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Getting Lost in the Copper Corridor...

Do you know where this photo was taken?

Page 9

James Carnes | Pinal Nugget

A community publication of Copperarea.com

Using the Head to Extend the Body

Physical altercations can often evolve into grappling matches because the close proximity of opponents easily lends itself to confused and disorganized ego-centric contests of strength. In an attempt to gain dominance, the combatants wrestle with one another to the point of exhaustion and stalemate.

Aikido logic views this approach as wasted energy. Strength and weakness are seen as two sides of the same coin. By projecting weakness in one area, we invite the opponent to focus his strength there. This

can open up other opportunities for a more efficient defense and a response that will not immediately be recognized by the attacker. In Judo we often say to push when pulled and pull when pushed. However, in Aikido we enter when pulled and turn when pushed. Using an opponent's projection of strength against them can even the playing field when size, age, or gender disparities are significant. These concepts are not based on some obscure Asian philosophy, but are, instead, based on Newton's physical scientific laws: "a body in motion tends to remain in motion unless acted upon by an outside force" and "a body at rest tends to stay at rest unless acted upon by an outside force." Understanding the effects of gravity is also important and when added to our techniques, a smaller efficient force can often overcome a larger less efficient one.

A trained, determined, strong opponent is formidable. To control such opposition in close quarters requires

added skills. Now it becomes necessary to consider ways to neutralize brute strength. One of those ways is to use the head to extend the body. As an arresting officer attempting to control a resistant subject, this approach seemed to have worked the best. With the safety of myself and the subject in mind, a rigid arm or wrist or shoulder could be more successfully controlled when I pushed the Head or Face

away from the area of resistance. A person naturally shies away something near or at their face and an accompanying response was less resistance at the initial point of contact. This allowed for a safer and more secure controlling technique.

Mr. Weber is the chief instructor at the Aikido Academy of Self-Defense located at 16134 N. Oracle Rd., in Catalina. He has more than 45 years of experience in the Martial Arts and has achieved skills in a variety of disciplines. He also teaches Tai-Chi on Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m.

Please call (520) 825-8500 for information regarding these and other programs. If you wish, check out the website at www.AikidoAcademyOfArizona.com.



SELF-DEFENSE

By Steve Weber
Special to the Nugget

NUGGET

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Want More Testosterone? Take a Walk and Skip the Pie

You may remember the ad on TV showing a middle-aged man, a bit overweight and moving slowly, clearly lacking energy and interest in the world around him.

The narrator talks about the chance that he could be suffering from low testosterone. To help make the discussion more palatable to a male consumer, they use the line "Low T – It's Just a Number", implying it is not a failure with a guy's manliness (which it isn't, of course), it is just a hormone deficiency easily remedied by a drug.

Next, I hope you recall the television ads for attorneys wanting to represent men injured by stroke and heart attack these drugs can cause. Bad news. More bad news is 1 in 4 men over 30 do have low testosterone, and struggle with reduced motivation, self-confidence, and work performance, as well as diminished cardiovascular health.

The good news is there are safe, free solutions to this problem. (In fact, the solution is pretty much the same for most of the health problems we face).

Reduce Stress: The hormone cortisol is released by the adrenal gland with mental and excessive physical stress. Lights late at night also increase cortisol as well as throw off hormonal timing. Cortisol directly suppresses testosterone production, and when prolonged can actually damage the testicular cells, reducing testosterone forever. Meditation, prayer, walking, exercise and slow deep breathing are helpful here.

Eat a Low Glycemic Diet: The high amounts of grains and sugars in the typical diet raises blood sugar which increases insulin. As insulin increases so does cortisol. Your body's ability to recognize insulin (insulin sensitivity) then drops, resulting in more insulin and cortisol production, less testosterone and one step closer to diabetes.



SELF-HEALING

By John Huntington
Special to the Nugget

Exercise with Intensity: A single exercise session to exhaustion has been shown to increase insulin sensitivity and increase testosterone. A great approach is "interval training" – a harder exertion followed by a short rest, then repeated. You can warm-up walking, then walk briskly (or briskly uphill, if more work is needed), for 20 seconds, breathing through the nose. Follow this by a couple of minutes at an easy pace. Repeat 5 times or so.

Get Sun: Sunlight exposure has been shown to increase testosterone. Vitamin D, and other needed hormones are created by sun on the skin, and are shown to increase immune response, help protect against internal cancers as well as diseases like MS, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

The only side-effects from the above actions are better health and happiness. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Dr. Huntington practices Chiropractic, Biomedical Acupuncture and Physiotherapy in Oracle, Az. 520-896-9844 huntingtonchiro@hotmail.com.

Joyous holiday wishes to you & your family...
from your good neighbor!



May all your wishes come true this wondrous season.
Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

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Friday, December 4, 2015 - 7:30pm and Sunday, December 6, 2015 - 4:00pm - "A Classic Christmas Holiday" Presented by the SaddleBrooke Singers.

Dr. Linda Griffin (in her farewell appearance as director), has prepared a program that they hope will bring back fond memories of your own favorite Christmases. The list of songs includes many of the classic Christmas numbers that you have come to expect from this talented group of singers plus some contemporary songs that have become season standards. \$18 inclusive \$20 door.



Saturday, December 5, 2015 - It's a Motown Christmas - 7:30pm. Produced by TAD Management.

It's pretty well-known universally that Motown is an American record company founded by Berry Gordy in 1959 in Detroit--one that went on to achieve spectacular success for a small record company: 79 records in the Top Ten between 1960 and 1969. This show guarantees to have everyone dancing in their seats...IF you can stay seated! \$30 inclusive \$35 door. Inquire about our Mix & Match Package. Discount prices **not available** on line.



Wednesday, December 9, 2015 - A Classic Country Christmas - 7:30pm. Produced by Lonely Street Productions.

