nevada and California and the Phoenix Metropolis. The guests are now exploring their own back yard, so to speak. When Europe tears down that pandemic wall, the lure of Route 66 will be greater than ever and the Museums will be here to greet these foreign travelers.

The Museum is a vessel that will never be half full or half empty but always filled to the brim with spectacular exhibits and knowledge being distributed to all that wish to partake.

I would like to step out of my comfort zone of verbiage laden metaphors and concentrate on something that lends itself to simplicity of thought. I will begin by thanking the Museum volunteers, past and present, for the selfless work that they perform for the betterment of this institution. The Museum volunteers comprise a group of people that have served and continue to serve in various positions to keep the Museum functioning at the highest level.

I have a tendency to often take things for granted and sometimes this goes for our volunteers but I snap back into the reality that these people are truly the backbone of our Museum. One group of volunteers that are often overlooked is the Museum’s Board of Directors. The Board volunteers their time and experience to manage both the finances and staffing of this fine Museum.

Ordinary people are comfortable with the daily mundane; extra-ordinary individuals build bridges and the gifted ascend to the calling of “VOLUNTEER”. The only thing that is lacking in a perfect scenario is our numbers. There is no problem that cannot be fixed and the answer is please come down and join a team that is unsurpassed in ability and decency! I invite you to become a volunteer.

I am sad to say that Andy Sansom, long time Museum Board Member and Library Volunteer will be moving to Tucson in September. Andy will be gone but never forgotten and will no doubt stay involved in promoting Mohave County’s rich history. May good fortune follow you wherever you travel Andy.

*Shannon*

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## Sorry I Couldn't Make the Opening

Contributed by Charles Cook

In the first week of August 1922, ninety-eight years ago, the community of Kingman saw the completion and opening of a new and modern hospital complex on West Beale Street.

From the local Mohave Miner newspaper of August 4th, 1922 comes the following report: "Last Monday evening one of the most delightful and interesting assemblages of people came together to view that magnificent structure from every angle. Not one unfavorable comment was heard during the entire evening, the people being surprised with the beautiful structure, the convenience of the rooms, the wonderful sun parlors and everything that goes to make an up-to-the minute hospital".

The X-Ray room was furnished with the latest model machine and every other necessary medical item for that era was on hand for diagnosis and any major medical operations. There were individual rooms for handling 32 patients complete with beds and necessary fixtures. Handling the patient workload would be the duties of four nurses immediately and more were to be hired in the near future.

Mohave County officials had the foresight to provide a much needed modern hospital facility in old downtown because the County population was in the process of doubling from 5,000 souls to 10,000 with the advent of the expanding mining activity in the County.

I wasn't around for the grand opening of the Mohave County Hospital but I do have history with the grand old edifice.

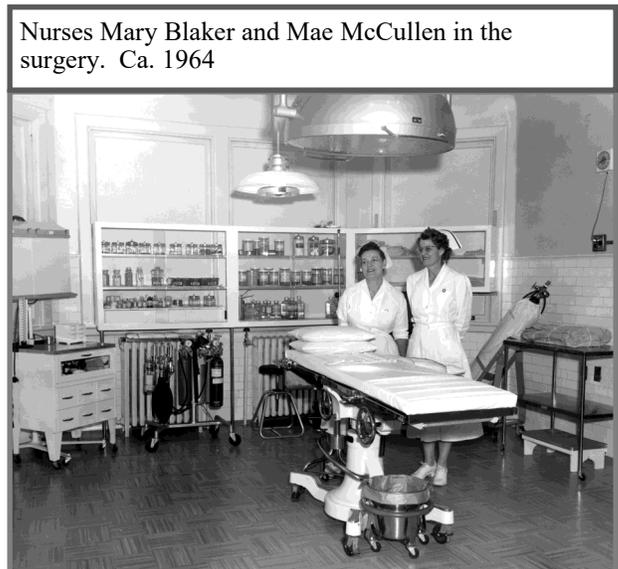
My grandmother was employed as a cook at the hospital during the 1930s and my grandfather was severely burned on his face and upper body in an accident while working for the Mohave County Roads Department during the early 1950s and had to spend time in the hospital recovering. I can remember visiting him during his stay and he looked the part of an Egyptian mummy due to the extent of his bandages and gauze dressings. All I could see were his eyes. Somewhat traumatic for a 6 year old boy.

