



25th Annual Women Making History



The 25th Annual Women Making History awards ceremony was held at the Mohave Museum of History and Arts on Sunday, March 1st. These awards seek to recognize women who have made lasting contribution to the community of Kingman.

Award Recipients (Not in order)

Elizabeth Ferry (Education), Lisa Beauchamp (Volunteerism), Mary Nave (Religion), Sandy Rusinko (Arts), Cathy Taylor (Business), Dorothy Brown (Pioneering), Susie Parel-Duranceau (Professions), Barbara Bryant (Homemaking), Debbie McKee (Public Service), Hulda Watson (Humanitarian)

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Director's Letter

"Always the dreamer must crawl the labyrinth of gnarled perception to create art of immense beauty. The true artist is the worker that builds palaces that have bent him by the oppressive ideas of self-absorbed philosophers. His only rest comes when he retires to his dwelling amongst the stones of Greece that have been so gently laid on the desert's floor by some mysterious spiritual hand, This humble grotto serves him well as he cushions his head with the warmth of the decayed granite walls. This is the great liberating confinement of our earth's core. What a blessed dwelling this desert provides."-Judge Randall Mason

I am in the process of writing job descriptions for the staff of this fine Museum. I was truly stumped when I started to write the job description for the Director. I came to the conclusion that the basic requirement for a good Director is: He should wear a size 40 coat and a size 4 hat. I have fit that bill to the letter.

In truth, we have a great staff. The problem sometimes lies in overlapping duties and whose responsibility lies where. There are always certain growth pains to be expected in a rapid expansion such as the Museum has experienced. The Museum grew 6000 square feet in area. The Museum then took on the task of management of the Route 66 Museum and the Bonelli House. In seven years the Museum has added six major exhibits and has plans for two more. These changes have been accomplished with little or no problems. I am proud to say that we all belong to an organization that is a gem in the great State of Arizona.

In the beginning of March, the Polly Rosenbaum State Archives and History building closed due to state budget cuts. This building was just dedicated January 15, 2009.

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Museum for your memberships and memorials that go to help keep our Museum thriving. The month of February saw over one hundred memorials come in. It is overwhelming to me that this wonderful County we live in pays tribute to the great people that built and dwelled here. Sitting next to my computer as I write this newsletter is one of our most recent memorial donations, received from the estate of Wilbur and Marie Arthur, long time Kingman residents. Almost every day we receive a gift honoring the memory of someone that was an integral part of building Mohave County. Thank you for your dedication to this Museum.

Events and Attractions

In Your Easter Bonnet

"In Your Easter Bonnet", a temporary exhibit for the month of April, will feature hat styles popular when women always wore hats to church and special creations for Easter Sunday services. There is a rumor the hats are coming back so dig out the old ones hidden away in the attic and come see our hat collection.

Clowns, Toys and a Doll House.....

We have another new exhibit—made especially for all you YOUNG AT HEART! Clown "portraits", antique toys and a two-story lighted doll house are featured in our newest exhibit. Thanks to our members who generously loaned the Museum their favorite childhood toys in response to our newsletter "ad" several months ago.

April Art Exhibit

Artist of the Month - Patsy Chapin

Patsy's show this year will highlight "Wildlife Animals" done in scratchboard art and in watercolor and acrylics. We are sure everyone, especially local outdoorsmen and hunters, will enjoy seeing her Arizona game critters.

Patsy is hosting a reception at the Museum on Saturday afternoon, April 4th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.

April Author Book Signing

Kingman resident, Barbara Gruhl, pen name Barbara Gardner, M.S., is a biologist, researcher and writer who wrote two self-help books for women. She will sign her books from 2:00 to 4:00 PM, Saturday, April 25th at the Mohave Museum and will speak for fifteen minutes at 2:30 PM about her latest book, *Red Wine, Chocolate, and Life After 40*.