Gather up the family and get set to two-step 'round the Christmas tree as you enjoy the yuletide twang of A Classic Country Christmas! Join **Alex Mack**, ("Your Cheatin' Heart-Salute to Hank Williams") and "The Sweetheart of Branson" **Kaci Bays** as they share classics like "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Hard Candy Christmas" and "Christmas in Dixie." \$30 inclusive \$35 door. Inquire about our Mix & Match Package. Discount prices **not available** on line.



Friday, December 11, 2015 - The Most Wonderful Time of the Year - Barbershop Chorus - 7:30pm.

A Barbershop Musical Extravaganza starring Canada del Oro Barbershop Chorus with guest artists the International Senior Medalist Quartet HIGH PRIORITY and the Chandler High School woman's barbershop choral group THE TREBLEMAKERS. \$20 inclusive \$23 door.



Saturday, December 12, 2015 - The Spirit of Christmas - 4pm & 7:30pm.

Tucson Dance Academy, along with the Booth family, returns to SaddleBrooke with their fabulous performance of The Spirit of Christmas. Showcasing little ones and their daddy's performing "Santa Baby" to "Mr. Grinch," the audience was on the edge of their seats. \$25 inclusive \$30 door \$18 children



Wednesday, December 16, 2015 - Christmas with The Rat Pack - 7:30pm. Produced by Lonely Street Productions.

Holiday music never had it so good as when it was being crooned by legendary "Rat Pack" members Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis, Jr. Starring **Robert Shaw**, Stewart Gregory and Matravius Avent and featuring an amazing six-piece band, "Christmas with The Rat Pack" is an instant classic! \$30 inclusive \$35 door. Inquire about our Mix & Match Package. Discount prices **not available** on line.



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Wandering the General Crook Trail Without a Camera

I was blissfully unaware there was a problem. I stopped my automobile to photograph a stand of wildflowers beside the road. It was a cluster of small white flowers with a forest of giant sunflowers towering above them. My camera began to experience some sort of electronic malfunction. Turned out my camera was doomed. I

realized that I would be forced to spend the entire camping trip without a camera. Using some selective framing, the wildflowers would have made a nice photograph but I suppose you will just have to take my word for it.

Tacoma, Dakota, Winnebago, the names of defeated

Native American nations adorn our recreational vehicles as we roll across the wilderness we stole from them. I drive my Cherokee across the Rim Road, part of the General Crook Trail, traveling cautiously as the road winds across the ceiling of Arizona with thick forest on one side and an eight hundred foot precipice off the other side. It is a beautiful and dangerous road.

General Crook led the last and most effective war against the Apache. He made two military innovations.

The first was he replaced horses with mules..

The mules were much slower than

horses but were much more surefooted in this steep and rugged terrain. The second innovation was using Apache scouts to hunt the Apache. The athletic prowess of Apache warriors in this landscape was legendary. From the center of Arizona they were said to be able to run six hundred miles, reaching the ocean in only two and a half days – running on their tiptoes to avoid leaving footprints. Crook correctly believed that only an Apache could track another Apache across this rugged countryside. The Apaches believed that great warriors in this life came back as bears in the next.

My Cherokee keeps rolling across the ceiling of Arizona, following the twisting road. The precipice provides a spellbinding view but the precarious road forces me to keep my attention on my driving. Normally I would stop the car for a moment and take photographs of the magnificent vistas but not today. The road rolls for fifty four miles which is a long way when you are forced to drive fifteen miles an hour. Signs proclaim turns for historic places, sheep crossings, old cabins, historic schoolhouses, and the beginnings of a train tunnel.

Continued on page 5



EVERY MAN'S MUSINGS

By Gary Every
Special to the Nugget





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GENERAL CROOK

Continued from page 4

About a century ago somebody blasted about hundred and fifty feet of tunnel into solid granite before someone else decided there might be a better way to move mining ore besides trying to tunnel through an entire mountain range. I find myself reluctant to stop, without any photos to post on social media, did it really happen?

There are many brown forest service signs along the road and the biggest of them all point towards Knoll Lake, so I head there. Knoll Lake is gorgeous. Granite boulders line a steep and narrow chasm. I walk along the shore and climb onto the middle of the dam. Here is where I would stand if my camera was working. I turn my imaginary camera on its side, stretching the canyon lake to make it appear longer and still capture the dramatic monsoon clouds flying across the afternoon sky. It would have made a nice photograph.

I walk along the shore till I find a comfortable rock and eat my lunch. Blue herons work the shallow water across the opposite shore. If I had my camera I could zoom in and get some great shots but then again I already have lots of good heron pictures. An osprey flies low, from one tree to another. A moment I never would have been quick enough to capture with a camera. Then I spy another non photogenic moment. Cliff swallows swoop and soar, just above the lake. They cruise in random zig zag patterns, twisting and turning through the sky before sometimes diving into the water with a tiny splash. They are hunting insects and the longer I watch them the more convinced I become that swallows are earth's most acrobatic animals.

I camp on the edge of the rim. I erect the tent only a few yards from the precipice. The view is tremendous. These would have been easy photographs, standing atop the ceiling of Arizona, with a vista of magnificent mountains stretching out before me and all those peaks I see are lower than where I am standing. Dramatic clouds hang in the sky late and I suspect it will be a spectacular sunset.

I place a chair on the very edge of the rim and read. I find reading outdoors relaxes me like nothing else. I look up occasionally to watch the light slowly change, shafts of sunlight shifting as the clouds float past. I think of my forest service friend high atop his fire tower. He tells me stories about watching bobcats, bears, and mother deer hiding their fawns in the tall grass as he watched from above.

There was one time, an osprey flew by with a bass in his talons at eye level with my friend in his perch atop the tower. The best thing about sitting in the fire tower is the gradual dance of light as it passes slowly across the landscape. He says "You do not notice being alone so much when the beauty moves you to silence."

His fire tower is located atop Heliograph Peak in the Pinal Mountains. Those mountains were named by Spanish explorers who noted that the Apache gathered pine nuts here. The peak was named Heliograph Peak because General Crook established a heliograph station here, soldiers communicating from peak to peak by flashing mirrors.

