



MOHAVE MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ARTS

MOHAVE MEMORIES

Volume 6

March 2014

BONELLI HOUSE, by Cathy Kreis

A peek at the past... preserved for the future.

The House Yesterday: Built in thirty days at the end of 1894; George A. Bonelli paid \$40 for the spacious property in Kingman. This original house was a gift for his bride, Effie E. Tarr, who he wed on January 1, 1895, in the Methodist Church directly across the street. George desired the latest innovations so he had the two-story house wired for electricity.



Twenty years later, January 1915, a suspected electrical short in the wiring on the second floor brought the house down in flames. All escaped to safety but the Bonelli family lost most of their possessions. A few items that did survive that fire are displayed.

The House Today: Located at the corner of 5th and Spring Streets, this second home built by George and Effie Bonelli was completed in October 1915 after nine months' labor. Now preserved, the House provides us with an excellent example of Anglo-territorial architecture as well as the lifestyle of a prominent Arizona family at the turn of the 20th century.



Contractor, Mr. Pendergrast, used local stone for its thick exterior walls and on the inside a fire-resistant mixture of plaster and lime was applied to all walls. To increase its fire safety, George and Effie designed their home with exit doors to the veranda in each room, on both levels. A system of passive air-conditioning was provided in two ways: Leafy vines grew upward on chicken wire stretched from the eaves to anchors at ground level and gave excellent shade cover for the wrap-around veranda; and, the cupola (captain's tower), which is accessible only through the ceiling of an upstairs bedroom, served as a chimney to draft the hot desert air upward and out the roof. The cupola was also used as a look-out for the Bonelli boys at play... girls were not allowed!

For more info on the Bonelli House and family photos visit our website at:

<http://mohavemuseum.org/bonel.html>



Women Making History

The committee is preparing for the 30th annual Women Making History Awards Ceremony to be held on Sunday, March 2, 2014 at the Mohave Museum of History and Arts at 2:00 pm. Please join us in acknowledging the outstanding achievements of the women who are making history in our community..

“Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment” is the 2014 theme for National Women’s History Month. The committee works in conjunction with the National Women’s History Month Project, which focuses on the rich and inspiring heritage of women’s contributions in the United States. In Kingman and its outlying areas women are honored in different categories such as: the arts, business, education, homemaking, pioneering, professions, public service, religion and volunteerism...



Women Making History local committee members: Left to Right, Terry Chavez, Krystal Burge, Lyndal Byram, Pat Mullen, Kathy Cook, Sandi Minkler, Debbie Burnham-Kidwell. (not in photo) Betsy Parker.

Letter from the Director

As I approach the “Ides of March”, I realize that one quarter of 2014 will soon only be a memory. In the twelve years I have been associated with the Museum, I have come to understand the Museum, as well as myself are intertwined in an aging process. I do believe that the Museum is actually one up on me as to which has aged more gracefully; however I am happy just to be along for such a wonderful ride.

In January, the Museum hosted a luncheon for the Daughters for the Mohave Pioneers. This organization is more than just a part of the Museum, they are responsible for the very creation of the Institution. I would like to thank them from the bottom of my heart for bringing their vision to fruition.

My wife and I were riding through town and we tried to visualize our community without the Museum Complex (66 Museum, Bonelli House and the Mohave Museum), and all we saw was emptiness. Lake Havasu has a lake, Bullhead has a river and Kingman has the “Ocean of History”.

Thank all of you that have shared in the growth of our town through your support of the “Living History” housed in our great community.

In closing I would like to invite/challenge you to become a volunteer and become a bigger part of our Museum Family. Please come on down!!

Shannon Rossiter-Director

Museum Business Membership

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50 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

March 1964

An orientation meeting for the formal organization of Grace Lutheran Church of Kingman will be held Sunday evening in the Methodist Hall. Everyone interested in Grace Lutheran Church is invited to attend.

