

# MOHAVE MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ARTS

# MOHAVE MEMORIES

Volume 7

February 2015

## Valentines Day

Saint Valentine's Day, also known as Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is a holiday observed on February 14 each year. It is celebrated in many countries around the world, although it is not a holiday in most of them.



St. Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration one or more early Christian saints named Valentinus. Several martyrdom stories were invented for the various Valentines that belonged to February 14, and added to later martyrologies. A popular hagiographical account of Saint Valentine of Rome states that he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians, who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. According to legend, during his imprisonment, he healed the daughter of his jailer, Asterius. An embellishment to this story states that before his execution he wrote her a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell.

Today, Saint Valentine's Day is an official feast day in the Anglican Communion, as well as in the Lutheran Church. The Eastern Orthodox Church also celebrates Saint Valentine's Day, albeit on July 6 and July 30, the former date in honor of the Roman presbyter Saint Valentine, and the latter date in honor of Hieromartyr Valentine, the Bishop of Interamna (modern Terni). In Brazil, the *Dia de São Valentim* is recognized on June 12.

The day was first associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "*valentines*"). In Europe, Saint Valentine's Keys are given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart", as well as to children, in order to ward off Saint Valentine's Malady. Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards.

## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Controversy is often the beginning of true learning. The age old question of "what came first the chicken or the egg?" will always be a problem for the wily philosopher, but man's second thought is no mystery, and that consists of recording the historic attempts to answer the perplexing question. It is fortunate that the Museum is presented only with the task of preserving the facts that bear witness to the possible answers. Preservation in the true meaning of the word represents what we do in a nutshell. We sort, categorize, number, preserve and exhibit our forefather's ambitious behavior that built this great society. The Museum has tried to narrow the scope of the investigation into the past our own geographic area and by so doing explain the great part Mohave County played in our Nation's growth.

If I were a teacher set on grading the effort and success that this institution has achieved, It would be an A+ or Superb; no matter what scale one would use it would top the scale. Another job well done!

The next part of the ongoing equation is exhibiting the artifacts associated with our rich history to as many as possible either in person or via the Net. The Museum's Library and Media Committee have done an excellent job in getting information and images on Social Media and The Museum Staff has been effective in getting new visitors to view our displays in person. Vicky Markee has booked another bus tour company that brought ten buses to Kingman in the Month of January that represents more than 400 new people enjoying our town.

Simply said: Kingman's tourism is booming because of the Museum's role in the tourism network. We can all be proud of being a part of the ongoing work done to establish a town that people from all over the world enjoy and will not forget.

Sandy Rusinko just finished a new 66 mural inside the Museum, please come down and enjoy the dynamics of this great place.





In cooperation with the **az HUMANITIES**  
EXPLORE. SHARE. EXPERIENCE.

**2015 OUR TIME, OUR HISTORY SCHEDULE  
At the Mohave Museum, Kingman, AZ**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
January 24	1pm to 2:30 pm	The Ballad of Arizona
March 21	1pm to 2:30 pm	A New Sheriff in Town: Women in Arizona Law Enforcement

**The Sounds of Kingman's  
2015 CONCERT SCHEDULE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PERFORMERS</u>
April 12	2 pm to 4 pm	Beal Street Band
May 17	2 pm to 4 pm	West Coast Travelers
June 14	5 pm to 7 pm	The Rivals
July 19	5 pm to 7 pm	North Country Music
August 16	5 pm to 7 pm	OPEN
September 27	2 pm to 3 pm	Kingman Concert Band
October 18	2 pm to 4 pm	Polka Katzen

**Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Tour**

October 6 – 9, 2015

Escorted Coach from Kingman, 3 Nights Hotel Accommodations, 3 Dinners, 3 Breakfasts, 2 Visits to the Balloon Festival, Santa Fe and Albuquerque sightseeing, Sandia Peak Tram Ride

\$1099.00 Per Person — \$50.00 Deposit Holds your space

Support Mohave Museum, Mention Code **BALMOH**

Contact Donna Touchette  
928-757-3368 | [Groupspecialist@hotmail.com](mailto:Groupspecialist@hotmail.com)

**The Mohave Epic**

Check out the video of the Mohave Museum's Mohave Epic Exhibit

The exhibit was created by Roy Purcell in the late 1960's and now it is available online with Roy narrating the story of each phase of man's migration to Mohave County.

