

# *Pinal* **NUGGET**

February 2018  
Volume 11 Number 4

**FREE**

Photo by John Hernandez

**LEGEND OF  
WHITE  
BOOTS**  
pages 15-17

Taking a Ghost Tour of the Copper Corridor

A community publication of Copperarea.com

1913

# Got ghosts?

## The Town of Superior might

**Cat Brown**  
Pinal Nugget

**And that’s what the Phoenix Scientific Paranormal Investigations was there to find out when they visited last year. Superior has seen its fair share of ghost hunters come to town, but this group rolling in distinguishes themselves from the pack in a couple of ways – they are all about the science and they don’t mind having outsiders joining in on their investigations.**

### NUGGET

*Covering the Copper Corridor Communities of Globe, Miami, Superior, Kearny, Hayden, Winkelman, Dudleyville, Aravaipa, Mammoth, San Manuel, Oracle, SaddleBrooke and Catalina.*

James Carnes.....Publisher  
 Jennifer Carnes..... Managing Editor  
 Michael Carnes.....General Manager  
 Mila Besich-Lira.....Advertising Director  
 John Hernandez.....Reporter  
 Cat Brown.....Reporter

Email:

Editorial: [jenniferc@MinerSunBasin.com](mailto:jenniferc@MinerSunBasin.com)  
 Advertising & Questions: [michaelc@MinerSunBasin.com](mailto:michaelc@MinerSunBasin.com)

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**Telephone**

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— Anne Murray

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The group has been in existence in the Valley for 11 years. They are a seasoned group – two teachers, one emergency medical technical (soon to be an RN), and an Information

Technology Engineer. Another member of the group, Richard Cercone has 24 years in the military and then taught high school for seven years. He has a Ph.D. in metaphysics, focusing on



**TECH GEAR**

The EM Pod (on the left) measures Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF) and exhibits lights once the antenna is approached. The K2 meter also registers EMF in units of measurement called MilliGauss, so does the Mel Meter to the right of it. Once the antenna measures EMF, four lights will illuminate based on intensity. The Pyramid is the 7 pronged device that measures static electricity derived from atmospheric conditions like storms. Spirits are thought to use this energy when available. The last two devices are the flashlights that aid in communication efforts as well.



paranormal science. He is interested in the forensics, in the science of paranormal investigation.

The group doesn't charge any money for their investigations. They are a Christian based group. The members all got involved in paranormal investigations because of different experiences they had in their own lives. The whole group prides themselves on being very analytical. They are more interested in fact than speculation.

"We try to rationalize what is happening. When we can't rationalize things," Richard

says, "ultimately then we will take a look at the paranormal to see if there is anything to support that evidence or that event."

To substantiate the event or refute it.

According to Richard, "a lot of the ghost shows on TV are nothing more than drama and ratings."

The group has done a lot of investigations in Globe and Miami. Last January was the first time they have investigated in Superior. What location did they pick for their first investigation? The Magma Club. The group set up seven cameras throughout the club. In such a large building it's

up to the "sensitives" in the group – Karen Schaeffer, Lori Stockton and Jeanne Holcomb – to find the places they feel may have the most paranormal activity. The group carries with them a wide assortment of gear and objects. They have cases full of high-tech gear, a teddy

Continued on page 4



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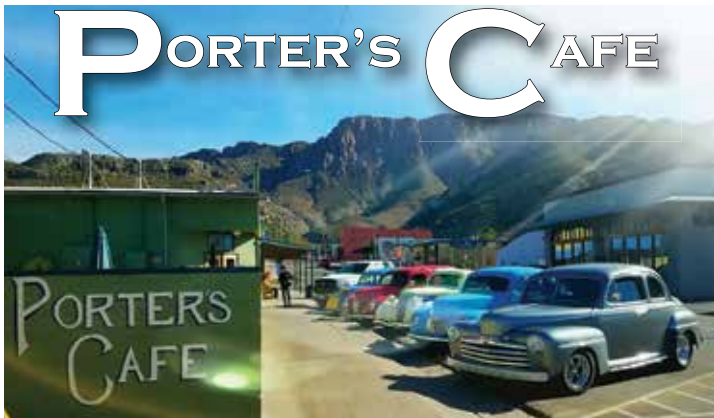
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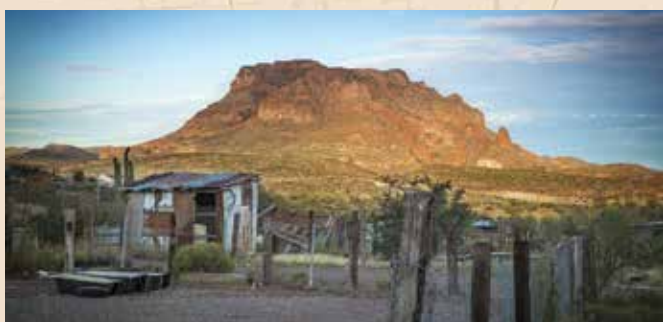
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## Magma Club

