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OPEN
October 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021
Wednesdays and Thursdays
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm
Second Saturdays and Sundays of the
month:
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Closed Holidays
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ADMISSION

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

Don't miss our outdoor exhibits:
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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

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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

February 2021

Will You Be My Valentine, Arizona? The History of the Valentine State

By: Remington Pettus,
Museum Program Coordinator



Arizona's history as the Valentine State" has long been engrained in the hearts of Arizonans. Yet, its path to statehood was no easy journey to be had. Arizona's journey into statehood began one hundred and fifty six years prior to its acceptance into the union. The Gadsden Purchase of 1854 acquired land from Mexico that added over 29,000 square miles to the future territories of Arizona and New Mexico. Abraham Lincoln signed the Organic Act on February 24th, 1863, therefore separating Arizona and New Mexico into two separate territories. Had the original boundaries of the Arizona territory remained, Las Vegas would still have been a part of Arizona! Slavery was abolished in the Arizona Territory but not in the New Mexico Territory.

Marshall Trimble, the official historian for Arizona, has likened Arizona's struggle for statehood all the way back to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. Many Eastern United States business men had an interest in the potential of silver being abundant in the southwest. At the time of Arizona's establishment of becoming a territory, the Civil War was raging and the Union desperately needed silver for supplies.

The first official capitol of Arizona resided nearby modern day Prescott in 1864, becoming known as Fort Whipple. The capitol location would move to Tucson in 1868 and then back to Prescott in 1877. Phoenix became Arizona's official state capitol on February 4th, 1889. Arizona officially became a state on February 14th, 1912 after approval by President William Taft (pictured above at his desk), henceforth becoming the Valentine State we all know and love today. The first couple to get married when Arizona was created as a state, Joe Melczer and Hazel Goldberg, had future senator and presidential candidate Barry Goldwater as their ring bearer. When you decide to celebrate Valentine's Day, remind yourself that it is Arizona's birthday also!

Sources:

Ruelas, Richard. "Arizona Became A State on Valentine's Day. Here's Why." Arizona Republic, 2010. Web.

Sheridan, Thomas E. *Arizona: A History*. Tucson, AZ: The University of Arizona Press, 1995.

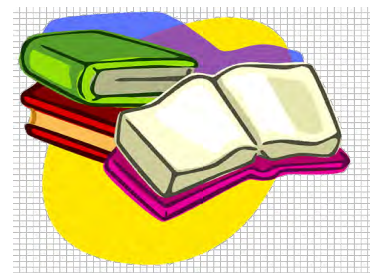
February 2021 Events

February 13th -
Stamp Mill Demonstration
1:30 pm



February 14th – Kiwanis Family
Sundays: Museums in the Literary
World
2:00- 4:00 pm

Reading and museums go hand in hand. Sit back, relax, and enjoy reading of children's books by local authors Rita Goldner, Barbara Renner and Caren Cantrell. Pick up a copy of *Agent H2O Rides the Water Cycle*, the *Quincy the Quail Series* or *Ranger Henry: The Case of the Toy Thief* to take home.



Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

Historic Highlights

By: Kraig Nelson,
Cave Creek Museum Historian



Pictured: Hikers on a guided tour of the Cave of Cave Creek.

Getting to the iconic "Cave" abutting the Cave Creek stream is a rewarding hike (only available through the *Desert Foothills Land Trust*) for those who appreciate enchanting history, geology, and flora. The Cave is approximately sixty-feet wide, fifty-feet high, and fifty-feet deep. Steven Jones, local naturalist for the Land Trust, has identified fifty-six types of plants one may observe hiking to the Cave. The Cave is located about a mile northwest from the heart of Cave Creek (the town) on private land and is the namesake for the historic town of Cave Creek. In 1912, the band-shell-shaped Cave was the final home for an eighty-two year old, claim-staking miner, and engaging raconteur known locally as "Old Rackensack." He was buried in or near the Cave in an unmarked grave. Old Rackensack, whose given name was Edward G. Cave, is sometimes credited with being the source of the name of the Creek; however, the U. S. Army created local maps in 1866 naming the life sustaining Creek. We know Edward G. Cave first arrived in Tucson in 1870 and moved to Cave Creek later, thereby precluding his naming the Creek.

