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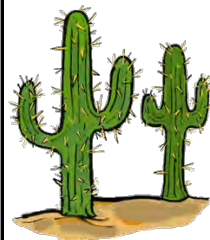
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OPEN
October 2, 2019 through May 31, 2020
Wednesday – Sunday
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Open Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed Holidays
480-488-2764

ADMISSION
Adults \$7
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Visit the Museum Website at: www.cavecreekmuseum.org

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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

May 2020

The Construction of Bartlett Dam by Kathy Pedrick

A common theme in the West is the battle for water rights and the Verde River was no exception. After much competition, and lawsuits, the Salt River Valley Water Users Association (Association, now SRP) acquired rights and the Bureau of Reclamation was authorized to begin construction of a new dam on the Verde River. Bartlett Dam was to provide stored irrigation water for the Association as well as some water for the Salt River Indian Reservation and did not provide any 'hydroelectric power. The Dam was named after a government surveyor, Bill Bartlett. The construction contract for Bartlett Dam was awarded in August of 1936 and required that the work be completed within a 1,000 day window, by May 1939. In addition to the dam itself, construction included the access roads, construction camps for the workforce and an almost 17 mile electrical transmission line to the site. The construction camp consisted of dormitory style barracks for up to 200 men and a few families, a mess hall, commissary and school. Reclamation also built camp housing for its staff. Archaeological investigations carried out for the modifications to Bartlett Dam in the mid -1990s identified the components of the camps, including the areas for contract workers, families, Reclamation staff, and a separate area for Indian laborers. Construction was delayed by several major flood events in the winter of 1936 -1937, and again in 1938. In spite of delays, the contractor was able to keep the project underway and Bartlett Dam was finally completed in May 1939 – on time and under budget! Estimates of the final cost were approximately \$270,000 less than estimated. Innovations to keep the project on target included the use of "Fog Spray" and low heat concrete to enable work to continue during the hottest months. Bartlett Dam was the tallest multiple arch buttress dam in the world when it was completed. Operation and Maintenance of the Bartlett Dam were turned over the Association in 1939. Modifications to Bartlett Dam, by Reclamation were completed in 1996. The Town of Cave Creek was a popular place for the construction workers to recreate. Harold's Cave Creek Corral was originally opened in 1935 to serve the workers building Bartlett Dam. Harold's and other establishments still serve the public who now enjoy the recreational amenities of Bartlett Lake. The Lake formed behind Bartlett Dam is the second largest lake in the Phoenix Area after Roosevelt Lake and provides boating, camping and picnicking sites managed by the Tonto National Forest. Bartlett Dam was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2017.
(Sources include the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service).



A Message from Our Director...

THANK YOU, EVERYONE, for a remarkable, amazing, historic season. Celebrating our 50th year, the Cave Creek Museum has made its mark on the greater Desert Foothills communities through our exhibits and programs. Our 2019-2020 exhibit and home tour, ***The Legacy of Gerry Jones***, established a higher standard for us moving forward.

We are closed to the public due to continuing COVID-19 safety concerns. This hiatus, however, provides us the unexpected opportunity to make progress on necessary structural upgrades and renovation of the Pioneer Wing. The new installations will roll in phases over Summer 2020 and into the early part of the 2020-2021 season. We hope to hear from you regarding these changes. We are still seeking you insights and perspectives on life over time in Cave Creek and the Desert Foothills, all within the greater northern Sonoran Desert.

Have a great summer! We eagerly look forward to seeing you all in October 2020.