Two spectacular derailments, both within hundreds of feet of the downtown Santa Fe station, gave Kingman an exciting time last weekend. The first occurred when a "hot box" caused a journal failure on a westbound train. The smash-up left 13 freight cars off the track. The main area of the wreck was behind the Tarr, McComb and Co. warehouse on Andy Devine Avenue. On Sunday a tilted engine leaked fuel oil onto the street. Big crowds of excited onlookers spent the better part of the weekend looking at the wrecks and watching the huge derricks and skilled crews move the cars off the tracks.

Lake Mohave Ranchos: We started the week out with a lovely six-inch snow. Although a little out of season, it was wonderful. Everyone was busy taking pictures.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Grounds spent several days in Phoenix last week where Mrs. Grounds represented Mohave County at the State School Board Association meeting.

Standard Oil of California marketing personnel recently held a dinner meeting at the El Trovatore restaurant for its Chevron dealers from Needles to Seligman. The purpose of the meeting was to kick off the 1964 Fine China program where customers can purchase fine china at a substantial savings.

Yucca: The Knit and Stitch club has finished the pillow cases for the Mohave General Hospital Pink Ladies Association. Don't forget the Bunny Hop the Pink Ladies are sponsoring this Saturday.

Gary Fancher, son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Fancher of Needles, has been signed with the Baltimore Orioles and is now in spring training with the Class A club in the Stockton, California farm club. The Fanchers are former Kingman residents and have many friends here.

Construction started this week on a new McCulloch Corporation manufacturing plant and the first building of a commercial and shopping center at Lake Havasu City. Both projects are part of a long-range program announced by Robert P. McCulloch, president of McCulloch Corporation in Los Angeles.

Lake Mohave: Movie of the week at the Davis Dam recreation hall will be "Call of the Wild," the novel so well known by all from the pen of Jack London. It stars Clark Gable, Jack Okie, and Loretta Young.

Jim Zoubek, mathematics teacher at Mohave County Union High School, has won recognition from the National Science Foundation for the third time, with the award of a \$1,000 scholarship.

Oatman: Four bus loads of soldiers on leave from Desert Strike spent Sunday afternoon touring Oatman and Gold Road.

Fifty band and orchestra members of Kingman Junior High School traveled to Flagstaff last Saturday to attend the Northwestern Arizona Elementary Musical Festival, to be judged for a rating. Both the Kingman band and orchestra received an "I" rating and were commended for their good sound and good choice of music.

Bullhead City: It was a busy weekend and the flow of visitors in our area ran into the thousands with the motorcycle clubs, which numbered in all 400, plus a sixteen-trailer caravan which spent the weekend at the Ripley's River Resort. The caravan were of the Wally-Byram Air Streamers out of Wickenburg, Arizona.

Mohave County Television Listings, Saturday, March 7—Hootenanny from the University of Tennessee. The entertainers are Eddy Arnold, The Carter Family, The Travelers Three, Comedian Vaughan Meader, Sheb Wooley, Hoyt Axton, The Simon Sisters, The Serendipity Singers.

Prompt and heroic action by Kingman firemen saved the life of a two-month old baby in a fire at 518 Topeka Street Tuesday afternoon. The baby, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Russell of Kingman, was trapped in a fire in its home. Two Kingman firemen, Nolan Davis and Carl Wright, put on masks and entered the building to rescue the child. Little Tommy Russell is reported in fairly good condition at Mohave General Hospital this morning.



Photo #3920, Front of Mohave General Hospital, 1964

80 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

March 1934

"The Whole Town' Talking," and will be talking for the next two weeks, high school seniors claim. The talk, in their estimation, will be about the play they are going to present March 9th in the grammar school auditorium at 8:30.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lewis have been very busy this week getting their "Lewis Tavern" in shape for the opening of the café next Saturday evening, when it will open its doors to the public. Everything within the law will be served.



Photo # 14521

Scores of Kingman residents motored to Oatman Saturday night for one of the biggest dances ever held in the mining town. Dancers from every part of the county and Needles, California, were present, the Oatman residents acting as hosts to the throngs. Grace Fauth's orchestra of Kingman furnished the music.

Oatman: Miss Lillian Ridenour and John White, students at the Teachers College in Flagstaff, visited at their homes over the weekend.