Go to Youtube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MohaveMuse>



**Museum Business Membership**

These are some of the Business Members who support the heritage and culture of Mohave County

**HEY CULLIGAN MAN!**

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# 50 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

## February 1965

**Enrollments** are now being taken for a survival preparedness course to start next week, Bob England, county civil defense director, announced this week. Joe Giebel of Peach Springs, a qualified instructor, will teach the 12-hour course, which will teach the principles of survival in case of nuclear attack.

**The trustees** of the Mohave County Historical Society met on last Thursday and hired Kermit M. Edmonds as curator of the museum.

**Tommy Grounds** of Prescott visited her parents Mr. and Mrs. Howard Grounds over the weekend.

**Square dancing** will be held Thursday night at eight p.m. in the recreation hall at Kingman Air Field. Lee Stephens will be the caller.

**Davis Dam:** Bullhead City Chamber of Commerce secretary Evelyn Ripley gave an area report to the Arizona Business Bulletin last month. She reported that Bullhead City and the Colorado River area are moving forward at a very fast rate. There are now 84 businesses in Bullhead City.

**Thursday night** will feature an appearance of the internationally famed Count Basie Band in Kingman Armory. The event will be dedicated to Earl "Buzz" Westcott, prominent local business man who died following a heart attack last month. The Basie band comes to Kingman following recent appearances at the President's Inaugural Ball and on the Andy Williams television program.

**Davis Dam:** Movie of the week for February 26 is "Chain Lightning" starring Humphrey Bogart and Raymond Massey. The movie starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Davis Dam Recreation Hall.



**Hundreds of visitors** attended the grand opening of the Bullhead City branch of the Valley National Bank.

**Hank Bonelli**, student at BYU, visited his mother Mrs. Letha Bonelli last week.

**Mohave County Supervisors** sent a letter to State Senator Robert E. Morrow backing a senate bill which would declare a three-year moratorium on hunting of antlerless deer. The letter states "We here in Mohave County are very much concerned with the paucity of wildlife in this area. Having 400 doe permits in this county last year, we feel it's time to call a halt to this over killing of our game birds and animals."

**There will be** a teen-age dance Saturday night at the American Legion Hall, starting at 8 o'clock and ending at midnight. Music will be furnished by the Postmen, and all teenagers are welcome. The dance will be chaperoned.

**Lawrence Liacos**, principal of the Bullhead City elementary school, fell and broke his leg while using a skateboard last Saturday.

**A spectacular** high-wire act begins near Wikieup this week as crews from U. S. Steel's American Bridge division swing first major sections of some 1600 tons of steel into place for the Burro Creek Bridge, Arizona's newest. Located on Highway 93 midway between Kingman and Wickenburg, the new highway crossing over almost 400 feet deep Burro Creek Canyon will be the second largest single-arch span in the state.



**By a three-to-two vote**, the Mohave Union High School Board Tuesday night voted to tighten grade requirements for all students participating in athletics and other activities, such as band and pom-pom girls, will be required to maintain passing grades in all their subjects while in these activities, as well as having had passing grades in three solid subjects for the previous term.

**Only eight ladies** were brave enough to finish the nine holes of Ladies Day Golf Tuesday. Two played four holes and quit when it started to snow. Those finishing were Nellie Blake, Joan Gordon, Betty Grounds, Alma Coffman, Ollie Bond, Gene Stephens, Margaret Gates, and Vonceil Trahan. Others playing were Louise Polaski and Gene Phillips.