Interestingly, the Cave was the location of an 1873 Christmas-day battle between the threatening Tonto Apaches and the U. S. 5th Cavalry based at Fort McDowell. After a fierce early morning battle, nine Apaches lay dead including their Chief, tons of winter-sustaining food smoldered with their eleven destroyed wickiups (wood and mud huts). The U. S. Cavalry's relentless enforcement of "surrender or starve" was accomplished.

The namesake Cave and other smaller caves along the stream were created as a result of wind and water erosion. Naturalist Jones tells us between 22 and 13 million years ago the area experienced a volcanic period which included pyroclastic flows and a dispensation of volcanic ash called tuff which settled along the Creek among other locations. With time, the tuff (essentially compacted ash) eroded leaving recessed caverns positioned on durable rock. Once inside the Cave one finds smoke-stained ceilings, 1860s Cavalry graffiti, deeply worn floor-mortars used for grinding mesquite pods and corn for flour, and ancient rock-wall-art called petroglyphs (rock carvings) and pictographs (rock drawings) indicating a long history of occupation.

A permanent sign found just inside the Cave states: "...inhabited for 11,000 years, this cave has been home to Hohokam and Apache tribes, as well as other early settlers of the area. The paintings you see on the walls date back over 2,000 years and are remarkable in their continued color and symbolism...the cave remains an important and unusual piece of American and regional history."

Local Avocational Archaeologist and historian, the late Grace Schoonover, verified the Cave's signage of "11,000 years-ago" initial period of habitation with credentialed archaeologists. Dr. Stephan Plog, author of *Ancient Peoples of the Southwest* tells us, "...the oldest accepted settlement of the Southwest... belongs to the period 9,500 B.C., about 11,500 years ago." Archaeologists identify this early group of people as Paleoindians who were adept hunters and gatherers. They entered North America towards the end of the last Ice Age (archaeologists suggest earlier "peopling of America" as well) called the Pleistocene Epoch when ocean levels were about four hundred feet lower as water was captured and contained in the glaciers, thereby creating a sizable land-bridge between what eventually became known as Siberia and Alaska. This land-bridge was called Beringia which was about 3,000 miles long and about 1,000 miles wide. Paleoindians crossed this bridge while hunting mega-fauna like the now extinct Woolly Mammoth, Shasta ground sloth, the American camel, and the Smilodon (saber-toothed tiger) for example. Dr. Plog informs us the glaciers didn't reach Arizona and deserts hadn't formed yet. There were varied and complex plant communities favorable to Paleoindians.

Rivers and streams have been known to shift over time. During the New Madrid Earthquakes of 1811 and 1812, the Mississippi River shifted and flowed in reverse for a time. What about the Cave Creek stream? Stable? Troy L. Pewe, Ph.D., an ASU geology professor for 34 years with admired international stature and geologist Peter L. Doorn wrote *Geologic and Gravimetric Investigations of the Carefree Basin* in 1991. Their comprehensive tome addressed the Cave Creek stream among other local geologic phenomena. They determined the Cave Creek stream has flowed for five million years and in the same location for at least two million years and maybe three. Because of this steady multi-millennia flow, the stream has been "down-cutting." The Cave Creek stream started out 300 feet higher than it is today and created four identifiable levels according to Dr. Pewe. What one may deduce is that the Cave has been available to humans for refuge since the end of the Ice Age.

Disclaimer:

Hikes to the Cave of Cave Creek are led by the Desert Foothills Land Trust (DFLT) a few times a year with limited slots to sign up. Cave Creek Museum warns all those interested in hiking to the cave to not go without a DFLT guide, as the cave sits near as well as on private property and those not in a designated DFLT hiking group would be considered trespassers. Please check out the DFLT website for openings to hike to the cave.