Big Sandy: The ballgame between Kingman and our team at the Natural Corral Sunday resulted in a score of five to six, in Kingman's favor. Come again boys, we all enjoyed the game.

In a telegram received Wednesday morning from Senator Carl Hayden, Stewart Thompson was informed that two C. C. C. camps will be transferred to the Wallapai mountain area sometime in April. These camps will have two hundred men each and will be located in the Wallapais for a period of six months.

Frank Ricca, recently of Oatman, is now employed by the Central Commercial Co. in their Kingman store.

The Bonelli boys have been busy during their spare time building a fine fence around their home on Fifth Street. It will be a very attractive addition to that part of town.

100 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

March 1914

Dr. Firmin and Adam Smith have opened up a body of fine gold ore in their property in Union Pass.

A. Sanders, who formerly conducted a tailor shop in Kingman, has returned and purchased his shop back from Leonard and Waite, which is located opposite the school house. In all his travels since leaving here he has come to the conclusion that Kingman is the best place for climate and business opportunities.

We have been requested to state that all citizens of Kingman are invited to be at the cemetery Sunday and to bring with them some tree or shrub to be planted therein for the purpose of beautifying the place. While we believe that the local cemetery should be removed to some more suitable place, at the same time it is necessary to do something in the way of making it look like the last resting place of a Christian people. A few trees and flowering shrubs would add greatly to the looks of the place and it will cost little to plant the grounds among the graves.

A jury term of the Superior Court will be held in Kingman on the 30th of this month, there being several criminal and a few civil jury cases to be tried. Counsel from Prescott, Los Angeles and other places will be present to look after their clientele.

The old blacksmith shop on the corner of Fourth and Beale, which has stood the storms of the past thirty years, was this week torn down, and the place will be cleaned up and made more sightly. It is the intention, so we are told, to build a modern, up-to-date hotel on the ground.



Photo #6919

Pete White, the hunter, brought in from the Crozier ranch Thursday last one of the largest mountain lion pelts ever brought to town. The animal measured nine feet from tip to tip and was immense in girth. The animal was killed about three miles north of Crozier.

Royal W. Lescher of the firm of Lescher and Kibby, who was the successful architect before the board of supervisors for plans for the new courthouse, was in Kingman all this week getting data and preparing to carry out the specifications and working plans for the building of the new courthouse.

Memories Thru Photo's

White Hills

In 1892, Henry Shaffer discovered silver deposits in the area, with the help of local American Indians. The resulting mining efforts led to the creation of the town of White Hills, which reportedly grew to a population of 1,500. The mines consisted of 27 miles (43 km) of tunnels, and a full fifteen mines were being worked within one mile (1.6 km) of the town. In 1894, the White Hills Mining Company was formed to run the operations, but they sold out in 1895 for a price of \$1,500,000. The new owners, part of an English company, constructed a 40-stamp mill in the town. However, water had to be piped in from 7 miles (11 km) away, and the supply was never able to meet the mine and mill's demands. Production peaked in 1898, and soon after the mill began operating only half of the time. The town went into decline, and eventually became a ghost town.

Photo #15624, Pair of horses, wagon, man, and saddle horse at the Honeywell Saloon in White Hills. (1916 - 1920, Building abandoned?)



Photo #349, Ghost town of White Hills .
Ca. 1940



Photo #12226, Street Scene at White Hills



Photo #12302, Post Office at White Hills

Membership Renewal

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Robert Ballard

Memorials

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

In Memory Of

Doris R. Cunningham
Beverly Marlene Sears-Wickland
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Deanne Koster
Mary Lu (Lucille) Crane
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Mohave County Movers and Shakers

David Berkeley Babbitt, County Attorney was born December 23, 1927 in Phoenix, Arizona to a pioneer Arizona family. He was the grandson of one of the founders of the Babbitt Brothers empire.

Babbitt moved to Parker in 1937 and attended high school there and in Phoenix. After two years at Texas A & M he transferred to the University of Arizona and graduated in 1949.