Calendar of Events

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Mohave Museum Art Gallery
April 1st through the 30th
Artist Patsy Chapin art exhibit

TWO APRIL TEMPORARY EXHIBITS

Mohave Museum
April 1st through the 30th
"In Your Easter Bonnet" exhibit
"Clowns, Toys, and a Doll House" exhibit

ARTIST RECEPTION

Mohave Museum
Saturday, April 4th, 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Meet the "Artist of the Month" Patsy Chapin

GENEALOGY SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

Mohave Museum
Wednesday April 8th at 1:00 pm
Family History Research

MOHAVE PIONEERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board Meeting
Mohave Museum Library
Thursday April 16th at 5:00 PM
Monthly Meeting

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

Mohave Museum
Saturday, April 25th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Meet Barbara Gardner Gruhl, Author of
Red Wine, Chocolate, and Life After 40

Museum Business Memberships

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

ROC 230768 8-53
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E-mail: toby@tr-orr.com
www.tr-orr.com

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SYCAMORE & WESTERN AVE.
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HOME CENTER
Kingman True Value
Home Center
3633 STOCKTON HILL ROAD
KINGMAN, ARIZONA 86409
928 / 757-4019

50 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

April 1959

Welcome to Mohave

A very special welcome is extended to Producer Kendrick Sweet and the location company of "Rim of the Canyon," which is being filmed in this area. We're very happy to have these people in our midst for several reasons.

First and foremost of the reasons is that they are fine guests. They are cordial, friendly and human. Mr. Sweet and the others whom we have met, are anxious to cooperate and to understand the community—as well as to be understood themselves.

Secondly their film will bring a fabulous amount of publicity to the community and to this area. The locale of the film is Mohave County and Kingman and will be identified as such in the picture. The camera shots of the area's scenery will undoubtedly interest many people in visiting this area and seeing nature's grandeur at first hand.

Producer Kendrick Sweet knows more about this area than many long-time residents. He came to the Grand Canyon area two years ago and has returned several times. The idea for the picture—and for much of its plot—came from Mr. Sweet. For instance, star Cornell Wilde plays the part of a deputy in the Mohave County Sheriff's Office.

Mohave County and Kingman will benefit greatly from this picture.

It is an added benefit that the community has the company of such pleasurable people as those in the location unit.



FILM CREW IN COUNTY—Shooting on the new Columbia Picture, "Rim of the Canyon," started at the U.S. Guano Corporation location at Grand Canyon Monday. Filming for the movie will continue in Kingman and elsewhere in the county for the next three weeks. Pictured above, left to right, lining up a scene near the canyon rim, are second unit director Larry Butler, director and associate producer Don Siegel, Producer Kendrick Sweet and in the foreground is Carter DeHaven, Jr.

Site Six Is Site Of New Expansion

A huge industrial concern, which cannot be identified at this date, has taken over the Site Six operation on Lake Havasu and plans a \$2.5 million improvement program.

The program includes a 250 unit trailer court, a nine-hole golf course, club house, swimming pool and 40 unit motel. The company also plans to use the area for test operations on a product they manufacture.



SWORD OF HOPE—When Mrs. Helen Graves of Kingman, right, was in Washington, D.C. recently as Arizona's delegate to the American Cancer Society's "Cured Cancer Congress" one of her most pleasant duties was to present Arizona's Senior Senator Carl Hayden, left, with the Society's "Sword of Hope." they are pictured above in Senator Hayden's office.



**Brand
New Records**

America's favorite popular music records available now at Mohave Radio and Electric Company.

1. Come To Me
2. Tell Him No
3. That's Why I Love You So
4. We're Too Young
5. I've Had It

All of the "Top 50" Records
Available Now!

\$1.00 Each!

Mohave Radio & Electric Co.
417 Beale Street SK 3-3616

80 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

Editors Note: Easter Sunday in 1929 was March 31st. For that reason the "Easter News" is from the weekly March 29, 1929 Mohave Miner.

Rare Treat For Music Lovers Saturday Night

Music lovers and those appreciating the many old southern melodies are in for a rare treat when on tomorrow night the Williams Singers are Scheduled to appear at the Elks Hall in a benefit performance under the auspices of the Swaskegame Post of the American Legion. Reserved Seats have been on sale all week at Rittenhouse and Campbell's and judging from the number that have already been disposed of, the performance will be well attended.

A.M., 9:30 A.M. church school, and at 11:00 A.M. special Easter Services, celebration of the holy communion and sermon. The St. John's Methodist Episcopal church will conduct a special Easter service beginning at 10:00 A.M. in which the children and the beginners, primary and intermediate department of the church school will take part, to be followed by the special service at 11:00 o'clock.

Gospel Chapel will have a special Easter program at 11:00 A.M.