Sincerely,
Karrie Porter Brace,
Executive Director

Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

Historic Highlights

By: Kraig Nelson

Geoffrey Platts - Cave Creek Hero

Geoffrey Platts died December 5, 2000 at the untimely age of sixty-two. Mr. Platts (1938-2000) drowned while saving the life of his companion, Diana Newell, from the cold, swift rapids of the Verde River, flowing north of Bartlett Lake. It took three painstaking hours for sheriffs to recover his body. Mr. Platts was a hero, and much more. The towns of Cave Creek and Carefree officially dedicated the first day of summer to Mr. Platts- **Geoffrey Platts' Day**. Also, in December 1999, Geoffrey was designated Scottsdale's first *Poet Laureate*. Geoffrey Platts, who arrived from Yorkshire, England in 1962, at the age of twenty-four, lived in a remote one-room cabin about eighteen miles northeast of Cave Creek in a riparian area called Seven Springs. He cherished solitude and simple living which included relinquishing his automobile; he walked everywhere. He wrote captivating poetry and published informative monthly newspaper columns with his stylized calligraphy. He was always addressing what he called "Madrecita, or Mother Earth. In 1991, Mr. Platts published a book called *Trek! Man Alone in the Desert Wild: The Desert Journals of Geoffrey Platts*. Additionally, Geoffrey Platts was an environmentalist and desert activist who peacefully fought development encroaching our precious desert. Several years ago, Geoffrey Platts' life was a featured exhibit at the Cave Creek Museum. Mr. Paul Diefenderfer (Dief) an accomplished artist, metal-worker, blacksmith, and member of the Museum's nationally recognized "*Dream Team*" (the "Team" rebuilt the historic Golden Reef ten-stamp mill now found at the Museum), created a distinctive, commemorative metal sculptor at the Desert Foothills Library, part of "*Geoffrey's Walk*." Cave Creek historian, Gene K. Garrison, writing about Geoffrey said, "...there was a love affair and a mission, the love affair was with the desert and the mission was to protect and to preserve it." At the urging of Arizona's official historian, Marshall Trimble, Geoffrey became a popular public speaker; he simply read his poignant and captivating hiking journals aloud. He was a handsome man at least six-foot-five, trim, he had thick sandy hair with a neatly-trimmed moustache. Geoffrey had a commanding, distinctive, rich baritone voice. Mr. Trimble described Geoffrey Platts as a "mesmerizing speaker...he had a wonderful way of painting word-pictures...his British accent dramatized his metaphorical imagery." In the preface of his book *Trek!*, Geoffrey Platts wrote, "May these writings help spark some fresh awareness of the elemental need to wholly protect the one and only Sonoran Desert for its own sake, and then for ours."

Stamp Mill History

Archaeologists tell us gold has been found in Paleolithic caves as far back as around 40,000 B.C. It was the intrinsic value of gold which eventually fostered the concept of the "gold rush" which helped usher America's early growth. Stamp mill usage started over two thousand years ago. Early stamp mill incarnations pounded grain, were used for iron production, and making gun powder. Most early mills were water powered. Water wheels, cams, and hammers have been found that functioned in the third century B.C. Pliny the Elder who died A.D. 79, was a Roman author, naturalist, and naval commander who wrote a tome, containing thirty-seven books, contained in ten volumes called *Natural History*. Pliny indicates in *Natural History* that water-driven pestles and watermills were commonplace in Italy by the first century A.D. They were used for the "pounding and hulling of grain." Stamp mills for crushing ore have been found in today's Uzbekistan and in use as early as A.D. 973. By the eleventh century A.D. stamp mills were widespread in Spain, North Africa, and Central Asia. The Romans utilized stamp mills for ore processing throughout their empire including southeastern England, Wales, and other sites in Western Europe. Stone anvils with large indentations have been found at gold and silver mining sites which scientists have determined resulted from the use of cam-operated ore stamps. The oldest depiction of a three-stamp mill with a water wheel was a woodcut image dated to A.D. 1565. In 1799 (the year George Washington died), twelve-year-old Conrad Reed found a large yellow nugget while playing in the Meadow Creek stream in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. The stream ran through his parent's property. The large yellow nugget served as a door-stop until 1802; Conrad's father, John Reed, took the interesting rock to a jeweler who said it had a value of \$3.50 (over \$75 in 2020) so Mr. Reed sold it to the deceitful jeweler. Later, John Reed learned the "door-stop" was sold for \$3,600 (over \$77,000 in 2020) because it was primarily gold. In 1803, a twenty-eight-pound gold nugget was found on Mr. Reed's property and America's first gold rush started! Eventually a ten-stamp mill was used at the Reed Gold Mine. Today the Reed Gold Mine is a National Historic Landmark. The Reed Gold Mine was the top gold-producing mine in America until gold was discovered by James W. Marshall at Sutter's Mill near Coloma, California on January 24, 1848. Yes, the catalyst for the influx of approximate 300,000 prospectors who were known as the '49ers! The Museum's Golden Reef Stamp Mill initially processed ore on Continental Mountain at a claim first established in 1876 by Joseph A. Lawrence (initially called the Golden Star Mine). The mill burned in 1913 and was rebuilt in 1917 with the expectation of being sold. The sale never happened; the destructive effects of the elements proceeded until the historic mill was carefully moved from Continental Mountain to the Cave Creek Museum in 2009, when the tedious process of restoration assiduously began.

Cave Creek Museum Nuggets



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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/>

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Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

Cave Creek Mining District: Back in the Day

GOLDEN REEF MINE LOCAL

Arizona Republic
Saturday, April 15, 1917
The Mines of Arizona
The Golden Reef Mine

The following extracts are from a description by W. M. Logenby of the Golden Reef Mine.