He then spent two years in Alaska after which he served with the United States Air Force until 1953 and then transferred to the United States Coast Guard. After leaving the service he was elected, at age 26, to the Arizona State Legislature from Yuma and served two years. He then moved to Parker where he owned a convenience store and a realty office.

Babbitt returned to the University of Arizona in 1970 and after obtaining a law degree, established a practice in Parker and later in Lake Havasu City.

He was elected Mohave County Attorney in 1977 and again in 1979. Thereafter he returned to private practice and was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1985.

An Eagle Scout as a youth, he was a life-long supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. Among his civic activities he was a member of the Rotary club, the Elks club, the VFW, the Republican Men's club, and was an appointee to the Judicial Ethics Committee of Arizona.

D. B. Babbitt died in Lake Havasu City on March 14, 2001 and was buried in Parker.

Walter Casteel, businessman, was born on July 30, 1870 in Vermillion County, Illinois. His wife's name was Sarah. In Kingman Casteel owned an icehouse and a bottling plant. He was a carpenter and an engineer and at one time managed the Crystal Confectionary Store in Kingman. Casteel died on November 4, 1936.

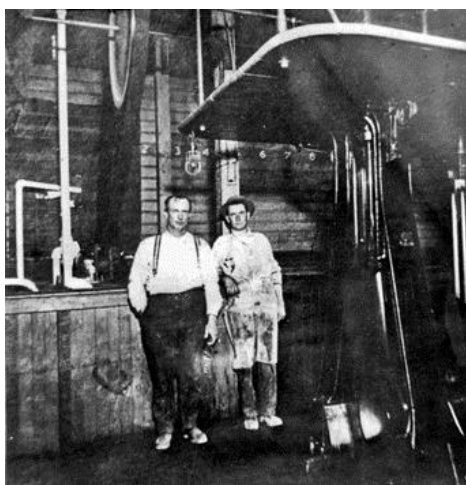


Photo 4767
Interior of ice
plant. L to R:
Walter Casteel,
Bob Manship

Harvey Hubbs, County Sheriff, Treasurer, Supervisor, was born in California about 1855. He came to Kingman at the age of 17 with a cattle drive. In his early years in Kingman he freighted lumber from Kingman to the American Flag Mine in the Hualapai mountains.

In 1886 Hubbs married Johanna Wilkinson. Their residence at South Fourth Street and Golconda is known as the Hubbs Residence and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Harvey and Johanna were proprietors of The



Hubbs House, a boardinghouse, (Photo 4398 Above) which burned twice and was replaced by Hubbs and John Mulligan with the Beale Hotel.

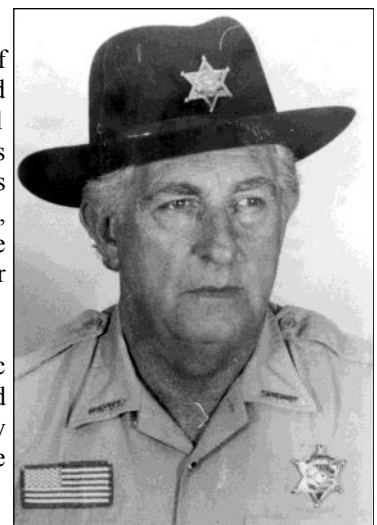
Hubbs served as Mohave County Sheriff from 1898 to 1900, and also as County Treasurer and Supervisor.

Harvey Hubbs died in July 1931.

Solon "Bill" Richardson, Sheriff, was born in Walsenburg, Colorado on April 25, 1921. In the mid 1970's he retired from the Los Angeles Police Department and moved to Arizona, settling in Bullhead City.

Richardson was elected Sheriff of Mohave County in 1980 and served until 1984. In 1981 there was controversy over his issuance of identification cards to persons other than deputies, ostensibly granting them police powers. The cards were later corrected.

Richardson was active in civic organizations in the Bullhead City area, and was appointed by the Arizona governor to the Law Enforcement Merit Board.



After Richardson's death in Phoenix on November 13, 1990, services were held in Bullhead City.

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Ahhh shoor, and a fine Museum it is.....

Happy Saint Paddy's Day