The sunset is spectacular. The clouds quickly fill with gold until a crimson red glows from the heart of the thick clouds. Too bad I do not have a camera. The ridge immediately to the west is just a little higher. As the sunset slowly grows more spectacular, I hike the few hundred yards to the next finger of precipice, just in time to see the clouds shift from dark red to purple. It is so stunningly beautiful that my heart races at the sight of it.

Then I see the bear. A black bear climbs up the last stretch of granite precipice towards the rim. A large male scales up the cliff, scrambling up the granite walls, muscles rolling across his massive shoulders as he climbs. He is a large bear and must have been a fierce Apache warrior in a previous life. He reaches the rim and strolls across the grass only about two hundred yards away from where I am standing. The bear seems nonchalant until he realizes I am there and rises up on two legs, sniffing. The bear smells the air while staring straight at me.

The bear moves so he is in line with a tree. The furry spruce hides him from my line of sight. I cannot see the bear even though he is only a hundred yards away. Is he coming towards me, using the tree as a shield? Afraid to move, afraid to stand still, I take a step to the side and look around the tree. The bear does the same thing at exactly the same moment.

We both crane our necks to the side, taking awkward glances towards each other. The bear rises up on his hind legs and takes another sniff. I am too scared to do much of anything so whatever happens next is up to the bear. The bear drops back down to all fours and starts back down the eight hundred foot precipice. It was a glorious moment and you will just have to take my word for it because I have no photo to prove it.

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Superior to find something for everyone on your gift list.

For the Foodie, make a foodie gift basket with local flavor add some famous chorizo from Leo's Grocery Store, fresh tortillas from Los Hermanos. Add some sweet treats from Superior Sweets, Le Cookie, Juan's Central Bakery or Brick House Bakers along with some "Superior Blend" coffee and an apron from SunFlour Market. A bottle of wine or craft beers can be added to a food basket from Farmers Market. Use a creative container and put all these ingredients in a traditional tamale pot from Save Money Market.

Looking for unique clothing, jewelry and home accessories? You won't find a more unique shirt than a hand made Hawaiian style shirt from Something Fishing Shirts. Don't miss Random Boutique, you will find an assortment of ladies wear, blouses, handbags and accessories. If you are looking unique jewelry with a global flair stop in Global Encounters inside Smoky's Mercantile. For Home Accessories check out the Funky Junk, The Copper Gecko or Rolling Rock Gallery. Custom floral designs can be made by local florists from Rose's Roses and Gloria's Silk Flowers.

Art lovers on your list? Superior is home to many artists who sell their art work in local shops and galleries. The Wild Cow Gallery and Keaton Fine Art are the newest galleries in Superior and features many new and upcoming artists. Consider buying art lessons or individual lessons from both the Wild Cow Gallery

and Day Star Studios, from painting to mosaic tiles these studios each have something to offer the budding or experienced artist. Mynds Eye Art has several rustic art pieces available for sale.

For the nature lovers & day trippers on your list? How about passes or a year long membership to the world renowned Boyce Thompson Arboretum? Looking for a little more adventure? A gift certificate for a four-wheel jeep ride to explore the desert surrounding Superior with Old West Desert Tours, top it off with gift certificates for some of Superior's finest restaurants Jade Grill, Edwardo's Pizza, Los Hermanos, De Marcos, Porter's Cafe, Buckboard Restaurant, La Serna, Felicia's Ice Cream Shop or Casa Denogean.

Looking for the gift of wellness and healthy living? Try a membership to Superior Fitness and Personal Training. Yoga classes, reflexology and Himalayan Salt Rock lamps can be found at Sole to Soul for those seeking a more relaxing approach to wellness.

DIY lovers, will enjoy an assortment of tools from Superior Lumber or a class from The Salvage Company on how to repurpose an item or paint it with a vintage flair.

For the community minded person on your list consider purchasing an annual membership or make a donation to a local organizations such as the Superior Optimist Club, Rotary Club, Superior Historical Society, VFW Auxiliary, Superior Chamber of Commerce, Red Bear Outfitters, Legends of Superior Trails Inc., Friends of the Superior Library, Superior Little League or Superior Food Bank.

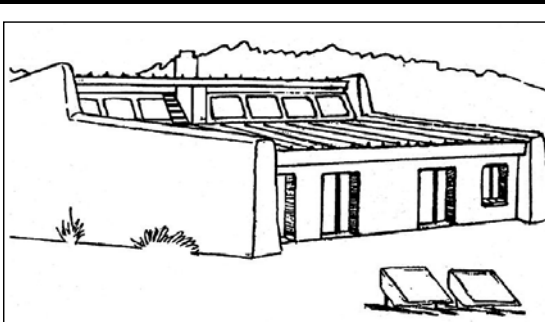
Give the gift of a needed service, hair cuts from Be My Guest Salon or His and Her's Hair Company. How about oil changes or tire rotations from Southwest Towing.

Make sure everyone on your gift list knows about all things Superior with a gift subscription to the Superior Sun!

It is quite possible that we may have forgotten a few places for you to shop for your holiday gift giving needs, there is surely something for everyone on your list right here in Superior. Many of the home bakers and local artists may require advanced notice to accommodate your order.

For more information for most of these local businesses and organizations check out the Superior Chamber of Commerce directory at www.superiorarizonachamber.org.

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Copper Basin Chamber of Commerce to sponsor Electric Light Parade and more during holiday season

If you like to fill your calendar ahead, this is your opportunity. The Copper Basin Chamber of Commerce has been waiting for the confirmation of one of the most important dates.

Gather your lights batteries and possibly lots of cellophane for a Candy land adventure on Saturday, Dec 5.

It is always fun to see the high school band marching all decorated in lights. ATV, bicycles, individuals, clubs and organizations are encouraged to enter the Electric Light parade. Santa will arrive that night to get the children's wish lists. Carolers are a possibility in the mall area and any vendors who want to sell items for Christmas gifts are invited to set up in the mall area also.

