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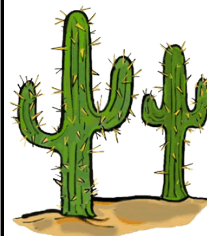
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OPEN
October 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021
Wednesday – Sunday
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Open Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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 arrastre,
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

Suzanne Johnson, Interim Executive Director, Remington Pettus, Museum Program Coordinator



NUGGETS

December 2020

History of Horseshoe Dam

By: Kathy Pedrick,
CCM Archaeologist



Horseshoe Dam is located on the Verde River approximately 25 miles northeast of Cave Creek. It is technologically significant as the first major earth and rock fill dam built as part of the Salt River Project.

The completion of the Arizona Canal in 1885 opened land to irrigation and settlement in the Salt River Valley. By 1889, the Rio Verde Canal Company filed for a dam at the Horseshoe site to provide water for Paradise Valley. Pushback from the Salt River Valley Water Users Association (SRVWUS), as well as limited funding eventually derailed the project, although 20 miles of canal were ultimately built. With the outbreak of WWII, the Phelps Dodge Corporation was charged with increasing production of copper to support the war effort. Additional water supply was required to operate the mining and processing operations. Phelps Dodge proposed a plan to divert water from the Black River in eastern Arizona (a major tributary of the Salt River) but was opposed by SRVWUA as diminishment of their water rights. Ultimately a plan was approved to allow diversion from the Black River in exchange for development of a dam at the Horseshoe site.

The approved design for Horseshoe Dam was a composite earth core/rock filled structure, with earth fill across the center of the dam site and rock fill placed along both the upstream and downstream faces of the dam. These dams work through mass and gravity, as opposed to concrete arch dams that use their design to provide resistance.

The construction contract was awarded to the partnership of LE Dixon and Arundel Corporations in 1944 for just over \$1.6 million dollars. We have little information on the construction workforce, however, most of it was built using mechanical equipment as opposed to hand labor. Of note, the dam site was a hotbed of rattlesnakes. It is reported that one snake hunt yielded a kill of 17 diamondbacks. Horseshoe Dam was completed by early 1946. Although originally built in support of national defense, the dam was not completed until several months after the war ended. Modifications occurred in the late 1940s/early 1950s and again in the 1990s. Impounded water supplies the Salt River Project as well as domestic water for Phoenix. Over the decades, sedimentation has reduced the capacity for water storage and studies are underway to identify options to address the issue. Horseshoe Dam and Lake, is surrounded by the Tonto National Forest and provides recreational opportunities including fishing, boating and camping. The lake levels can fluctuate greatly depending on the call for irrigation or domestic water needs.

Sources include Salt River Project and Bureau of Reclamation

December 2020 Events

December 12th-
Stamp Mill Demonstration
1:30 pm



December 13th – Kiwanis Family
Sundays: Merry Christmas,
Arizona!
2:00- 4:00 pm

Have you ever wondered how residents of the Southwest decorate their Christmas tree? Take home a saguaro themed craft and reconstruct your very own Christmas tree. Make sure to tag our social media websites so we can see your work!



Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

Historic Highlights

By: Kraig Nelson,
Cave Creek Museum Historian

Pictured:
A grave in the cemetery with a wooden headstone



At least one "Boot Hill" or Pioneer Cemetery has been lost to history in Arizona- Cave Creek's. The Pioneers' Cemetery Association which is "dedicated to preserving historic cemeteries in Arizona," doesn't mention the old Cave Creek Cemetery in their archives. Did you know Cave Creek had a Boot Hill cemetery? The name "Boot Hill" became a generic term for cemeteries where men (usually) died violently and quickly with their boots on, quickly enough so they couldn't remove their boots prior to meeting their maker. There are at least forty "Boot Hill" cemeteries in America. The first recognized Boot Hill cemetery was probably the infamous cemetery in Dodge City, Kansas. Bartholomew (Bat) Masterson, Wyatt Earp, and John Henry (Doc) Holliday spent time there. Wyatt and Doc eventually moved on to Tombstone, Arizona and Bat Masterson spent about two months there as well. The Earp brothers (Wyatt, Virgil, and Morgan) and Doc Holliday maintained the deadly Boot Hill concept in Tombstone, near the Old Kindersley Corral, with the obdurate assistance and eventual demise of Billy Clanton, Frank McLaury, and Tom McLaury. Ike Clanton, Billy's older brother, and Billy Claibourne decided they couldn't take the excitement and left. The approximate thirty-second gunfight took place on October 26, 1881. You may have heard of this incident.

The historic Cave Creek Boot Hill Cemetery is located on the east bank of Cave Creek (the stream), about a half-mile south of today's Rancho Manana Golf Resort. It is just south of the first Cave Creek Anglo settlement (1877) of Jeriah and Amanda Wood. In the 1880s this location was called Cave Creek Station, accommodating the first local miners and ranchers with a variety of supplies.

By 1900, Cave Creek Station was the town-center and owned by the "Sheep King of Cave Creek," James D. Houck. Mr. Houck's wife Beatrice, and daughters, would bury ranch-hands, destitute tubercular patients, and local denizens in the creek-side cemetery. Frances C. Carlson, in her book *Cave Creek and Carefree, Arizona- A History of the Desert Foothills*, states "the little cemetery beside the creek... was forgotten when the town-center shifted eastward."

Vandals have desecrated the sacred site; headstones have been stolen. In June 1964 one headstone remained (now gone), and was photographed with the following inscription: "In memory of David Wesley Vaughn...born July 28, 1891... died September 25, 1893...aged 2 years and 2 months and 7 days...A blest one from us is gone...The one we loved is still...A place is vacant in our home...which never can be filled."