Desert Foothills Land Trust Website:
<https://www.dflt.org/hikes-and-events>

Cave Creek Museum Nuggets



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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/>



Cave Creek Museum would like to thank its community partners throughout the years! Staff and board have endless gratitude for the constant support and community connection we receive via our community partners.

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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

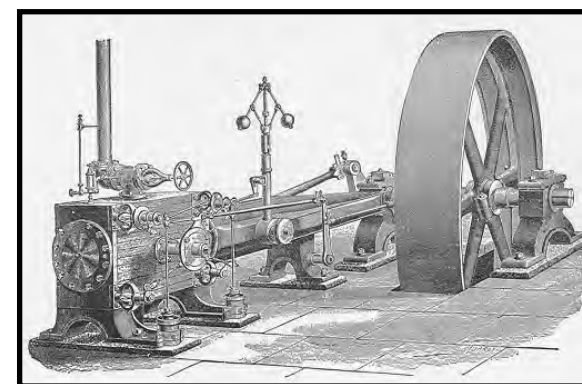
PHOENIX MINE LOCAL

FYI Gold value in 1908 at \$20.67 per ounce

Arizona Republic
Tuesday, March 17, 1908
Outlook in the Cave Creek District

Current Status of the Mill

The present mill at the Phoenix Mine will be overhauled and 50 stamps will be utilized at once. The plant is a very extensive one, and was erected about ten years ago, at a cost of \$125,000. It has a fine 250 Hp Corliss engine, two battery boilers, 70 stamps, a most extensive equipped laboratory, a concentrating and cyanide plant. There are several cottages and buildings at the camps. James P. Colp, well known chemist, electrical engineer and millman, has been employed, and will go out to the site today. He will have entire charge of the running of the plant. Just how many men will be used has not yet been determined. The lease and bond will cover the four claims on which considerable work has already been done. One of the shafts is down 209 feet and there are a number of other workings.



Pictured: An Hp Corliss engine

Mr. Lockhart speaking yesterday concerning the property, said that he had at least forty tests made on the ore, had gone over the entire workings and believed they had a good thing. There is at least 200 tons of ore on the dumps and Mr Lockhart figures fully 700,000 tons of good ore on site. He says that it has been demonstrated that the ore averages \$4.40 in gold per ton. Some of it ran as low as \$3.80 more assaying to \$12 per ton. By working it along economical lines, Mr. Lockhart says the mine can be made to pay good returns on the investment. Other working in the area have shown ore values up to \$20 per ton, a very encouraging feature. While he is making no glowing predictions, he is confident of the future results proving the venture a profitable one in every way. The success of the Phoenix mine will mean a great deal to the Cave Creek section and accelerate the movements along the mining line. Mr. Lockhart has been a resident of Phoenix for about six years and is nephew of the late Charles Lockhart, a Pittsburg millionaire.

Sources:

Arizona Republic

Hawkins, Nehemiah. *New Catechism of the Steam Engine: With Chapters on Gas, Oil and Hot Air Engines.* 1898.

Remington's Joke Corner

What kind of music does the gold nugget listen to?

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Image Source:
Dreams Time
Illustrations

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Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