The majority of the Kingman business and commercial houses observed Good Friday by closing today to allow the employees to attend the community services held at the St. John's M.E. church.



Dress Up For Easter!

Hart, Schaffner & Marx

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>For most men Easter marks the great dividing line between winter and spring, particularly this year when this occasion comes early.</p> | <p>Suits \$35</p> <p>Others \$30 to \$50</p> | <p>And for that reason there will be a demand for lighter, brighter clothing. When you dress up on Easter wear a H. S. & M. suit; 2 or 3 button peaked or notched lapel.</p> |
|--|--|--|

Rittenhouse & Campbell

Men and Boys' Wear



Sports News

Kingman Is Winner In First Game

First game of season displays some good baseball material. Successful season predicted.

Kingman scored a decided victory in the initial baseball game of the season when last Sunday they defeated the weaker Needles team by the score of 14 to 2, before a crowd estimated at over 200 fans who had turned out to watch the opener of the national game in Kingman.

Fans were profuse in their admiration of the club this year and to Manager Bale, who although not playing, kept close watch on all the balls together with keeping the team well in hand during the entire game. A straw hat was presented to Manager Bale, in the 7th inning by an admiring fan.

It looks like a big year for baseball in Kingman.

Easter Will Be Observed At Churches

In addition to the Sunrise Services to be held Easter morning at the Kingman Country Club all local churches will observe the day commemorating the resurrection of the Christ with various kinds of services and ceremony. In the St. Mary's Catholic Church Low Mass will be said at 6:00 A.M. and High Mass at 8:00 A.M. At the Trinity Episcopal Church, celebration of Holy Communion at 7:30

100 YEARS AGO FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

Fire Destroys Downtown Kingman



Fire was an ever present danger in the early West. This photograph taken in June of 1907 shows the aftermath of the fire that destroyed the *Luthy Block* of buildings on Front Street in Kingman.

Kingman Rebuilds

The *Luthy Block* housed many of Kingman's earliest businesses. Most of the block was rebuilt after the fire and housed a number of new commercial enterprises including the Studley Saloon, the Tong Wo Restaurant, and the S.T. Elliot Store.



JUST RECEIVED
 A New Lot of Ladies' Fine Shirt Waists
 Prices, 85c to \$6.50
 Also a Pretty Line of
NEW DRESS GINGHAMS
MILLINERY, VERY SWELL
 Come in and take a look at
OUR NEW GOODS
S. T. ELLIOTT
 Luthy Block, KINGMAN, ARIZ.

This April 3, 1909 advertisement in the *Mohave County Miner* was indicative of the booming retail, mining, transportation, and ranching economy in the Northwest Arizona Territory.

- Visit the Mohave Museum Website -

The **MOHAVE MEMORIES** Newsletter is now online at our new website www.mohavemuseum.org/Newsletters.htm
 If you would like to read the online edition and stop the paper mail delivery please call the Museum at **928-753-3195** or email accounting@mohavemuseum.org

The Chloride Store Company



The Chloride Store, pictured above circa 1909, was owned by Mohave County Pioneer retailer John H. Ware. The store was located on Tennessee Avenue just west of Second Street. This building replaced the earlier Chloride Store built in the 1870s. The building on the left is believed to be the Metropole Hotel.

Chloride Store Company

(INC.)

Miners' Supplies, Provisions, Groceries, Hardware

Dry Goods, Gent's Furnshings

Comforts, Blankets, Mattresses, Bedsteads, Cots
 Wall Tents, Iron Pipe, Gasoline, Coal Oil, Lubricating Oil, Canton Drill Steel, Hay, Grain and Coal

The April 10, 1909 advertisement (above) in the *Mohave County Miner* was more specific to "Gents Furnshings" in this hard rock mining town.

Pioneer Blacksmith Shop . . .

Is one of the Best Equipped Shops
 in Arizona, and workmen are all
 skilled mechanics

**Wagon-work
 Horseshoeing
 and General
 Repair
 Work**

Shop Corner Beale and Fourth Sts.
J. C. Maddux
 Lessee

J.C. Maddux, lessee of the Kingman Blacksmith shop, has added a wagon shop to the other business and will handle Bain Wagons in carload lots. He has just finished a big store house on Beale street and will have it open for business within a week. A carload of wagons is now on the way from the manufactory.