Sad to say, the Mohave County Hospital was demolished a number of years ago and the area where the hospital stood so proudly is now a part of the athletic field complex at Lee Williams High School.

I miss our old hospital because it was so grand and served the County for so many years. Time and progress, however, march to a different tune than a lot of us are comfortable or satisfied with. That is life.



Mohave General Hospital ca. 1940 The old Kingman High School is in the right portion of the photo.



Nurses Mary Blaker and Mae McCullen in the surgery. Ca. 1964

## Looking to get out of the house and ease the Covid Crazies?

The Mohave Museum of History and Arts,  
as well as the Route 66 Museum could use a few good volunteers.

The Museums provide a clean and Covid conscience environment. All safety precautions have been taken to protect our volunteers along with the general public. There are positions available in the Mohave Museum Research Facility that do not include direct contact with the public.

No experience is needed. Basic computer skills are really great but not required.  
We can teach you what you need to know to be a stellar addition to our team!!

If interested please call Mickey for details  
Wednesdays or Thursdays 9am to 4pm at 928-753-3195.

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Please consider becoming a volunteer.

Thank you!



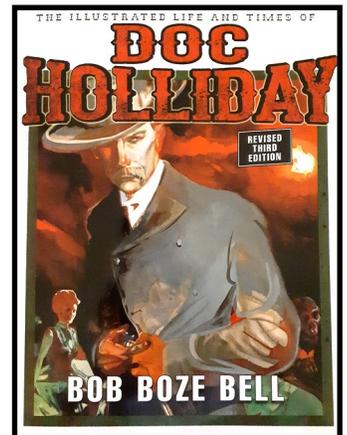
## !Coming Soon!

Bob Boze Bell, author, artist, Arizona historian and former Kingman resident,  
has generously donated one of his paintings as well as  
one of his books to benefit the Museum.

The painting entitled:  
“Doc Holliday in Colorado”  
along with his book titled:  
“The Illustrated Life and Times of Doc Holliday”  
will be raffled in the near future.

Proceeds will benefit the Museum.

We are in the process  
of dialing in the details on the  
raffle so please stayed tuned!



## 50 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

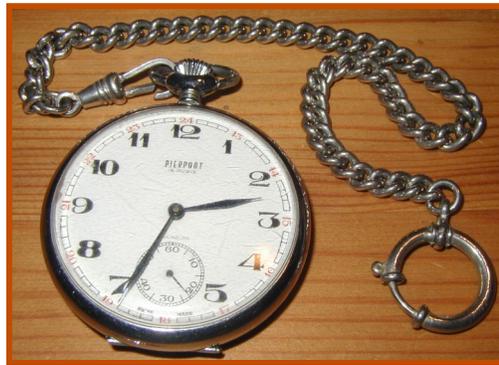
1970

**Sept. 17,** The Junior Class of Kingman High School will sponsor a dance Friday night following the football game with Henderson. The dance will be held in the Girl's Gym and the doors will open at 10:30 and the dance will end at 12. Music will be furnished by the "Little Creedence."

**Oct. 1,** Andy Devine is coming home to Kingman October 3. The lovable star of screen, radio, stage and television will be honored during his visit by the celebration of "Andy Devine Day," a Kingman milestone officially proclaimed by Mayor Hughes.



**Oct. 22,** The awesome dilemma of today's schools and the need to "shape schools for the 70s" will be the focus of American Education Week to be observed here and across the country October 25-31. Once a year, since 1921 schools throughout the nation have opened their doors during American Education Week for the public to come in and see firsthand what goes on inside the classroom.

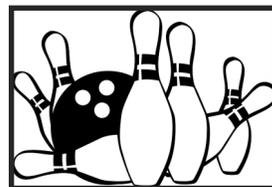


## 80 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

1940

**Sept. 19,** W.S. Ford, contractor, began construction Tuesday on a new annex to the present school building at the Borianna mine. The job is scheduled to be completed before next Monday. The present building was made to care for about 30 students, but this year the enrollment at the Borianna school has increased to 52.

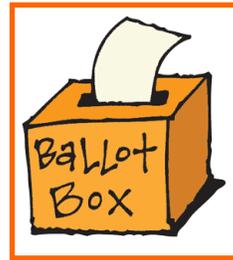
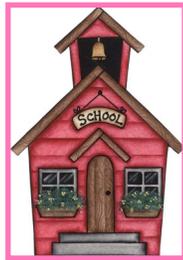
**Aug. 15,** Two duck pin bowling alleys will be in operation tonight when the Kingman Bowling Alleys is opened to local bowling enthusiasts, according to Gene Donovan, owner. Donovan further stated that within the next few days work will begin on the construction of two regulation bowling alleys.



