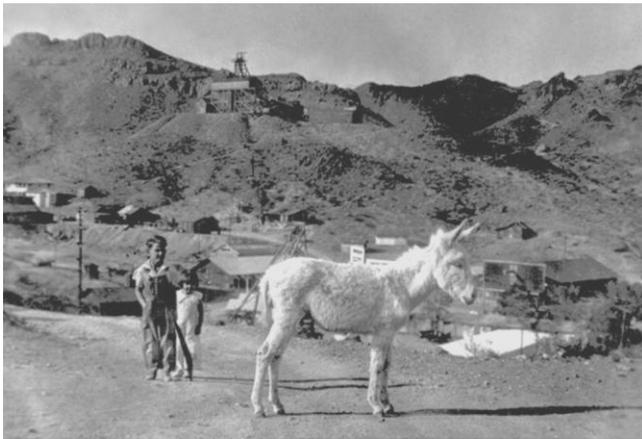




COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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Hoover – One of the Original Oatman Burros

In 1863, prospector Johnny Moss discovered gold in the Black Mountains and staked several claims, one named the Moss after himself and another after Olive Oatman, whose story was well known. For the next half-century, mining waxed and waned in the remote district until new technology, reduced transportation costs, and new gold discoveries brought prosperity to Oatman in the early 20th century. The opening of the Tom Reed mine, followed by the discovery of a rich ore body in the nearby United Eastern Mining Company's property in 1915, brought one of the desert's last gold rushes. The boom of 1915–17 gave Oatman all the characters and characteristics of any gold rush boomtown. For about a decade, the mines of Oatman were among the largest gold producers in the American West.

In 1921, a fire burned down many of Oatman's smaller buildings, but spared the Oatman Hotel built in 1902 originally known as the Durlin. It remains the oldest two-story adobe structure in Mohave County

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karole Finkelstein – President
Ralph Patterson – Vice-President
Brenda Warneka – Secretary
Carla Lucas – Treasurer
Jeanette Miller – Director
Dick Warneka – Director
Laurie Thompson – Director

HOURS OF OPERATION

WE ARE OPEN!

Our hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (AZ Time). Come in and see our new displays and visit for awhile. We are located at 1239 Highway 95 in Bullhead City, AZ.

We are closed on all major holidays. Due to staffing limitations during the pandemic it is a good idea to confirm by phone that we are open. We can be reached at 928-754-3399.

CHECK US OUT

E-mail: crhsmuseum@outlook.com
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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

and designated as a historical landmark. One of the hotel's major attractions and legend is a room designated as the suite where Clark Gable and Carole Lombard supposedly spent their honeymoon after their 1939 wedding in Kingman, Arizona. In actuality, Gable and Lombard returned directly to Los Angeles after their wedding for a press conference the next morning and did not take a honeymoon until much later in Baja California.

According to the USPS the post office in the area was known as Vivian, but in 1909 the name was changed to Oatman.

Hoover the burro (pictured) is thought to be one of the original Oatman burros. Used as pack animals, the miner's depended on the sturdy and sure-footed animals to help carry the miner's necessary equipment in which to prospect.

You can visit Hoover's descendants in Oatman, AZ 365 days a year. While you're there visit the many great shops, watch the realistic gunfights, and visit the museum at the Glory Hole antique store.

JOHN MOSS MINE HEAD FRAME



The head frame in its original location

The Moss Mine head frame now located near the museum in Community Park will soon be joined by some of the museum's mining artifacts. An ore car from the Chloride, AZ area, and a large ore bucket will be moved by the City Parks Department from our back compound into the area of the head frame. With the addition of our items it will be a more well-rounded display of early mining efforts.

I hope that everyone is doing great and that you are able to get out more, hopefully to the museum!

Things are going great at the museum with the Collections Committee still working on displays, and we now have PayPal to assist in your purchase of our new t-shirts. Our whole retail section is looking pretty spiffy (only we oldies know that word).

We will again be selling Honey-Baked hams for Easter. Call Susana Van Sloten for more information at (928) 234-4807. This is a fund raiser for the museum and we appreciate your participation.

We have had two of our long time members pass away recently. Dennis Casebier and Mary Ragusas' husband Sam. I have personally known both of these gentlemen for 20 years. May Dennis and Sam rest in peace. We will miss them very much.

On March 11 we will be hosting a booth at the Anderson Field House Winter Expo. There are many things to see and do. Time of the event is 8 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. I hope to see some of you there, and do drop by and say hi.

Coming up in April, the museum will be hosting Walter, the Orphaned Donkey from Oatman at the farmer's market in Community Park from 10 a.m. to noon. More details next month!

Until next time...

Karole Finkelstein, President

DONATION GUIDELINES

What we are looking for is any artifact that is pertinent to our Tri-state area. This includes but is not limited to photographs, family histories, military activity, Davis Dam, Native Americans, steamboats, ranching, fossils, explorers, highways, historical maps, churches and service clubs, businesses, and mining.

Please keep in mind, these are the guidelines we use if you choose to donate an artifact in your possession:

- Is it of museum quality?
- Is it pertinent to our area of interest?
- Do we already have as good or a better prime example of the artifact?
- Does the provenance of the artifact or material increase its significance?
- Is the donor the legal owner of said materials?
- Do we have enough volunteers to maintain it, i.e. clean, oil, repair it, and can we provide the correct environmental conditions to preserve the materials?
- Do we have adequate space to store it?
- Do we have adequate space to display it in the foreseeable future?
- We cannot accept an artifact with stipulations on it such as it must be displayed in a particular way or time period.
- We do not accept loans.

Give us a call at the museum if you have an artifact or historical item you would like us to consider!

NOTE: We are currently actively seeking Mohave Valley Daily News newspapers before 2010 in good condition. If you have editions you would like to donate to us please drop them by the museum!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The museum will be sponsoring the appearance of Walter, the Orphaned Donkey with his owner's Brad and Kelly Blake, and author of his first children's book Cat Smith at the Farmer's Market scheduled for April 3rd in Community Park from 10-12. Come out and meet Walter and buy a book!

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

Cheryl Mangin – Archivist-Curator
Richard Dotson – Asst. Archivist
Carla Lucas – Member
Jim Lucas – Member
Laurie Thompson – Member

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Note our new name! The Board of Directors pointed out that we were not just the overseers of the archives but also overseers of all of the artifacts, and thought we needed a more descriptive title.

The Collections Committee is continuing the outside clean-up of our former museum site at Davis Camp. The old outside facades have been cut up and hauled away by Jim and Rich. We tried to donate them to another group(s) but did not have any takers.

Carla and I are continuing to go through the hundreds of paper files. They will be sub-categorized, and the best copy of repeated information will be retained.

Laurie continues to work with the documentation of the artifacts. She has many other hats she wears now, and just recently set up the PayPal account and retail inventory system for the museum.

Carla, Laurie and I met with Bea Thomas last Sunday and took her for a driving tour of the area near Ft. Mohave and then into Bullhead City. She shared many great stories with us from her youth. We plan on meeting with Bea as often as she is willing in order to document her memories of Oatman and Bullhead City. Thank you for a great day Bea!