Membership Renewal

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Anderson, Flagstaff, AZ
Mr. & Mrs. George Anderson
Jim Attebery, Globe, AZ
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Beeman
Sister Madonna M. Black
Clairann Cave
Janet P. DuBois
Dan & Phyllis Duey
Phyllis Eaton
Bill Fancher, San Marcos, CA
Bob & Roxanne Freiday
Jerry & Linda Grimes
Elaine Grissom
Mildred Harper
Mr. & Mrs. John Helmer
Mariellen Hooch
Lorraine Hunt
Jean Jones
Elmer G Kroeger
Connie Lowgren, Morro Bay, CA
David & Lisa Mallory
Wels Musgrave
Ms. Lila M Newton
Judy Olney
Russell & Elaine Petry
Enos Phillips

Don & Barbara Pike, Dolan Springs, AZ
Ms Evelyn Riggs
Betty Rutter
Jay & Tomma Schritter
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Smith
Mitch & Susan Smith, Ft. Mohave, AZ
Sutton Memorial Funeral Home
Mr. & Mrs. Roy E Voss, Palestine, TX
Mrs. Dave Wasson
Paul & Diane Webster
Loren Wilson
Verna Wright
Mr. & Mrs. Branson Walrod
Norman & Victoria Hanes
Delbert Lee Campbell, Lake Havasu, AZ
Virginia Black Doyle, Makaha, HI
Pat Hartup
Ruth Simpson, Mohave County Genealogical Society
Gail Salmon
Jill Gernetzke-Hays
Harlan & Ellen Mott-Seitz
Samuel F. Crozier, Blaine, WA
Mr. & Mrs. David Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. Tod Becker
Elizabeth Ivancso

New Memberships

Pat Gnodle
William "Norris" Arthur, Winslow, AZ
Lance Buckhammer, Golden Valley, AZ
Andy & Jackie Sansom
Don & Sharon Schwartzlose, Golden Valley, AZ
Norman & Angie Maddux

Ron & Nancy Hansen, Topock,, AZ
Tim & Mollie Casson
Tracy & Michael Sheehy
Dennis J. Sigurnjak, Lake Havasu City, AZ
Darlene Ridge
Mission Bank

Memorials

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

In Memory Of

Olive Jane Bond
Nellie E. Blake
Lucy Lee Beller
Ernest R. Fancher
John Sherman "Sherm" Husser Sr.
Duane R. "Don" Coleman
Jennie Stanley
Ella M. Scavo
Viola "Vicki" May Duncan
Marden B. "Chuck" Chlarson, Jr.

Donor

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stephens
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stephens
Kay Ellermann
Phyllis Eaton
Kay Ellermann
Phyllis Eaton
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Aune
Kathleen Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stephens
Joan McCall

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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

In Memory Of

Donors

Alice Gene Stephens

Phyllis Eaton, Mr. & Mrs. William Hardwick, Joan McCall,
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Johnson, Daughters of Pioneers,
Mr. & Mrs. Hal Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stephens

Frankie May Voss

Phyllis Eaton, Clairann Cave, Dr. Jerry Wienke, Dollie McCarthy Lightfoot, Billie Jean Griffith

Martha L. Waters

Mr. & Mrs. H.I. Johnson, Mr. & Mrs Richard Rucker, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Anderson,
Mr & Mrs. Gene Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Jordan, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Jordan, Reg
Milhon, Mrs. Jimmie Jordan, Jack Kesler, Tom & Linda Short, Daughters of Pio-
neers, Phyllis Eaton, Mrs. Robert Broan, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Watson, Dollie McCarthy
Lightfoot, Pat Hartup, Kathleen Baker, Billie Jean Griffith, Bonnie Gift-Ely, Hostess
Club

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Mr. & Mrs. H.I. Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Rucker, Mr. & Mrs. Jay Schritter,
Tom & Linda Short, Brian & Health Short, Jolene & Tom Fulton, Mr. & Mrs. Roy
Voss, Kathleen Baker

Wilbur Martin Arthur

Mr. & Mrs. H.I. Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Jay Schritter, Dr. Jerry Wienke,
Karen Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Randall

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P.A. Kinzie, Karen Remster Barker, Joan McCall, Henderson Management

Jo Anne Stockbridge Blackwell

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Mrs. Roy Voss, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Watson, Pat Hartup, Kathleen Baker, Mrs. Lucille
Cisney, Billie Jean Griffith, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stephens