A property which is being actively operated in the Cave Creek District. Few know, however, that right in the heart of Arizona there is a gold mine, which, judging from the general surface indications an formation might have been lifted by some giant hand from the mother lode of California and placed in its present position some thirty-five miles north of Phoenix. Here already for occupancy, are bunk houses for employees, quarters which are used by the company officials and just above on the mountain springs from which flow an abundance of clear water sufficient for all camp purposes and for a 20 stamp mill, and all equipment needed for some time to come. The public are very interested on how to access the mine, because it is the mine which produces the yellow metal of gold and within it brings accompanying independence and pleasure in life. The property which is now the Golden Reef mine, while it has been spasmodically worked in a crude and non-practical at various times during the past twenty years, has never been put to a real test of production, and the work that has been done instead of detracting from the value of the property, has really but gone to show the wonderful possibilities of the ground, if developed in a modern and efficient manner. Some 15 or 16 years ago it was leased by a man named Boyer, who performed surface work such as cuts, shallow shafts, underhand stopes and a general stripping of the veins where they were prominent on the surface. At no point does the work done by Boyer reach a depth of 70 feet, and I have been reliably informed by a man who was employed by him at that time, that no effort was made to handle anything except the choicest high grade ore.

By:
Charlie Connell,
Dream Team Leader and Stamp Mill Expert

Cave Creek Mining District: Back in the Day

Boyer erected a three-foot Huntington mill which he operated for about three years, evidentially at a good profit, because he built expensive roads to transport the surface ore from high up on the hill to his mill site near the camp headquarters below, and it is known that he had no means except what he derived from the surface ores minded. Later, the property was taken over by other interests, who expended quite a bit of money in equipment and development work, then became involved in litigation through which the company passed out of their hands. Since then, it has lain idle until purchased by the Golden Reef Mining Company, who now have clear title to the property, and who are going to lose no time in binging to its proper point of production.



The Golden Reef Stamp Mill in 1960. It had been abandoned sometime after 1917 when it was rebuilt after a fire destroyed it in 1913.



The Golden Reef Stamp Mill pictured today

Sources:
The Arizona Republic

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Cave Creek Museum Nuggets

Boy Scout Spotlight!

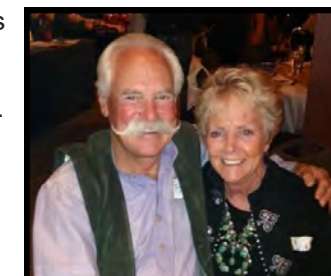
Alex Hernandez of Troop 15 completed his Eagle Scout Project at Cave Creek Museum by building wooden benches for visitors to sit and enjoy the Stamp Mill Saturday Demonstrations. Cave Creek Museum thanks Alex Hernandez and Cave Creek Boy Scout Troop for their hard work within the Cave Creek and Carefree communities!



In Memoriam...

Joan Elizabeth Rime (1942 - 2020)

Joan Elizabeth Rime, wife of beloved Dream Team Member Thomas Rime, passed away unexpectedly April 13th, 2020. Joan grew up in Kansas City, KS, and was a graduate of the 1960 class at Rosedale High School. She attended the University of Kansas to receive her Bachelors Degree in education, and completed her Masters Degree at the University of Minnesota. Mrs. Rime loved being an educator and specialized in reading. While living in Cave Creek, Joan was an active member of the Desert Foothills Lutheran Church and participated in events there regularly. Joan could often be found reading, cooking, playing music for seniors at local care facilities, spending time with her family, playing bridge, or attending book clubs and Bible Studies. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Thomas Rime, her daughter, granddaughter, sisters, sister-in law, and many nieces and nephews. Cave Creek Museum wishes the Rime family the best and is sending them lots of love during this tough time. Please send flowers to the Desert Foothills Lutheran Church preschool in her honor.



Beverly Brooks: A Cave Creek Legacy



Over the years, Cave Creek Museum has commemorated many Cave Creek historical figures that are legacies to the town. However, none is such a legacy as Beverly Brooks. Beverly Brooks is known for her lovely stories of the old Cave Creek Days, where she

associated with Hube and Patsy Yates, Catherine "Cattle Cate" Jones, Frank and Hazel Wright, Honky-Tonk Jack, and many more. Beverly Brooks arrived from Illinois in the Cave Creek area in 1958 during the Dude Ranch days. She as one of the last guests at the Sierra Vista Dude Ranch, and often

talks about her days swimming around the pool there and riding horses. She met her first husband, Bill Metcalfe, and married him in 1960. He even stopped an airplane from taking her back to Illinois at Sky Harbor Airport to propose to her! She said no at first, but eventually relented. Beverly Brooks was a cowgirl herself, and helped Hube Yates drive cattle back and forth between Prescott and Cave Creek. The trip was rigorous, often sleeping on the ground and abundant with intense terrain. Nevertheless, Beverly Brooks' and her love of the cowboy lifestyle kept her going.

Beverly Brooks is one of the few lifetime members of the Cave Creek Museum. She saw the Museum transform from a small historical society into a mighty institution. Her oral histories have given the Museum breadth on some of its greatest subjects, including the Dude Ranch era and other infamous stories around town. Today, Beverly Brooks is married to her second husband, Charles Brooks, and has two wonderful children, Rusty and Randi Ann. She still resides in Cave Creek. Cave Creek Museum is thankful for Beverly Brooks many years as a Cave Creek Museum volunteer and for her continuous legacy she has established in the town of Cave Creek.