Nearly 1/2 Billion Years Missing in Cave Creek By: Tom McGuire

The Cave Creek Museum sits in one of the oldest rock formations in Arizona; the 1.7 billion year old "meta-argillite-phyllite (basement) complex." What's that mean in plain English? Metamorphism is changes caused when pre-existing rocks are subjected to extreme heat and pressure. These Museum-area rocks probably started as deep ocean sediments that were thrust underground in a tectonic plate collision. How deep they were buried is very difficult to determine. But 5 miles at a temperature of 300° C are reasonable numbers. Argillite is sedimentary rock containing lots of clay. Phyllite is a layered metamorphic rock that contains tiny reflective mica crystals, so it looks shiny. There's also slate that breaks into flat slabs, and occasional pockets of white quartz. But most of the rock is a very dark color because it doesn't have much of the light colored minerals like quartz. The whole west side of Black Mountain is made of this rock, hence the name Black Mountain. This dark rock extends west into the Cave Creek Regional Park. They're the lowest and oldest of our rocks, so they're the "basement" of our local geologic time column. The 1.7 billion year age is determined by laboratory analysis of radioactive minerals. The relation to other rocks of known age in the Tonto National Forest area is also useful. Using fossils to determine the age of the rocks is not possible because clumps of algae don't leave good fossils. The organisms of that time had no hard parts to be preserved.

The Carefree side of the mountain is very different. It's composed of granite. The granite contains large crystals of pink feldspar, quartz (not quartz crystals) and several other minerals. The granite weathers to beautiful big, round boulders. Like the town of Carefree, its granite came along a little later than the Cave Creek side; a "young" 1.4 billion years. Then comes the site of the "crime." The next rocks right on top are sedimentary rocks of the Carefree Formation. They are less than 2% of the age of the Black Mountain rocks. Almost 1½ billion years is missing! These younger rocks can be seen in the little canyons at the dips on Spur Cross Road and the maze of roads in northern Carefree. Mostly to our north, these rocks are covered by explosive volcanic ash creating the white patches you see on Skull Mesa. Finally came wide-spread flows of molten lava which solidified to become a dark

colored rock known as basalt. The flat-topped mesas to the north are capped by layers of basalt



Pictured: This is a boundary between the 1.7 billion year old rocks below, and the much younger rock above Cave Creek Wash.

Happy Birthday, Arizona! By: Nicole Rodrigues

On February 14th, 2021, Arizona will celebrate 109 years of statehood. As number forty-eight, Arizona is the last of the contiguous states to enter the Union. The path from Native American land to statehood is a winding and uniquely distinctive tale representing many cultures and influences still present on the landscape of our state. Over the last five hundred years alone, Arizona has felt the presence of Pueblo Indians, Spanish conquistadors, Mexican rulers, Confederate and Union soldiers, miners, mountain men, and adventurers, soldiers, railroad barons, cattle ranchers, sheep drivers, infamous lawmen and outlaws, and politicians intent on showing the value of this wild territory. As we celebrate Arizona's birthday, let's also remember the distinctive traits that make it such a significant addition to the country. Below are some facts about Arizona's statehood:

- Arizona has several nicknames. The Valentine States due to the date it became a state; the Grand Canyon State in honor of Arizona's resident natural wonder and is the official nickname; the Copper State because Arizona is the largest producer of copper in the nation; the Apache State denoting its connection the Native Americans; the Italy of America which compares the many beautiful mountains of the states with the natural beauty of Italy; and the Sunset State as it provides a glorious setting for sunsets.
- Arizona remained a territory for longer than any other state, spanning the years 1863-1912. President Abraham Lincoln made d President William Howard Taft signed it into statehood. As the only President to serve also as a judge, Taft initially rejected Arizona's state constitution because it included a recall of judges. Once the Arizona congress removed that clause, Taft signed, only to have Arizona immediately put the recall of judges back into the constitution.
- One of the reasons it took so long to obtain statehood was due to the territory's low population. Unfortunately but fortunate for Arizona was the tuberculosis pandemic of the early 20th century as the area became a destination for lungers. The influx of people brought the population to the required amount to apply for statehood.
- As soon as Arizona obtained statehood, it began to prove its worth through the "five C's". Representing its five most significant resources, they are: copper, cattle, cotton, citrus, and climate. Today, the state still relies on these industries.

So, happy birthday, Arizona! We celebrate the rich, unique, and significant history of this region and I think we can all agree that Arizona looks pretty good for 109.