Lora Lee Freed

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bailey, Betty Grounds, Mr. & Mrs. H.I. Johnson, Clarissa Lewis,
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Wolff, Mrs. Lucille Cisney & Family, Gene Jerabek,
Billie Jean Griffith, Clairann Cave, Pat Hartup, Patricia Johnson, Kathleen Baker,
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Simpson, Joan McCall, Jack Kesler, Alice Zoeller, Mr. & Mrs. John
J. Thompson

Kyle Reid Fowler

Mr. & Mrs. A.C. Masterson, Mr. & Mrs. Archie Kinsel, Kay Ellermann, Mr. & Mrs.
Robert Evans, Clarissa Lewis, Mr. & Mrs. Kenny Boyd, Mr. & Mrs. Laird Hiestand,
Shirley Bradley, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Barrett, Mr. & Mrs. H.I. Johnson, Alice Zoeller

Irving Walter Seapy III

Dollie McCarthy Lightfoot

Krista JoAnne Freed Dix

Mr. & Mrs. H.I. Johnson, Clairann Cave, Mrs. Lucille Cisney & Family, Billie Jean
Griffith, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stephens, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Simpson

Lorraine L. McVicar

Mr. & Mrs. H.I. Johnson, Joan McCall, Clarissa Lewis, Jack Kesler,

Wilbur and Marie Arthur, longtime Kingman residents, recently passed away. Wilbur left a bequest to the Mohave Museum of History and Arts in the memory of the following individuals: His father, Walter Arthur; his grandmother, Janet (Aitken) Arthur; her brothers, George Aiken and William Aitken; his mother, Flora (Mettier) Arthur; his grandmother, Mary (Mettier) Aitken; his great grandmother, Elizabeth (Beman) Cofer; and other family members who were early pioneers in Mohave County.

MEET ME AT THE MOVIES

Chuck Cook - Volunteer

The “moving picture show” has always been a source of entertainment for the citizens of Kingman and the surrounding area since at least 1907 when films were shown at the Elks Building on North Fourth Street in conjunction with the production of theatrical plays and band concerts.

In 1917, Henry Lang, a prominent Kingman businessman, opened Lang’s Theater in the Lovin & Withers Building on the northwest corner of Fourth Street and Andy Devine Avenue.

The film projector bounced the motion picture images off the back interior wall of the building and the townspeople who watched the grainy productions of the era were probably as pleased as they could be with this new social phenomenon.

Young people especially were treated to a grand time during the Saturday Matinee showing of Flash Gordon serials and the exploits of Tarzan as well as fast and furious feature length western epics starring “Hoot” Gibson and Ken Maynard.



LANG’S THEATER ON THE CORNER

In September of 1939, Kingman moviegoers were treated to the opening of the brand new “State Theater” on the northeast corner of Fourth Street and Beale. Successful Arizona theater owner Harry L. Nace had decided that Kingman was ready for a first class moving picture facility. Designed by Phoenix architects, Alexander and Burton and constructed by local contractors I.M. George and W.S. Ford, the new structure was erected to be an entertainment showcase

for Mohave County. A modern exterior complete with large fluorescent neon marquees greeted patrons. A convenient foyer complete with a well stocked snack bar was another welcome attraction.

The auditorium was resplendent with a beautiful color scheme. A convenient, comfortable seating arrangement for viewing pleasure was in place and the building acoustics were first class.



THE STATE THEATER

Success was immediately forthcoming with the opening of the State Theater. Crowds of young and old alike ventured into the huge edifice to take part in the cavalcade of romantic, comedic, historic and tragic presentations that theater Manager Ira Rawlings and his staff were able to procure for the public’s enjoyment.

Many of Mohave County’s young people gained knowledge of the future business world through their employment at the “State”.

Entertainment at it’s finest became available at the “State” for generations of Mohave County patrons.



KINGMAN ARMY AIRFIELD

36,000 Gunners Trained During WWII

From Fifty Year Reunion Program, 1995. (Author unknown)

In the course of human progress it seems an almost universal rule that, whenever someone states a need, someone comes along to fill it. In 1934, with the clouds of war building in Europe and threatening to drift westward, the



Army Air Force stated a need for a heavy bomber. Boeing Aircraft Company of Seattle obliged with its Project 299. After putting the prototype through its paces in 1935, the Army ordered a fleet of the aircraft, now dubbed the B17, and popularly known as the Flying Fortress. And a fortress it was. It bristled with armament fore and aft, port and starboard, above and below.

