

Grapesvine News



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MUSEUM

Katherine Mine



One of the great geological features of the area is the Katherine Mine. It is located 2 miles east of the Colorado River, and about 5 miles northeast of Davis Dam in Mohave County. The Katherine Mine was discovered in September 1900 by 18-year-old Jonathan Baggs and named it in honor of his sister Katherine. The mine was put in the name of his father S. C. Baggs because Jonathan did not think an 18-year-old would be able to own a mine. This article is just a snippet of the historical information that surrounds the mine.

During the history of the mine there were many openings and closings. The mine was acquired by the Arizona-Pyramid Gold Mining Company in 1904. The new owners began a more extensive development program of the mine though little profit was made during these early years because of the expense of wagon transportation and the inefficient amalgamation process used. Because of these expensive operations all work was suspended in 1906.

In 1919, when the Katherine Gold Mining Company took over and active exploration resumed at the mine. A new shaft was sunk, and a cyanide mill was built at the mine. The mine began to produce and with that production began to attract a crowd at the Katherine Camp. A number of promotions began to lure both single and married miners to the Katherine Camp. One interesting promotion was that a free lot in town was offered to the parents of the first girl born on condition that they name the baby Katherine. *Continued on pg2*

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It had a big comfortable boardinghouse that could feed a large working crew in 30 minutes.

In 1927, a three-compartment shaft was sunk to 700 feet. This was below the level of the river, however little infiltration occurred. This era of the mine was only too last until the crash of 1929. At this point the mine was once again abandoned for all practical purposes. In 1932, a syndicate from Los Angeles acquired the mine but soon closed because of lack of ore. In 1933, after another purchase by the Standard Gold Mines Corporation bad luck struck again. A massive fire destroyed the crushing plant, powerhouse, ore bin, head frame, and the timber in the shaft. In the late 1930's and 40's, the mine shafts were sunk to 900 feet. They could go no deeper because of the water pressure. The 900-foot level was called "Hell's Kitchen" because of the warm water and fumes. In 1942, the high cost of mining operations and the war efforts halted production.

Though the Katherine Mine never produced a bonanza in ore, it did in its lifetime produce about \$12,000,000 in gold. Little did 18-year-old Jonathan Bagg, teaming with his father and John Vanderbrug know when they traveled from California to Arizona with their new mule team, half-ton wagon and portable assay equipment that they would indeed add to the richness in the history of mining in our area.

SEEKING COLLECTION DONATIONS

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

◆ 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.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hi, well here it is August.

The heat is still with us, and this is the worst I can remember only because it has been daily. I hope everyone is surviving the heat and taking care with hydration and not too much movement outside. Remember you can always come down to the museum on Tuesday to Saturday 10:00 to 2:00 and enjoy, not only it's air conditioning, but also how much fun it would be in the museum. Other than that, all our projects are kind of on hold right now as a lot of our members are on vacation out of state or are snowbirds.

Don't forget August 25th the city of Bullhead City is having its 40th birthday. It probably will be an all-day thing and will be at the community park. The museum will be open so a lot you can enjoy at the museum and schoolhouse also if you haven't been able to come during the regular time. Also, don't forget now is a good time to renew your membership or if you know anyone that would like to join, please tell them about us.

Also, if there's anything that you have to donate or would like to have the archival committee check it out to see if it's good for the museum, please contact the museum at 928-754-3399 and ask for Carla. Or you can call me (928)219-2582.

The museum hours are 10:00am to 2:00pm Tuesday to Saturday but if there are no more visitors at 1:00 hour we do close as it does take almost an hour to go through the museum longer if you want to go watch the movies etc. And remember, if you have any questions concerning the museum please call me at 928-219-2582 or call the museum at 928-754-3399.

Anyway, again have a great summer, keep in touch and don't forget membership and volunteers are what help keep our museum going.

Sincerely your president
Karole Finkelstein

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Colorado River Historical Society Museum is seeking volunteers. If you enjoy history and want to learn more about the area, the society needs you. This is a chance to meet area visitors from all over the world and form friendships with a wonderful group of volunteers. Many of our volunteers are part-time residents and retirees. Hours are flexible and duties are as easy or challenging as you would like.

Examples of the types of volunteer we need:

Docent	Handyman
Gardener	Data Entry
Teachers	Marketing
Fundraising & Event Coordinators	

WORD PUZZLE

Katherine Mine

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K K T M L J A B E B Y L G O P
B Y U F E Q T V O N A O O R Y
Y L I O A E A T I N L G A E R
E N I R E H T A K D A O G S A
L C B U O M S E K R I N V S M
C A R M U Y F D O K S D Z C I
R R C R W J F I Q J I O U A D
E Q U I P M E N T N V S K N U
H C V S G X R A R F A M C C W
F N L D H O H Y R G D O T P N
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G N I N I M B G E N R S F S W
Q M Y R O T S I H G V J F I M
A E T D J O N A T H A N B M P
    
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ASSAY	BONANZA	BAGGS
CRUSHING	DAVIS	CYANIDE
EQUIPMENT	GOLD	GEOLOGICAL
HISTORY	KATHERINE	JONATHAN
KITCHEN	MINING	MILL
MOHAVE		



Desert Ironwood

When you see a desert ironwood tree (*Olneya tesota*) you know you are in the Sonoran or Mojave Desert. Found in desert washes and on low hills, often in gravelly to silty soil, below 3,000 feet, Desert ironwood is also a habitat-modifying keystone species, that is, a species that exhibits strong influences on the distribution and abundance of associated species. It is important as a nurse plant for many younger plants, providing shade and protection as they grow, as well as providing habitat for animals that make nests in the trees, as well as below the trees. Possessing one of the hardest and heaviest woods in the region, desert ironwood grows slowly but steadily, and some trees are estimated to be about 800 years old! It is remarkably resistant to rotting, perhaps because its heartwood is rich in toxic chemicals that make it essentially non-biodegradable—a dead ironwood tree trunk will persist as long as 1600 years! Usually a multi-trunked tree, sometimes single-trunked, plants can grow as large as 50 feet tall, but normally much shorter, especially in Arizona. More commonly in our area they get up to about 30 feet tall and wide. They bloom in April - May and are followed by seed pods. Native bees are the primary pollinators of ironwood. The tree is also a larval host to the Rawson's metalmark (*Calephelis rawsoni*). Grow ironwoods in full sun with moderate to low water. It is hardy to about 20° F. Ironwood is slow-growing if you rely on rainfall, but on irrigation it grows much faster. While Ironwood is not endangered or threatened, its populations dwindle annually over tens of thousands of square kilometers.

Come see our two Ironwoods in the museums "Educational Gardens".

Another good place to see the Desert Ironwood locally is at Rotary Park towards the south end in the area known as The Harold Reed Ironwood Drive.

July 2024 answers: The Dam'n News

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V S W Y Q H T Z P M B E X S D
U U D N E M P L O Y E E S T E
A J K A N N L Q Z L E N N A H
T F I P U S T A I Q O V S R S
K W S M E I C B M I D M N L I
M N V O W S R O T E S I V I L
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U M D Y S A Y U J J Q Y E T P
U J R J C E L C I T R A T E S
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**COLORADO RIVER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM**

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Hours of Operations:
Tuesday—Saturday 10:00am - 2:00pm
(last admittance 1:00pm)

Grapevine News Editor - Laurie Thompson

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Mission Statement

The mission of The Colorado River Historical Society shall be to operate a museum to promote interest and knowledge concerning the history of the Lower Colorado River area, most specifically the Tri-state area.

