

Cave Creek Museum, Inc.
6140 E Skyline Drive
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OPEN
October 2, 2019 through May 31, 2020
Wednesday – Sunday
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Open Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed Holidays
480-488-2764

ADMISSION
Adults \$7
Seniors \$5
Students \$5
Children under 12 Free

Don't miss our outdoor exhibits:
ranch tools,
stamp mill
mining arrastr,
historic church,
and tubercular
cabin



Make History! Become a Member of the Cave Creek Museum

All memberships include a ten percent discount in the Museum Store, free entry to the Museum with membership card, and monthly newsletters. For membership, volunteer opportunities or other Museum information, call **480-488-2764** or Email: info@cavecreekmuseum.com

Visit the Museum Website at: www.cavecreekmuseum.org

WHO'S ON BOARD

Contact any of the following Board Directors with your comments and ideas to make the Museum even better!

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The Mission of the Cave Creek Museum is to preserve and interpret the natural resources and cultural heritage of the Northern Sonoran Desert

Karrie Porter Brace, Executive Director, Remington Pettus, Administrative Assistant; Thomas Brace, Nuggets Editor



NUGGETS

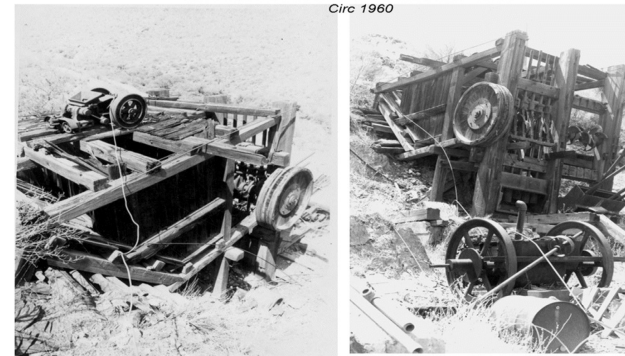
December 2019

Golden Reef Mine History

By Charlie Connell

GOLDEN REEF STAMP MILL

Circa 1960



Over the years various groups claimed the ground and prospected on Continental Mountain where the Golden Reef Mine is presently located. It went by different names over the years.

Between 1873 and 1876, there were a few hearty prospectors working small operations consisting of pick and shovel activity with no large camps formed. In 1876, William B Hellings, a motivated ambitious young man with money arrived at Continental Mountain and observed the mining activities. By 1878 he put up the funds to build a 10-Stamp mill, hired miners, purchased equipment and started the Golden Star Mine. The mill and equipment was hauled from California to Phoenix and up to Continental Mountain with wagons and oxen. In 1880 the operation folded and it looked like mining was coming to an end.

By the 1890's, the mine was known as the Golden Reef. In 1910 the Illizona Company took over where Hellings had left off and installed another 10-stamp mill and strung 2,000 feet of cable for a tramway. Work continued until a fire in 1913 destroyed the mill and they were unable to rebuild the operation. The old Illizona stamp battery was then resurrected by a group of miners in 1917. They were not successful in bringing the mine back to operation.

There was one final chapter in the Golden Reef Mine saga. In the 1920's Prohibition brought another group of individuals, not miners, who set up stills on the Golden Reef Property. The water was supplied from the many excellent springs on the site for the making of whiskey. The mine sheltered one of the largest stills in the area. The whiskey was popular in Phoenix and went for 50 cents a shot.

Today, the Golden Reef claim is quiet with a private home on a patch of level ground below the mine. The stamp mill found its final resting spot at the Museum.

Our Next Stamp Mill Run SATURDAY

December 14th, 2019 at 1:30pm



Kiwanis' Family Sundays

Sunday, December 15th, at the
Cave Creek Museum

Winter Holidays in the Sonoran Desert

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Wintertime is full of feasts, festivals, and fun! Learn how many diverse people of the Southwest celebrate the Winter season.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 14th– Stamp Mill Run, 1:30 pm

Dec 15th– Kiwanis Family Sundays:

Winter Holidays in the Sonoran Desert

Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

From Our Director...

The approaching winter brings a true sense of celebration. For many of us, Thanksgiving and Christmas generate a frenzy of shopping, cooking, and parties. Even Phoenix has its own December *Phoestivus* market inspired by Jerry Seinfeld's "Festivus--Festival for the Rest of Us." However, these are much more modern methods of merriment. Our Winter Holidays derive from very ancient traditions that have deep roots in the Sonoran Desert, Medieval Europe, and the Classic Mediterranean.

One popular topic at this time of year is the Cave Creek Christmas Pageant. Families in local Christian congregations would organize scripts, costumes, and Christmas Carols for their children to re-enact the Nativity. Participants recall with great nostalgia the howling and braying accompaniment by Black Mountain's wildlife. To me what is amazing is the ritual's connection to antiquity from European miracle plays and early crèches, with origins attributed to St Francis of Assisi in the early 1200's. These are also the roots of the Southwest Hispanic traditions in re-enacting *La Posada*, with Joseph and Mary seeking lodging in Bethlehem throughout the *Novena de la Navidad*.

Native American communities celebrate many year-end, harvest, and rain events. The Navajo/Diné celebrate 18-20 weeks of Night Chants for fertility, harvest, and balancing the harmony in their world. The Hopi offer prayers for the *Soyaluna* at Winter Solstice and observe the *Wuwuchim* in preparation of the New Year. The Zuni/A:shiwi have *Shalako*, also at the Winter Solstice, comprised of dances, prayers, remembrance of ancestors, and blessings for health and fertility.

