



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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AUGUST 2021

TOM REED GOLD MINES COMPANY



Tom Reed Gold Mine – Oatman, AZ

A July 22, 1916 article appeared in the Mohave County Miner written by Dr. J.M. Francis, a retiring Assistant Superintendent of the Tom Reed Gold Mines Company defending the company in reference to previous statements made by the Chamber of Commerce's secretary, W.K. Smith.

Mr. Smith accuses the company of "never contributing one penny to the Chamber of Commerce for the improvements of streets, the fire protection fund, or any expense of Oatman whatsoever." Dr. Francis admits to that direct charge but goes on to give us a lot of good historical information about what the Tom Reed Gold Mines Company did do for and on behalf of Oatman.

Before the gold boom, a lot of Oatman was built

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings everyone! I would like to start off with thanking all our great volunteers for coming out this summer so that the museum could stay open. You are so appreciated!

If you would like to volunteer, please call the museum for more information!

Our long-time benefactor, Vada Mercer passed away this summer. We will be attending a Celebration of Life for her on September 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the garden of the Community Lutheran Church at 2275 Ricca Rd., Bullhead City. Without Vada's generosity, we would never have been able to build our new museum this quickly. We will do a full profile on her next month for the newsletter.

Have a safe and happy Labor Day. We hope to see you in September!

Karole

on Tom Reed land. Two roads were built at a cost of \$3200, one going to the Oatman News office, and the other around the rear of the Walsh building (New Diggins). This basically describes the lower parking lot of Oatman today and roads leading off it.

Dr. Francis went on to say that the Tom Reed company furnished, free of charge to the town all the streetlights. It also provided once a week trash pickup for the two stores, the schoolhouse and private houses and provided the trash receptacles free of charge. The only condition required was that places be kept clean and garbage placed in the cans.

The company donated the first schoolhouse in Oatman and painted it twice. A later addition was paid for by the county. Half of the seats were donated by the then president of the company, Charley Grimes at a personal cost of \$200.

The company built the first road to Topock at a cost of \$30,000. At the time it was a private road but would later become part of the Old National Trails/Route 66 road.

Dr. Francis took further exception to figures given by Mr. Smith over the costs of public lavatories. Dr. Francis oversaw the building of a lavatory at Old Trails for the cost of \$425, whereas the one built by Lovin & Withers was built by the Chamber for \$170 and another at Mazona (located between Old Trails and Oatman) for \$20. Dr. Francis pointed out that the one built at Old Trails was a 20X26 structure, had a fence and a department for women! He went on to say that the Tom Reed company workers excavated the vaults for the lavatories at both the Oatman and Mazona locations and the Chamber only built the structures over the vaults.

The Tom Reed Gold Mines Company was incorporated in the Arizona Territory in 1906 and production began in 1908. It produced millions of dollars in gold and silver ore.

In response to this success the company invested a large sum of money to create a stamp mill on site, powered by water piped four miles from Cottonwood Canyon.

By the 1930's the mine was no longer producing ore and closed in March of 1932. The company continued until 1939 when it was formally shut down.

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

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

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 resources to maintain/store/display it.
- 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!

RETURN TO REGULAR HOURS IN OCTOBER

We will be returning to our regular hours beginning Tuesday, October 5th. We will open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. We are located at 1239 Highway 95 in Bullhead City, AZ. We are closed on all major holidays.

We now have a dedicated parking lot on the south side of the museum that you can access directly from Highway 95 without turning into the park from Laughlin Ranch road. The parking is free.

OUR NEWSLETTER

We are now posting our newsletter on our Facebook page and our website for you to read and/or print. Therefore, we will not be mailing out hardcopies any longer. We will continue to send the newsletter out on email. If you have not provided us with an email address yet, please do so as soon as possible at: crhsmuseum@outlook.com

CHECK US OUT

E-mail: crhsmuseum@outlook.com

Facebook: [Colorado River Historical Society Inc](https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoRiverHistoricalSocietyInc)

Website: Our new website is up and running! Be sure to visit it at: coloradoriverhistoricalsocietymuseum.org

Museum Phone Number: 928-754-3399

Address: 1239 Highway 95 BHC, AZ 86429

DONATIONS SOUGHT

We are currently actively seeking Mohave Valley Daily News newspapers before 2010 in good condition, and any or all historic photographs of Bullhead City, any era. If you have editions of the newspaper or photos you would like to donate to us, please drop them by the museum. We can scan photographs and return them to you!

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE



One of the new display cases

The Collections Committee spent several days installing, cleaning and moving our treasured artifacts into brand new display cases. The cases are all glass with front loading doors and LED lights. They make quite a statement! A total of six new cases were installed. Three are being used for our Native American displays, one for our Law Enforcement display, one for our Fire Department display and one for our Laughlin Casino's display.

Some new signage was professionally printed for other wall displays, and a video slideshow was developed for the Mojave Indian Tribe with many historical photos to enjoy.

A new mannequin was purchased and is being used to display our Miss Bullhead City Rodeo Queen chaps.

Laurie and Carla have also continued their work at the archives sorting historic photographs and papers.

A special thanks goes out to Dave Heath from the Parks and Recreation Department for loaning us several of his workers to assist Jim and Rich with moving the new display cabinets inside the museum.