## 80 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

### February 1935

**This morning** at 7:30 a.m. an event, that has been looked forward to by Mohave County citizens for several years took place when Walker R. Young, engineer in charge of Boulder Dam construction for the United States Bureau of Reclamation, and Frank T. Rowe, superintendent of construction for Six Companies, Inc., builders of the dam, directed the closing of No. 4 diversion tunnel by the dropping of the steel gate at its upstream end.

**Miss Fay Logsdon**, teacher at Peach Springs, was in town last weekend.

**Our genial postmaster**, O. D. M. Gaddis, is again at his desk after an absence of several weeks due to a severe case of pneumonia.



**Bill Cofer** of Kingman is visiting Lou Neal at the Neal ranch on the Sandy while Mrs. Lou Neal and children are in Kingman recovering from scarlet fever.

**Miss Vivian Pugsley**, local post office clerk, is driving a new Chevrolet which she purchased at the Old Trails Garage.

**Chloride:** Thieves paid a visit to Shep's Garage a few nights ago and stole the nickel-in-the-slot machine and contents, making, it appears, a good get-away with it.

**The fine new home** of Swaskegame Post No. 14, American Legion, will be dedicated Saturday evening, February 9th. Dedication services, which will be held at 8:30 o'clock, will be followed by a Grand Dedication Ball. The Public is cordially invited.

**Last week** Lonnie Ferra, Kingman's mainstay pitcher, was signed by the Omaha, Nebraska team of the Western League for a tryout in the spring. The Western League is a Class A basketball organization and Omaha is a farm team for the St. Louis Cardinals.

## 100 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

### February 1915

**James Meikle**, who was in from the mines at Music Mountain last Saturday, reports that he has the mill of the Nevada Arizona Company in commission and that a splendid grade of lead concentrates are being turned out.

**Albert J. Eller, Harry J. Cane and Mrs. Hallway** of Needles furnished the splendid music at the Elks dance Monday night. This orchestra is one of the best in the country. Messrs. Eller and Cane have been the moving force in the Needles band during the past twenty years.

**Nickell & Company**, the department store of Kingman, are getting in shape within the next few months. This firm has been building up a large business in Mohave County and the country surrounding, and is sure to continue to get business.

Exterior of Hotel Beale with a sign advertising "Dry Goods-Nickell's Co.-Ladies Millinery..." A large crowd of people and horses are gathered in front. 4th of July 1915 Rodeo on Front Street.



**Quite a number** of jurors and witnesses will leave Kingman for Prescott tomorrow morning to be present in the United States court Monday morning. A large number of liquor selling cases will be heard before the court, as well will several causes arising under the Chinese exclusion act come before the court.

**The bridge** across the Colorado River at Topock will soon be a reality, as the government has been assured of the money with which to do the work, and it will be but a short time until the bids have been let. The government will move rapidly in this matter as it is not hampered by red tape, as in many of the other departments.



**The Santa Fe** is advertising its new train, The Texan. This train is one of the most interesting of all the trains now being operated by the company, as it makes it possible for the Mohaveite to go from Kingman to Prescott without that interminable wait at Ashfork, and also to leave Kingman in the morning and get into Los Angeles in the evening.

# Mohave County Movers and Shakers

**JESSE A. TARR** – Garage Owner, brother of Nathan Tarr of Tarr, McComb & Ware, was born in Wisconsin in 1876. He came to Kingman when his brother sent him a postcard saying, “Come on out, the sun is shining.”



In Kingman Jesse worked as a photographer and as a telegrapher for the railroad. He had one of the first autos in town and used it to drive potential buyers to mine sites.

As a result of maintaining auto parts to keep his vehicle running, he became the proprietor of the only Ford garage in Kingman which he ran until he retired in the 1930's.

Jesse Tarr married Elsie Van Marter in 1906. They had three children. He died in California in 1956.