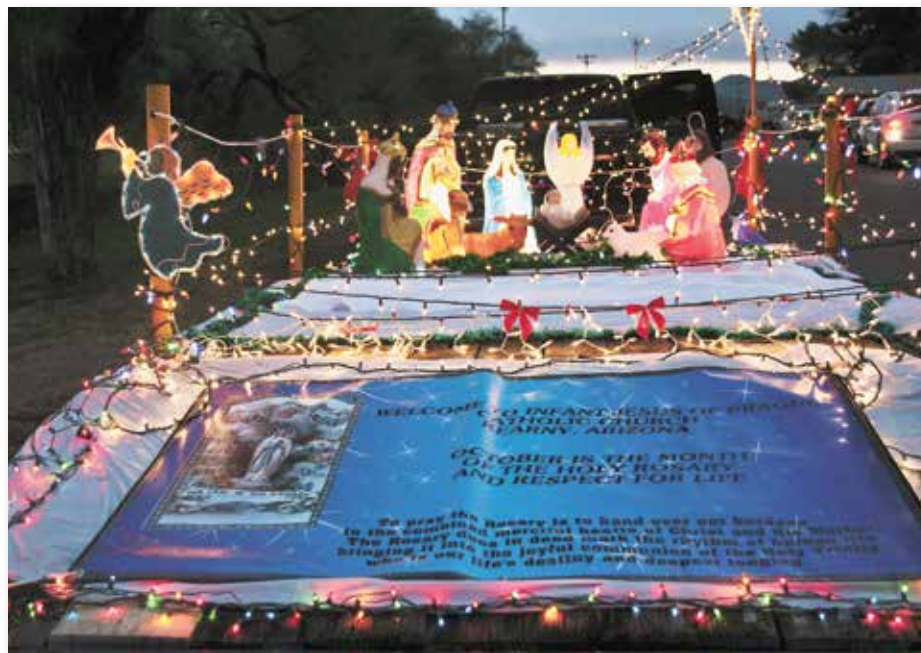
The CAC Honor Society from Aravaipa will collect names for the Love Light Memorial ceremony as well as Luminarios which will take place on Alden, Saturday, Dec. 18. Menudo and Posole will be sold that night along with hot chocolate and cookies. Children are invited to listen

to the storyteller while waiting for the parade to start.

The Farmers Market/ Swap meet will be Saturday, Dec. 12. The time will be determined by the weather. Emotions run high as the Love Light angels are placed on the tree and the names of loved ones are read. This can be in memory or in honor of whoever you want.

December is also Chamber membership month with Citizen of the Year nominations due Jan. 14. The Chamber's annual meeting and Citizen of the Year dinner will be held Monday, Feb.29. Days and weeks preceding the dinner will be the Farmers Market/ Swap meets Jan. 16 and Feb. 13. The ever popular Women's Expo is Feb. 27 In Hayden.

The date everyone has been waiting for is Pioneer Days, March 23-26. This is Easter Week and the only time available for Frazier's Shows as they leave Kearny for their out of state tour. There will not be a Sunday event.



Winter Wonderland is coming to Kearny Dec. 5.

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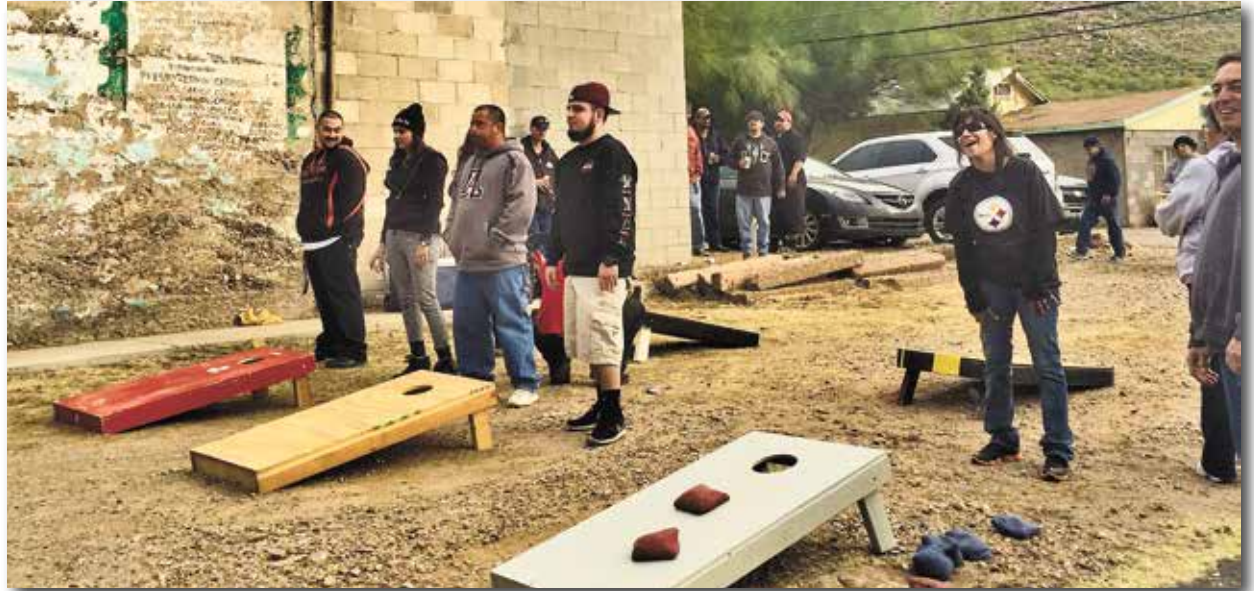
Superior Optimist Club looking for parade entries for Miracle on Main St.

The Superior Optimist Club is inviting the community to participate in the 12th Annual Miracle on Main St. light parade and festivities on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three entries \$100 first place, \$75 second place and \$50 for the third place prize. This year's theme is Christmas at the Cinema.