At this time, it seems all gather to celebrate our respective traditions with family and food. In this joyous season, reflect on how we, as people, may approach things in our own ways, but for many the same reasons.

Karrie Porter Brace,
Executive Director

Happy Holidays from
Cave Creek Museum!



Historic Highlights by Kraig Nelson

"Badge #1"



Hiram McDonald,
First row and second from the right; courtesy of Phoenix Police Museum

One of the most extraordinary areas in the Cave Creek/Carefree area is the *Spur Cross Conservation Area*, about six miles north of the Cave Creek Museum. The 2,154-acre breathtaking preserve includes almost ninety Hohokam archaeological sites from their habitation from approximately A.D. 700 to A.D. 1200. The hard-fought preserve (developers were ready) was created with the signature of Governor Jane Hull January 9, 2001. Near today's gated entrance (a nominal fee is required/honor-system) was the nationally-heralded Phoenix Mine. It was Cave Creek's first town-center, employing 100 workers and their families. In 1894, a rare and extremely large 100-stamp, stamp-mill, was feverishly chronicled in San Francisco and New York papers (**one** stamp is an approximate 1,000-pound vertical iron-bar that crushes rock for gold extrication). The Phoenix Mine was established in 1878 by three Phoenix men: William Kent, lost to history; Francis A. Shaw, Phoenix's second mayor from 1881 to 1883; and Hiram (Hi) C. McDonald, pioneer lawman who served into the 20th Century.

George Mowry was Phoenix's fifth Sheriff from 1875 to 1878. Sometime during his tenure (date unknown), he hired Hiram McDonald as a town-jailer. McDonald, a Texan, born in 1847, had been a guard for Wells Fargo prior to his Phoenix employment. Later, he became a Deputy Marshal, Deputy U.S. Marshal, and finally a Phoenix Police Officer. "Hi" retired from the Police Department on May 21, 1924. He wore badge #1.



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Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

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NOTICE FOR OUR MEMBERS

The Cave Creek Museum staff enjoys the opportunity to send **Nuggets** to our members! When we create our newsletter each month as a benefit for you, we also incur mailing costs and labor organizing, printing, folding and taping each copy.

We have a question for you, our members. Would you be willing to receive a digital copy (PDF) version and as a bonus, your digital copy would be in color.

Or, would you want to continue to receive **Nuggets** as a printed copy. We are exploring having the printed copy in full color, but at this time, we are unable to justify the added expense. Please send your responses to:

director@cavecreekmuseum.com

Enjoy the Cave Creek Museum all season long!

A membership provides the most convenient way to enjoy the Cave Creek Museum. It's easy, for you and your guests can come anytime we're open.

A membership to the CCM also provides you advanced notice of upcoming events, our Nuggets Newsletter and special member discounts at our Museum Store.

To learn more about our Seasonal Memberships go to <https://cavecreekmuseum.org/membership-in-the-cave-creek-museum/>

Become a Cave Creek Museum Member Today!

Cave Creek Museum's newsletter seeks fascinating history and fun facts from all over the Desert Foothills! You may have something to share, but wondered, "How could I get my item in the Nuggets monthly newsletter?"

We will consider your submissions for publication.

If you are interested in contributing articles to the Cave Creek Museum's newsletter, contact Editor [Thomas Brace \(tbrace@me.com\)](mailto:tbrace@me.com) for details and deadlines. All are welcome to contribute, CCM reserves the right to edit.

Museum Admissions

Admission rates are:

\$7 for adults; \$5 for seniors and students; children under 5 free!

Orlando B. Willcox

The *Department of Arizona* which was part of the *Military Division of the Pacific* was created in 1870 and lasted until 1893. General George Stoneman, Jr. was the first Commander. He is credited with discovering the future town of Cave Creek in 1870 while exploring the shortest routes between forts in the Arizona Territory. Interestingly, the *Department of Arizona* also included southern California. The "Arizona" boundary in California started from the northwest corner of the Arizona Territory extending northwest to the Pacific Ocean terminating at Point Conception, which is about fifty-two miles north of today's Santa Barbara, and noted for the famous 1856 Point Conception Lighthouse. The headquarters for the *Department of Arizona* was Fort Drum located in today's Los Angeles. When Camp (later Fort) McDowell was established in 1865, which facilitated the creation of Phoenix in 1867, troops and supplies came from Fort Drum. Yes, it was a long march.



Little is written about the fourth Commander of the *Department of Arizona*, General Orlando Bolivar Willcox (born 1823- died 1907). His distinguished career began with his graduation from West Point Military Academy and later, becoming a lawyer. He was wounded and captured (held for more than a year) at the *First Battle of Bull Run*, and fought in the *Battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg* as a commanding officer in all three battles. He was a "Medal of Honor" recipient who served as Arizona Department Commander from March 5, 1878 to September 4, 1882. Willcox, Arizona is the namesake for Mr. Willcox, a tribute to his dedicated service.

General George Stoneman Jr.



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Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

Thank you to all who attended the Miners' Dinner!

It was a wonderful and successful evening with the Rockin' Blue Geckos, catering from Buffalo Chip, and a fun silent auction. The Cave Creek Museum wants to especially thank the Dream Team for all their hard work, dedication, and time for keeping the Gold Reef Stamp Mill and tramway running for our guests to understand the mining history of Cave Creek.



From left to right, back row: Tom Kelley, Tom Rime, Bob Flach, Paul Diefenderfer, Steve Himmelberger, Robert Peterson, Charlie Connell; Front row: Karrie Porter Brace, Paul Hauelsen, Rick Herrem

Image courtesy of Bill Waters, Air Major Media