Now the need was to recruit gunners and find a place to train them in the use of the weapons aboard the Fortress. Each gunner would be required to become proficient in all positions.

In 1941, Major John C. Horton of the West Coast Flying Training Command Headquarters at Moffett field, California, took a trip to Kingman, Arizona, and found it the perfect location. The land was fairly level, the population was sparse, and land was available at a fair price.

Now the pace quickened, for on December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. War was declared against the Japanese Empire, and shortly afterwards, against Germany. The B17, along with the rest of the family of war planes, was needed immediately on both fronts.

In May, 1942 the Army Air Force authorized the construction of a gunnery school in Kingman. The estimated cost was about 9 million dollars. In addition to the main facility, several emergency strips were built. There was one at Red Lake, about 17 miles northeast of the base. Others were built near Topock, and Yucca. Another was built at what is now Lake Havasu City Airport.

During construction of the base, there were a few problems among the workers. Food delivery was slow, Cafeterias were hurriedly built to feed the hands. There was also a housing problem, eventually eased by emergency con-

struction of new units.

Davis Dam was being built during this time. Work on the dam was temporarily suspended, and the construction crews were sent to Kingman to help with the new base.

They worked fast in those days. On August 4, 1942, under the command of Lt. Colonel Harvey P. Hughn, the Army Air Force Flexible Gunnery School was officially declared open for business only a couple of months after the project started.

But before the business of the base could be conducted, the operation had to be organized. This was the job of 460th Base Headquarters squadron which moved in December 1, 1942. Shortly afterwards, a new base commander was assigned This was Colonel George E. Henry, who reported on duty December 10.

Now came the first wave of people for whom the base was built: the 1120th, the 1121st, 1122nd, and 1123rd Flexible Gunnery Training squadrons Also taking up residence at this time were the all black 334th Aviation Squadron, and the 100th Guard Squadron otherwise known as the Military Police.

The new gunners were put to work immediately, but not in airplanes. The first part of their training was to assure their familiarity with weaponry of any kind. They were introduced to the BB Range. Here they used devices similar to the armament in the aircraft except their weapons fired only BBs. Once proficient with their



BB guns, they graduated to shotguns (Possibly to grow accustomed to the recoil.) On completion of their preliminary training the gunners were finally allowed to enter the B17 and fire the actual weapons for which they had volunteered. This method of training paid dividends, for later on, in competition with other gunnery schools, the Kingman school often took top honors.

Morale was always an issue among a large group of young men miles from home, many for the first time, and



no place to go with their weekend passes but the tiny desert town of Kingman. Enter Bob Hope, et. al. to the rescue. Other big name entertainers came to the base, such as the Three Stooges with their zany tomfoolery and Kay Kaiser with his orchestra and his fun and games. The USO organized other shows to help keep the people happy and willing to work all out for the war effort

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Bugs Bunny was there, too. With sanction from Warner Brothers, Bugs was adopted as the official base mascot. The poster of Bugs with fierce countenance, and armed to the teeth for war, was displayed in a most prominent location on the base.



On May 7, 1943, the facility was officially named the Kingman Army Air Field. The base continued to grow and change during 1943. Many new squadrons were added to the base and some of the existing ones were combined. The 1120th and the 329th merged with the 328th to become the 328th Flexible Gunnery Training Group. The 1122nd, 537th, and 538th were consolidated to form the 1123rd Flexible Gunnery Training Group. The 1121st became the 329th. The 536th and the 760th Flexible Gunnery Training Groups were added to the list. Also assigned to the B17 fighting groups was the 31st altitude squadron, training for operations at high altitude.

Serving to augment the training groups were 1012th Quartermaster Platoon, the 684th Army Band, the First Weather Detachment 25 of the 858th Signal Service Company, Detachment 14 of the 909th Quartermaster and the 2053rd Ordnance Company. In 1943 a detachment of Chinese gunners was sent to Kingman for training.

There were aircraft other than the B17 assigned to the base. The AT 6, AT 11 and the AT 23 were used for flight training and target, towing. The BT 18 was used for flight training.