The festivities begin at noon with registration for a corn hole tournament benefiting the Superior Food Bank. The tournament will be held on the vacant lot next to Felicia's ice cream shop on Main St. Cost to register in the tournament is \$5.00 per person plus five cans of food or \$10 per person. For more information on the corn hole tournament or to pre register please contact Val Denogean at 602-319-3011 or Sonya Estatico at 520-827-9771.

Festivities downtown will begin at 4 p.m. with food and game booths opening. Train rides will also be given until 7 p.m. Following the parade Santa will greet the children of Superior at the Besich park gazebo and the first 300 children will receive a goody bag.

For more information on registering for the parade or sponsoring the event, please contact Mila Besich-Lira at 520-827-0676 or JoAnn Besich at 520-827-0592. You may also register your parade entry online: <http://bit.ly/2015MiracleonMain>



The Cornhole Tournament (a beanbag toss game) has become a Superior staple at all major events. This year the tournament will benefit the Superior Food Bank.



Wild Cow Arts Gallery

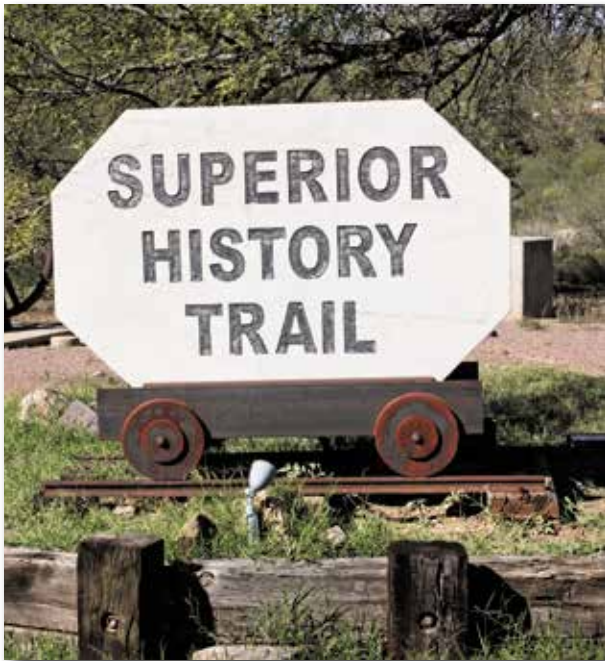
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GETTING LOST IN THE COPPER CORRIDOR



Can you guess where in the Copper Corridor the cover photo was taken? If you guessed Superior, then you would be correct. The photo is of one of the many displays at the Superior History Trail at the Caboose Park on US 60 in Superior. In addition to the Caboose Visitors Center, you can find mining equipment displays as well as a miniature Head Frame you can actually walk through. The Nugget has been taking our readers on a journey through the Copper Corridor, helping you to 'Get Lost.' We hope you continue to travel with us.

James Carnes | Nugget



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- Don't start or stop an engine, or use automated doors.

For more information about natural gas safety, visit swgas.com/safety or call **1-877-860-6020**.

Learn about AZ black bears at Oracle State Park program

Anyone looking for amazing facts about black bears of Arizona will love the "Bear Necessities" interactive program by interpretive docent Richard Boyer, set for Sunday, Dec. 6. at the Kannally ranch house at Oracle State Park Center for Environmental Education. Safety around bears, an appearance of "Everywhere Bear", and a prize for the visitor with the most knowledge about black bears add to the fun. Program begins at 11 a.m.; reservation requested.

The program is free with park admission, as are almost all other scheduled events. When reservations are requested, they can be made by calling Jennifer Rinio, ranger, at the park office at 520-896-2425.

Other December weekend activities include a holiday wreath-making workshop on Saturday, Dec. 12, where participants will develop their designs with locally-gathered materials like soapberry, mistletoe, buckwheat, manzanita, and juniper. It begins at 1 p.m.; a \$10 fee includes park admission. Space is limited; reservation required.

Guided tours of the historic Kannally ranch house with docent Mary Bast are scheduled for Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Dec. 13 at 1 p.m.; and Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. The 45-minute tour visits rooms and patios extending down the hillside. The multi-level Mediterranean-Revival style house, built in 1929-33 by one of the earliest cattle ranching families in Oracle, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. An exhibit of impressionistic-style cowboy paintings by self-taught artist Lee Kannally is on display in the living room and dining room.

Also on display is a special exhibit of seven out-of-this-world astronomical images by Adam Block from the University of Arizona Mt. Lemmon Sky Center. Adam, recipient of the 2012 Hubble Award, is recognized around the world as a leading astrophotographer. His images are published in magazines, books,



Black Bear.

Photo courtesy Wikipedia.com

posters and widely on the internet. He will offer a presentation and film about astrophotography on Sunday, Dec. 20, beginning at 3 p.m. Reservation suggested.

For hikers, a guided hike along six miles of park trails with Gaston Meloche is set for Saturday, Dec. 19, starting at 8:15 a.m. Call Gaston for reservations at 520-638-5404. The park, at a comfortable elevation of 4,500 feet, has 15 miles of hiking trails, including a section of the National Scenic Arizona Trail, and numerous day-use picnic areas as well as vista patios at the ranch house.

The park is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays; park admission is \$7 per car at the main gate on Mt. Lemmon Rd. in Oracle. Full Oracle State Park event information is always posted on the state parks website: www.azStateParks.com/Parks/ORAC.

For information about all 28 Arizona State Parks, the Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Programs, and the State Historic Preservation Office, call 800-285-3703. Campsite reservations can be made online at AZStateParks.com or by calling the reservation call center at 520-586-2283. Follow [AZStateParks](https://twitter.com/AZStateParks) on Twitter and Facebook.

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Maricopa Slim: A Pinal County Legend

John C. Powers was a Pinal County Sheriff's Deputy and a Special Officer for the Southern Pacific Railroad. As a railroad officer, he was commissioned to work in three counties where the Southern Pacific operated: Pinal, Maricopa and Pima.