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**NATHAN W. TARR** of Tarr, McComb & Ware, was born in Wisconsin in 1872. He left home while still in his teens and worked his way west. He came to Kingman in the 1890's. In 1897 he married Helen Tolman; they had seven children.

In the 1890's Tarr worked as a telegraph operator for the Santa Fe Railroad. In 1900 he was appointed superintendent of the Arizona & Utah Railroad property.

After buying a couple of carloads of hay, Tarr started a grain and feed business, which became a partnership with Harry F. McComb, and then a corporation. The company branched into mining machinery, a mercantile company and the first telephone company in the territory, Arizona, California & Nevada Telephone Company.

In 1902 the corporate office was moved to Los Angeles. In Kingman in 1908, Tarr & McComb built a building in what is now the 400 block of Andy Devine. Allen Ware joined the firm in 1906; in 1917 the firm became Tarr, McComb & Ware. The business operated until the mid 1980's.



Oatman, AZ 1920

Nathan Tarr died in California in 1953.

**ROBERT TARR**, Mohave County Sheriff, 1963, was born in 1907 in Los Angeles, California. Through the 1930s he was involved in police work in California, serving as deputy sheriff in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. He was with the military police in World War II.



In 1955 he became a special officer with the Kingman Police Department. He was active in the community, a member of the American Legion, the Kingman Masonic Lodge and the Sheriffs' Association. Tarr was elected Mohave County Sheriff in 1963.

On October 21, 1963, Tarr was involved in a confrontation while inspecting a car he had stopped at the Highway 93 inspection station. He was shot and killed by an ex-convict named Carpenter, who was simultaneously shot and killed by Tarr.

Robert Tarr was survived by his wife Jean and their nine children.

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**HARRY McCOMB** of Tarr, McComb & Ware was born in Pennsylvania in 1866. He was married to Estelle Trudenick; they had one son, Marshall McComb, who became a Justice of the California Supreme Court.

McComb came to Mohave County in the 1890's as an employee of the White Hills Company. He later joined with Nathan Tarr to form Tarr & McComb, a Kingman grain and feed company, which later branched out into mining machinery, a mercantile company and the first telephone company in the territory. The firm was incorporated and moved the corporate offices to Los Angeles in 1902. Allen Ware joined the firm in 1906, and in 1917 the firm became Tarr, McComb & Ware. Tarr & McComb had built their building in 1908 at what is now the 400 block of Andy Devine in Kingman.



In 1910 McComb, along with Tarr, W. F. Jagger, J. H. Ware and his brother Allen, took over the business of Lovin & Withers, incorporating under that name. In 1917 the name Lovin & Withers Company was changed to Central Commercial Company. That business was taken over by the Babbitt Brothers in the 1970's. The business was closed in the mid 1980's.

Harry McComb died in California in 1931.

# Membership Renewal

Stuart L and Carol S Anderson  
Mr & Mrs Robert Campbell  
Julia Caughlin  
Carol Porter Langdon, Portland, OR  
Fred B Lingenfelter  
Bill & Linda Miller  
Mr & Mrs Rudolph Shelton  
Mr & Mrs Grover Thomas, Atlanta, GA  
Dr Jerald Wienke

Lois A Landis  
Steve Smith & Eve Garlyn  
Julia B Hutchings  
Mike and Debbie Casson, Cottonwood, AZ  
Rob Chilcoat  
Joseph Maestas  
Randy Jacobs  
Cheryl Shaner/Charlene Evans, Las Vegas, NV  
Leslie Burrows James, Sparks, NV  
Teresa Seay Cossey Michelle Seay McCleery, Surprise, AZ

# New Memberships

Wayne Thompson, Tucson, AZ  
Robin E. Gordon  
Roseanne Rosenberg  
Mary E. Griffis  
Karen Lynne  
Mark Tapia & Sons, Mesa, AZ  
Sue Wade, Hackberry, AZ  
Jeffrey Greer

# Memorials

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

### In Memory Of

Maggie Peralta  
Alder James Holder  
Col. Gordon J. Buchanan  
Clifford Lawrence Touchette  
Patricia Touchette Hutchinson

### Donor

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Your Sister Pat Mullen Lamb  
Joan McCall  
Mr. William J. Bailey  
Mr. William J. Bailey

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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.