As often happens in massive programs employing large numbers of people and machinery working to the limit of their endurance, sudden tragedies will strike. The Kingman training school was no exception. On January 2, 1944, a B17 flying near McClellan Field, California, disintegrated in bad weather. Of the thirteen men killed in the resulting crash, eleven were from Kingman. Four days later, on January 6, a bus loaded with gunnery students bound for the base, crossed the railroad tracks just north of the entrance. The driver did not see the oncoming train. Train and bus collided, and twenty-eight



students died.

On April 22, 1944, the Kingman Army Air Field was consolidated and redesignated the Army Air Force Unit 3018. Each of the units on the base became subdivisions of 3018. On June 15, Colonel Donald B. Phillips became the new base commander. During 1944 the 3018th was one of the top training schools in the United States.

The war ended on both fronts in 1945. With peace in the world, there was no further need for a gunnery school. Or for the airplanes that carried the guns. The year saw the base gradually wind down to a stop.

Command of the base changed again to Colonel Walter L. Wheeler who became commander on April 1, 1945. Kingman Army Airfield was temporarily inactivated on June 30. Colonel Lance Call became the base commander to supervise the deactivation. In the last quarter of 1945 the base designation changed again, becoming the 4184th. Base command changed twice more to Lt. Colonels James L. Meadows and John J. Radigan. At midnight, February 25, 1946, the gunnery training base became history.

On February 26 the training base became Storage Depot 41. "Storage Depot" was a misnomer. The intent was to render thousands of airplanes down to aluminum ingots. Kingman was one of five sites chosen for the task. Never mind they were created for the purpose of mass destruc-



tion, those airplanes represented some of the finest and most complex examples of mechanical art ever produced by the human race up to that time. In addition to the B17s, other airplanes brought into the base included B24s, P38s, B26s, A26s. The job was finished by the first quarter of 1948. Seventy million pounds of aluminum from seven thousand airplanes were shipped out of Kingman.

A relatively few of the airplanes escaped destruction, and some are still flying today. Others rest in museums to be viewed by people who do not remember, or who do not understand the meaning of what they are seeing.

In July 1948, the Military released the base for civilian use, and it became a property of Mohave County.

Overnight Trips ?

We would like some input from our members on doing overnight trips. We are thinking of the following: **Flagstaff Wine Festival — Shakespeare Festival in Utah — Hearst Castle — Heard Museum**

If you have someplace you would like to suggest, let us know and we will see if there is enough interest.

Coming Events In Mohave County

Take the opportunity to enjoy Beautiful Downtown Kingman while admiring all the motorcycles in April and the beautiful classic cars in May while visiting your Mohave Museum of History and Arts and the Route 66 Museum

2009 Laughlin River Run

April 22nd thru 26th

The River Run is an annual gathering of motorcycle enthusiasts. It is the largest gathering of its type in the Western United States. The event drew over 70,000 motorcycle enthusiasts in 2008.

The river run was started in 1983 with 426 participants. It was conceived by Harley-Davidson dealer Dale Marschke, who wanted to bring his customers on a fun weekend ride. The name comes from the river run to Oatman, Arizona that many of the rally goers participate in.

The Laughlin River Run today takes place annually during the last weekend in April, normally beginning on Wednesday and finishing on Sunday. The event is currently promoted by Dal-Con Promotions and features several attractions and events, including live concerts, a poker run, bike show, Ms. Laughlin competition and charity events.

Historic Route 66 Fun Run May 1 - 3

Friday May 1st in Seligman - registration, music and entertainment.

Saturday morning May 2nd the vehicles will start to line up in preparation for the start of the **FUN RUN** from Seligman to Kingman. Upon **arrival in Kingman in the early afternoon** they will be lining up the vehicles (cars, busses, vans, cycles and RVs) on Route 66 and at the Powerhouse for viewing and fun judging. Entertainment, activities and vendors all day. Evening activities, downtown Kingman activities and entertainment sponsored by the Downtown Merchants Association.

Sunday morning the vehicles will line up for the run to Topock/Golden Shores for the final get-together and awards.

The first official Fun Run was in 1988, but as you can see below, the 1919 "Run" had some real classic modes of transportation.



**MOHAVE PIONEERS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

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**VOLUNTEERS OF
THE MONTH**

BONELLI HOUSE

Kathleen Baker

ROUTE 66 MUSEUM

June Lawrence

MOHAVE MUSEUM

Elmer "Les" Harvey