He was born in Texas on Oct. 3, 1883. He is believed to have come to Arizona in the early 1900s. Powers was assigned to Maricopa Junction where he was in charge of security for the busy Southern Pacific Railroad line. His duties included protecting the passengers, freight and property of the railroad. He also kept the hobos and undesirables from riding the boxcars without a ticket. His methods and treatment of the hobos and enforcing the law would earn him a reputation and the nickname "Maricopa Slim".

Maricopa was a regular stop for all trains of the Southern Pacific or Espee as it was affectionately known. While the train loaded water and paying passengers, Powers would check the box cars and force every hobo off of the train. He would hold them until the train left. Powers then took all of the hobo's valuables, weapons, and sometimes shoes and force them to depart on foot. Melvin Drake, a Maricopa Pioneer said that Powers always carried a wooden Billy club, which was filled with lead. Hobos referred to Powers as the "Southern Pacific Boogey" because of his reputation of using cruel methods in his handling of hobos and law breakers.

The legend has it that Maricopa Slim was involved in several illegal killings some allegedly by hanging and others by beating the victims

to death. The allegations were never proven although there are verified stories of Powers knocking out people with his fists, a club and the barrel of his pistol.

It is not known exactly when Powers first began working as a deputy and a railroad special officer but his name began appearing in newspapers around 1911. The Arizona Republican newspaper dated April 11, 1911 reported that J.C. Powers of Maricopa yesterday brought in Ambrosio Navarro on a charge of selling liquor to Indians.

On June 29, 1911 the *Arizona Republican* told the story of Powers arresting two hobos for beating up another hobo at the edge of the Maricopa city limits. The victim was told to leave town before he got into more trouble. "The two victors were hustled handcuffed together without

mercy to the city jail. The edifice is an adobe building immediately behind the post office and the Williams Hotel." The building had two rooms, one used as a makeshift jail and the other a store room for Judge Perry Williams. Williams owned the hotel, was the Justice of the Peace and Postmaster for Maricopa. He stored blankets for the hotel, Indian pottery and other goods that he sold.

The two hobos managed to break out of the jail and were seen running along the tracks headed east out of town. Powers had been notified and chased them in an automobile but was unable to

cross the tracks in the vehicle and had to stop. He jumped from the vehicle and ran on foot. He was able to make them stop under the threat of being shot. Powers hogtied them together in chains and handcuffs and locked them in an empty box car in the railroad yard.

Later that evening, Powers went to check on the two prisoners and saw that they were able to get out of their chains and had knocked out some of the side boards on the box car and were just about to exit through the hole they had created. Powers yelled at them to halt and one

Continued on page 14



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By John Hernandez
Pinal Nugget



Maricopa Junction train station circa 1900-1920.

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Mel's Drive-In: A San Manuel Favorite

By John Hernandez
Copper Area News

The building where Mel's Drive-In is located is nearly 50 years old. According to Val Childers, it was built by members of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints and became Weldon's Drive-In. It was built with the idea that the young people in San Manuel had no place to go in the evenings. It gave them a place to "hang out." It was also a place to get something good to eat.

Weldon's had their grand opening

June 4, 1966. Joe Arrington was the owner. Their grand opening ad offered milk shakes for 19¢ and the hours were 10 a.m. to midnight. That year they advertised hamburgers 5 for 99¢. You could get outside service at the window or come inside.

Being that it was located across the street from the high school, many students before the days of a closed campus used to eat lunch there. Students went there after school and after athletic games. Opposing teams from out of town often ate there after the games or picked

up their food to go.

Weldon's Drive-In had a pool table and a juke box. The original jukebox can be seen at the Chaparral in Oracle which is owned by the Childers.

In 1967 or 1968 Mel and Val Childers became partners in the business and began managing it. They bought out their partner five years later. It is believed that the drive-in changed names from Weldon's to Mel's in 1973. This is based on the research that showed that Weldon's was still running ads in 1972.

The ads stopped in 1973. As there was no advertising done by Mel's, it appears that is when the name and ownership changed.

Three generations of the Childers family have worked at Mel's: Val, her daughter Lisa Langhammer and granddaughter Amanda Alvarado who works there now. Albertina Zazueta has worked there since 1979 cooking up "the burger we drive back home for" as expressed by Mel's T-shirts. Many former residents visiting

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Building that houses Mel's Drive-In will soon be 50 years old!

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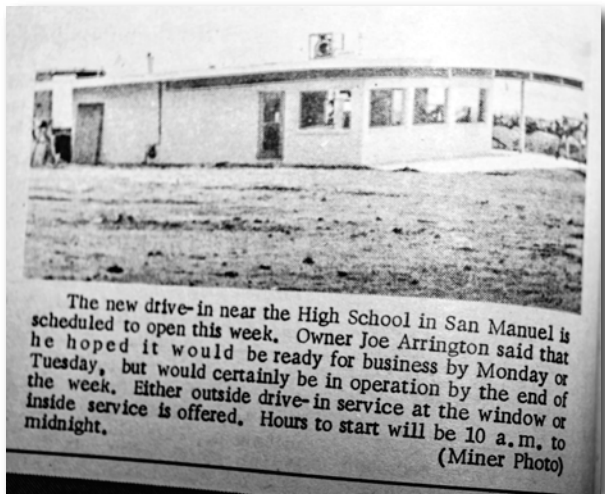
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Mel's looks nearly the same today as it did back then when it was shiny and new.



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MEL'S DRIVE-IN

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family or friends in San Manuel often stop by Mel's for a burger while in town.

The menu has changed over the years. Weldon's was serving up menudo everyday for 45¢ a bowl and barbecued beef sandwiches in the 1960s. Now Mel's offers up Mexican food, Navajo tacos, corn dogs, chilly willy's and of course Mel's burgers. Amanda said that the best selling item on the menu is the jumbo bacon cheeseburger.