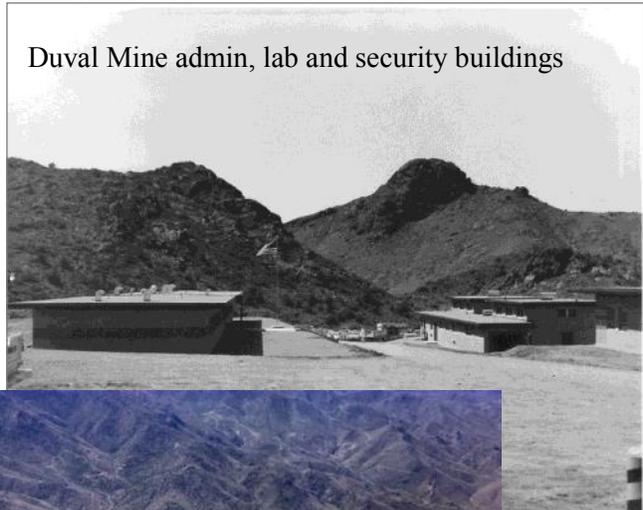
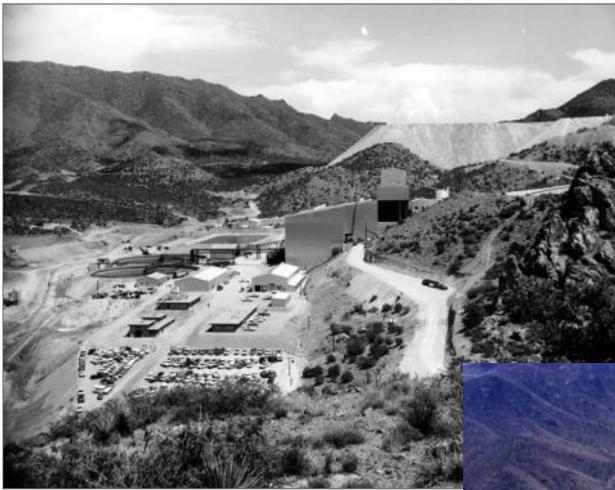
# Memories thru Photos



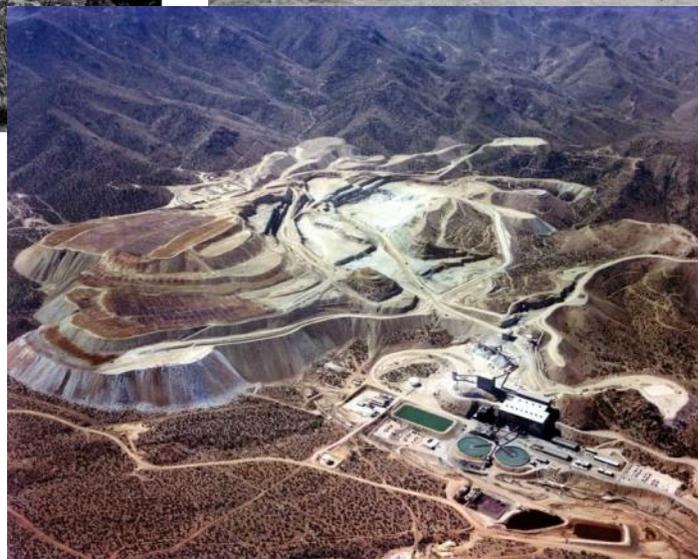
Ithica Peak before Duval Mining



Duval in the Beginning



Aerial views of Duval Mine



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