Cave Creek's Boot Hill Cemetery is now protected by the accredited *Desert Foothills Land Trust* located in Carefree. It is part of the P.A. Seitts Preserve at *Go John Canyon*. On November 17, 1954, at a Cave Creek town meeting, the issue of a new cemetery came up for discussion. One of the residents, Mr. Elmer "Grandpa" Gillespie suggested two possible locations. One location was on "the Federal Forest Land" [land donated by the U. S. National Forest Service] east of Cave Creek and the other idea was to revitalize the old Boot Hill Cemetery. At the suggestion of Ted Loring (Rancho Manana Dude Ranch co-founder with Romy Lowdermilk in 1943), a committee was formed to explore the cemetery issue. Dr. Harold Budd was committee Chair of the Cave Creek Improvement Association and members included Trilby Gillespie (Elmer's son and builder of Rancho Manana Dude Ranch with Romy Lowdermilk); Frank Wright (known as "Mr. Cave Creek"); and finally, Tom Roberts (early Cave Creek real-estate developer). In 1955, the committee's efforts created a new two-and-a-half-acre cemetery which must remain in a natural desert state. Mr. Elmer Gillespie, born 1887, was the first inhumation in January 1956. His son Trilby, born 1919, joined him in 1994. The Cave Creek Cemetery was deeded to the town of Carefree in 2000. The requirement for burial is one must have resided in the Cave Creek School District #93 for one year, cost is \$100 per plot. The "new" Boot Hill Cemetery which is now called the *Cave Creek Memorial Cemetery* is just south of the intersection of Cave Creek Road and Pima Road (east-side).

Pictured:

A map of Cave Creek Museum cemetery gravesites (Note: this is not a current representation of the gravesites today)



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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/>

Tech4Life is our Featured Community Partner during the month of December 2020! Let's all thank for promoting and supporting the Cave Creek Museum!



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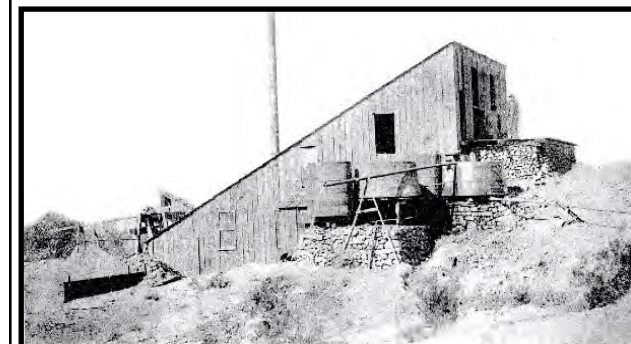
Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

Cave Creek Mining District: Back in the Day

By Charlie Connell, Dream Team Leader and Stamp Mill Expert

MARICOPA MINE LOCAL

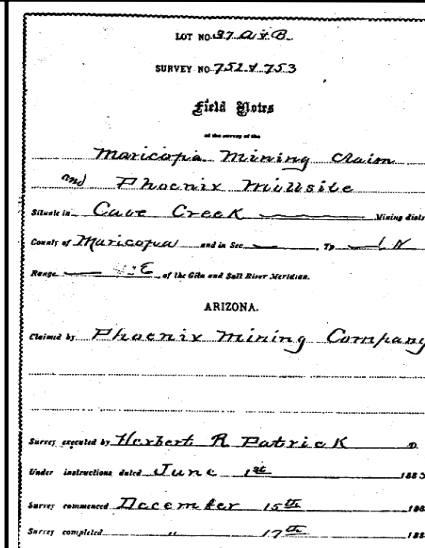
The picture below shows the mill building taken in 1893. In the picture you can see the processing tanks that were used in the early cyanide process.



Arizona Republic
Wednesday, July 26, 1899
Operations to be Suspended Until October

W. J. Davis was in town yesterday from the Maricopa Mine. He holds a lease that he is considering renewing. The mining, however is more difficult than when they first had charge of the development. They timbered the mine at considerable expense, but had only sunk the shaft a few feet when water was struck which forced them to suspend work. Captain Hy McDonald, the owner of the mine, said it would be necessary to keep a pump running constantly, but he said the presence of water was a good thing. The shaft is sunk down the side of a hill adjoining Cave Creek and the water indicates the vein to be the mother lode which extends from the mine through the creek.

The great heat at the Maricopa mine and the difficulty getting pure air down the shafts will prevent its operation until October. In the meantime the Huntington mill on the property will likely be used to crush ore from the Phoenix Mine. The present stamp mills on that property require too much power. A crew of men is also engaged in cyaniding. There is other rock at the Maricopa that has been cyanided at a profit, but full values had not been taken. A new process of cyaniding has been discharged and the old tailings will be worked again.



Pictured: Survey field notes Regarding the Maricopa Mine. Documentation such as this survey field notes were completed are snapshots in time of how mine claims were identified, maintained, and catalogued (courtesy of the Arizona Memory Project)

The large twelve-foot vein in the Maricopa has grown stronger and the ore has increased the further it is followed. Ore from the cross sections of the vein at these deposits has been shipped to Deming, NM and assay returns run in value nearly \$170. This lead paid the total expense of mining and treating it.

Sources:
The Arizona Republic
Arizona Memory Project

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Cave Creek Museum Nuggets



Opening Day on November 18th, 2020 was a major success for Cave Creek Museum! The festivities were filled with amazing food from Hibachibot food truck, lovely performances by Gary Sprague the Singing Cowboy, and the fabulous appearance of the Kitchen and Garden Boutique. Cave Creek Museum staff and Board would like to personally thank all volunteers, vendors, and guests for allowing Opening Day to be a hit.

Sincerely,
Cave Creek Museum Staff and Board



Photography Credit: Bill Watters, Air Major Media