Weldon's/Mel's Drive-In has been serving up good

food continuously since 1966 making it one of the longest lasting businesses to operate at the same location in San Manuel.

Now we wonder if they will have to change the design on their T-shirt.



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MARICOPA SLIM

Continued from page 11

of the men said he would belt him with a rock. Powers entered the box car and clubbed the man who had threatened him with the butt of his gun, knocking him down. Powers held the other man at gunpoint and then placed handcuffs on both of them. Powers saw that the men had somehow cut through their chains. He noticed that one of the men had one suspender that was much wider than the other one. He checked the suspender and found a small pocket had been sewed onto it. In the pocket were a half a dozen little files and a steel saw blade.

This time the two bandits were chained at the legs together and cuffed to some seats in the waiting room of the railroad station. The two men stood up and began cursing at Powers and insulting him. Powers punched one of them in the nose which knocked both men down. He then watched over them through the night. Powers was suspicious of the two men because of the two escape attempts and because they had tried to put up a fight. He sent a description out to the Southern Pacific Railroad and found out that both men were wanted for safecracking and robbery of a Southern Pacific office in Los Gatos, California. There was also a \$100 reward for each man which Powers would collect. Judge Williams also found them guilty of the escape and damage

to his storeroom and the jail and sentenced them to six months in the county jail.

On Feb. 14, 1912 Arizona became a state. During the last week of February, Dorris Haines fired three shots from his pistol on a Southern Pacific train that had left Gila Bend headed for Maricopa. He had allegedly fired at the brakeman who was attempting to have him removed from the train. The railroad office wired ahead to Maricopa where John Powers was waiting for Haines. Powers arrested him without a fight and after chaining his legs together loaded him on the next train back to Gila Bend.

Powers and Haines were in the caboose and the train was making good time when Haines hobbled to the rear door and jumped from the moving train. It was dark and Powers did not want to jump from the train and chase Haines on foot. Powers waited until morning at Gila Bend. He was given a horse and they rode the train back to the area where it was believed Haines had jumped. Powers found the trail and followed it for five miles before he came upon Haines resting in the shade of a tree. He arrested him again and escorted him to Gila Bend where Haines was tried and found guilty.

In January 1913, two men, J.C. Miller and Jack Williams, escaped from the county jail in Flor-

ence. The two men had been arrested in December by Deputy Sheriff Powers. The escapees had hopped on the Winkelman to Tempe train. They were then spotted on a hand car they had stolen heading on the tracks to Maricopa. Powers was notified by telegraph. Around 10:30 p.m., Powers saddled his horse, armed himself and headed north following the rail line. Shortly before midnight Powers encountered the two escapees a few miles from Maricopa. They were heavily armed and riding the hand car. After a short exchange of gunfire, Powers had killed J. C. Miller and Jack Williams surrendered.

It was reported in the Jan. 4, 1913 *Bisbee Daily Review* and other newspapers that it was "one of the nerviest exhibitions in Arizona in a number of years". This may have been the start of the legend surrounding Powers as shortly after, the nick name "Maricopa Slim" began appearing in Arizona newspapers.

In June, Maricopa Slim was called to Phoenix to make 26 Gypsies "pony up" their fare for riding on the Southern Pacific. Powers also captured an escaped convict Modesta Munez. Munez escaped from a stockade in Tempe. Powers along with deputies Oiea and Perry (the Gila Monster) traveled by automobile to Chandler to arrest a rancher P. A. Yarbrough for attempted murder. Yarbrough had shot one of his employees who was arguing with him over his pay.

The June 27th issue of the *Arizona Republican* told the story of Governor George Hunt receiving two petitions from different parts of the state asking him to remove from office Powers and Deputy Sheriff Perry also known as "The Gila Monster" by those hobos and criminals that had crossed his path. Perry was assigned to the Gila Bend station for the Espee.

The *Republican* said of Powers: "Maricopa Slim, who is in real life Deputy Sheriff Powers of Maricopa Station in the county of Pinal, and as such is a terror of evil doers." The petitions accused Maricopa Slim and the Gila Monster of "cruelty" and "inhuman treatment" of those who rode the boxcars of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The petitions were from the local Socialist Party of Bisbee and Jerome.

The article also said that according to officials of the Southern Pacific Railroad, "Perry and Powers are the two best officers on the whole system. The efforts of the men have reduced the freight claims for the Tucson division, for pilfered freight over \$35,000 in the last year or more than the rest of the system put together it is reported. Every train is met by these officers and most of the 'gentlemen of leisure' who ride over the country in 'side door pullmans' are taken from the trains. Whenever the tramps or hobos are civil, the officers let them alone, but when they get insolent the officers use rough methods to intimidate them. The records of the railroad turned in by these officers show that 75 percent of the tramps are armed and a large percentage of them have burglar tools

in their possession."

The article continues, "During the present year Powers has taken over 100 revolvers from hobos that he caught riding the trains. Every type of firearm is represented in the collection from wicked looking Lugers automatics to Ivor Johnstone bull dogs. Every time these officers search a train they practically are in danger of their lives and both officers have had several escapes from being murdered by the 'box car tourists'."

Governor Hunt responded that he had no authority to remove them and referred the complaint to the Maricopa and Pinal County Sheriffs. No action was taken against the officers.

The Aug. 17, 1913 *Arizona Republican* reported that Maricopa Slim and a Mr. Coleman were granted a "saloon license" at Florence and were going to open the business in Casa Grande. The name of the new "parlor" would be "The Oasis" or the "Dew-Drop-Inn."

In December, the *Tombstone Epitaph* reported a story about a young man Walter Standow who was walking across country and working his way by writing stories for syndicated newspapers about celebrities he would come across during his travels. He interviewed Maricopa Slim Powers and said of him: "Maricopa Slim is not so terrible as he is pictured. He has killed only two men. He told me he didn't mind helping fellows that are going through but that he is down on yeggs." Yegg was a word which meant safecracker or robber.