## 100 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

1920

- Sept. 18,** Cane Beds having recently been granted a voting precinct, held its first primary election, Sept. 7th. A fairly good vote was registered, considering the fact that a number of people were away from home.
- Oct. 9,** All girls waiting on tables at the Harvey House were recently granted a \$10 per month raise in salary.
- Oct. 10,** School began in Yucca last Monday. We did not learn the teacher's name, but we did hear the coming term gave promise of a very efficient one. It would be well for parents to remember that school work is team work, and prepare to pull with, not against, the teacher. School teachers who are conscientiously doing their "bit" are doing a grand work for the whole world, and they are human enough to appreciate appreciation.



### Mohave Memories Newsletter and Museum Memberships

MOHAVE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
invites you to participate in preserving our past and building our future.

<b>General Member</b>	<b>\$ 30.00</b>
Includes member and immediate family, free admission to Mohave Museum, Route 66 Museum & Bonelli House.	
<b>Supporting Member</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
Includes all General Member benefits, plus no-charge research assistance from Museum staff.	
<b>Business Member</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Director's Circle</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>

**Applications available online**  
[www.mohavemuseum.org/resources](http://www.mohavemuseum.org/resources)  
or call 928-753-3195

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

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## NEW MEMBERSHIPS



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## MEMORIALS

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

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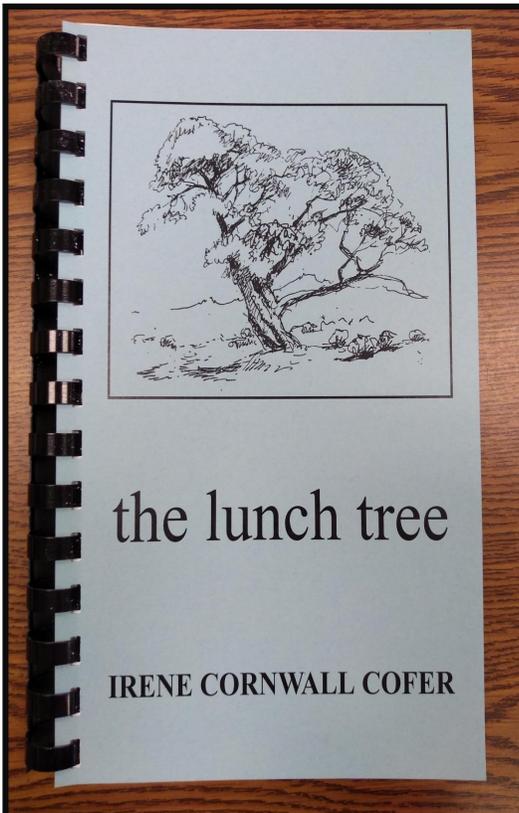
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Currently available in the Mohave Museum gift shop.

May also be purchased by phone at 928-753-3195.

\$16.95, 210 pgs.



Irene Cornwall Cofer, a descendant of the ill-fated Donner Party, was born in 1891, near the present crossroad village of Wickieup, Arizona, the third of six children born to pioneers Ad and Jennie Lee Cornwall. Motherless at age seven, she and her sister, Amy, cared for three brothers and sustained the household of their father who never remarried. Ad Cornwall was a teacher, rancher, postmaster and politician, serving one term as Speaker of the Arizona Territorial Legislature.

Raised in an adobe ranch house in what she describes as "happy poverty," Irene married rancher Clyde Cofer at age nineteen. Ten years her senior, she had quietly, child-like, chosen her husband years before and then waited to grow up. There followed almost twenty years of typically rough country living, cooking for cowboys, washing with scrub board over an open fire, and bearing five children, the first baby succumbing to pneumonia in an era without miracle drugs.

Moving to Kingman to enter her oldest son in high school, she was immediately caught up in years of P.T.A., church bazaars, volunteer nursing and sewing marathons for two lovely daughters.

She has been a member of Eastern Star since 1929 and is a Charter member of local, state and national "Cowbells," distaff side of the cattle growers association.

To tell the story of Northwestern Arizona, as no one else now living could do, has been her passion and her pleasure.

MOHAVE MUSEUM  
OF HISTORY AND ARTS

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