The year 1914 would be a busy and dangerous year for Maricopa Slim. In January, Mrs. William Elliot was found unconscious, gagged and bound in her home in Casa Grande. She had been assaulted, robbed and her home ransacked. Maricopa Slim ordered posses out to roundup any hobos in the area. Nineteen men were arrested and held in jail overnight until Mrs. Elliott regained consciousness and was able to identify the man or men who had committed the crime.

The *Holbrook News* reported in August that "The Hobos of America" an organization sometimes known as the "Hobos Union" was threatening to have a congressional investigation made of Maricopa Slim. They said he was a "terror to hobos from coast to coast. Nearly all professional knights of the road know him and fear him."

On Aug. 20, Deputy Sheriff Powers traveled to Sacaton in his automobile after receiving a report that four Mexicans were at Sacaton Siding acting in a disorderly manner. Upon arrival, Powers was notified that the Sacaton Trading Post had been robbed and the storekeeper Paul P. Clark had been beaten and knocked unconscious by the four Mexicans. Deputy Sheriff Sears from Phoenix joined Powers in his automobile and they took up the trail of the four bandits.

Sears and Powers caught up to the Mexicans who were seen crossing the desert on horseback. When they saw the officers, the Mexicans spurred

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MARICOPA SLIM

Continued from page 14

their mounts and tried to get away. A running gun battle then commenced. The Mexicans unable to outrun Slim's automobile, dismounted and took cover behind some bushes and began firing at the two deputies. Powers drove the vehicle as fast as it would go through the hail of bullets directly towards the four bandits both deputies returning fire as they drove. One of the Mexicans fell dead and two others were wounded in the shoulder. The three surviving Mexicans dropped their rifles and raised their hands in surrender. The prisoners were shackled and driven to Maricopa where they would be turned over to the Pinal County Sheriff Henry Hall.

The Mexicans were thought to be part of the gang of woodcutters who had been involved in the deadly shootings of Deputy Sheriff Phineas Brown, Will Landry and two other men in Devil's Canyon near Ray. The shooting and hunt for the Mexicans would result in seven people being killed before it was over.

An article about W.F. Johnson, who had been arrested for assaulting Conductor Shelley of the Southern Pacific Railroad, appeared in the *Tombstone Epitaph* on Aug. 30. It said that Johnson had been in St. Mary's hospital in Tucson for two weeks with a head injury suffered after being beaten by the "famous Espee special agent known as Maricopa Slim."

On Sept. 23, Maricopa Slim trailed the Barnum and Bailey Circus train from Mesa to Douglas, Arizona. Four "negroes" and a white man had robbed a Mexican, beat him and tossed him from the moving train between Tempe and Maricopa. Arriving in Douglas, Slim was joined by Deputy Sheriff Huss of Tucson and Special Officer Black of the circus train. They arrested the suspects who were found with some of the stolen items on them.

The headline for the Nov. 5 edition of the *Arizona Sentinel* and *Yuma Weekly Examiner* read "GUNMAN 'MARICOPA SLIM' DIES WITH BOOTS ON." It went on to say that Maricopa Slim got what he had coming for many years. The story said that Slim had killed eight men "but the ninth victim had turned the tables and planted Maricopa Slim at Maricopa yesterday."

The Sentinel's version of what happened was that the Al G. Barnes Circus was in town and Maricopa Slim went to check on the train. A man whose show name was "Sideshow Black" had been shot by Maricopa Slim three years before but had recovered. They had both sworn to get each other. Slim had approached Sideshow Black and knocked off his hat to uncover a scar on Sideshow Blacks head which identified him as the man Slim had wounded. The shooting then commenced with Maricopa Slim shooting Sideshow in the back once and twice in the chest. As Sideshow fell he fired and hit Slim twice in the head.

The version that some newspapers told including the *Arizona Republican* was different

with no mention of Slim having killed nine men. John Powers had gone to the Maricopa Station around 2:30 in the morning to meet the train. He came upon a group of white men arguing with some "negroes." Mike Meehan an employee of the Barnes Circus was attempting to throw a black man off the train. Officer Barnes yelled at Meehan to stop and hold up his hands. Meehan ignored his orders and Powers fired on him the bullets striking him in the arm and chest. Meehan fell and another bullet hit him in the leg. As Meehan lay on the ground, he drew a pistol and fired hitting Maricopa Slim in the stomach. Maricopa Slim died on the train on the way to the Gila Bend railroad emergency hospital. Meehan was taken to the Florence prison infirmary where he died a few days later. Pinal County Sheriff Henry Hall said Meehan confessed that he shot Maricopa Slim while Slim was standing over him. Some witnesses said the shots that killed Maricopa Slim came from someone else on the train but no evidence was found to indicate this.

Meehan had given his name as Edward Paridy and later Frank Sawyer. He was also known as Patrick Meehan. There were other versions of what happened including one that said Maricopa Slim shot Meehan in the back but the official version was similar to the story printed in the *Republican*. John C. Powers was survived by his widow and two sons. The *Republican* covering the funeral said that "Every sheriff's deputy, police officer and constable in Maricopa County whose duty allows, followed the remains to Greenwood Cemetery."

"Maricopa Slim," as his fellow officers knew him, was a man to be feared by the lawless, and though there were such that called him a hard man, the lovers of law and order had a big regard for Maricopa Slim."

The Western Liberal, a Lordsburg, New Mexico newspaper said, "Maricopa Slim had a wide reputation among the tramps, and there will be a thanksgiving in trampdon from coast to coast over his death."

Loved and respected by many, feared and hated too. Somewhere between both trains of thought the legend of Maricopa Slim lies.

Author's Note:

I would like to thank Patricia Brock and the Maricopa Historical Society for providing some information.

Sources: *Arizona Republican*: June 29, 30, 1911; April 11, 1911; February 26, 1912; June 11, 14, 20, 27, 1913; July 02, 07, 23, 1913; August 17, 1913, December 07, 1913.

Holbrook News: August 7, 1914

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