Continued from page 3

bear that has been fashioned with sensors, and a plastic beach ball a “potential” spirit could move. The group walks around the space they are investigating, often sitting in one room in the dark, asking questions into tape recorders and using their high-tech gear — gear that registers such things as energy in the room and temperature. And everything that is happening during an investigation is being videotaped.

The newest addition to the group is a pop out camper the group uses for technical support — The Tech Command Center. According to one of the techies of the group, David Stockton, the camper ensures there is a barrier between the tech guys and the group investigating. Inside the camper, you will find David and Ron Holcomb watching laptop monitors and listening to recording

devices. The camper is also a place that the team members can go rest in when they get tired. Many of their investigations go on all through the night. The investigation they did of the Magma Club lasted 24 hours.

Once all the evidence is gathered, it's a monumental task going through hours and hours of tape and video. Especially when most the members all have other jobs. It typically takes a few weeks before the group will have a debrief of what happened and any evidence they found prepared for town management.

You can follow the group's activities on their Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2jgxtpk>. Or learn more about the group on the website: <http://www.phxspi.com/>

Want to check out some of the spookiness at the Magma Club? Check out our video here: <http://bit.ly/2rKI6Y>



### GHOST HUNTERS

Lori Stockton and Richard Cercone prepare to investigate ghosts at the Magma Club.

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## GHOSTLY JUSTICE?

The Gila County Jail may arguably be the most haunted building in Globe.

# Walking amongst the Ghosts of Globe

**John Hernandez**  
Pinal Nugget

**The once thriving mining town of Globe is taking advantage of its Wild West history and the colorful old buildings of its past. Globe has a number of ghost stories arising from its notorious history which saw many violent deaths from fighting the Apaches to bringing law and order to Gila County. Colorful characters like Big Nose Kate (Doc Holiday’s mistress), Sheriff Henry “Rimrock” Thompson, Al Sieber, the Apache Kid and Arizona’s first Governor, George W.P. Hunt roamed the area.**

The most well-known ghost story in Globe is the murder of Kingsley Olds in 1911, in the Gila County Jail. Olds was accused of murdering the two young daughters of his employer. While awaiting trial he was shot from the County Courthouse building across an alley from the jail. It was said that Olds claimed to one of his jailers that he had been visited by visions of the two girls who motioned for him to follow them. His ghost allegedly haunts the jail as well as the ghosts of the two girls.

Globe now has tours of the jail including ghost tours and a Haunted Jail event held around Halloween. The jail, built in 1910, is also part of the annual Ghosts of Globe Tour which includes the notoriously bawdy Broad Street which was famous for its many saloons and bordellos. The Hanging Tree where a number of men were lynched also once stood on the street. The Ghosts of Globe Tour includes Globe residents dressed as ghostly soiled doves, lawmen and townspeople from the Wild West era. These people act out their parts and tell the

ghost stories of the area and buildings of Globe.

A paranormal research and tour group, Haunted Historians, offers tours of the 1910 Gila County Jail and the old Globe Train Station. Other buildings that are alleged to be haunted or have an interesting history include:

The Drift Inn Saloon was once a bordello, rooming house and location of a number of bars. It is the site of at least four known murders. The building above La Casita Café was once a bordello; Globe High School originally constructed in 1914; The Pioneer Hotel location; The 1907 Gila County Courthouse; The Sultan Brothers/Woolworths building; The Tonto Hotel; Kino’s Floors building; The Delacy Hotel; Gila National Bank; The historic Elks building; The First Palace Pharmacy/Lodge building; The Old Dominion Commercial building; The Mine Supply & Hardware building; and the Noftger Hill Bed & Breakfast which was once an elementary school.



It was said that Olds claimed to one of his jailers that he had been visited by visions of the two girls who motioned for him to follow them.



⬆️ **SALOON**

The Drift Inn Saloon was once a bordello, rooming house and location of a number of bars.



⬆️ **HOTEL**

The Tonto Hotel is one of the haunted buildings in Globe, AZ.



⬆️ **BANK**

Valley National Bank in Globe, AZ is haunted. Ghosts of patrons past?



## ← HAUNTED HISTORIANS

John Albrecht Jr., Scott Stanneart and Vince Amico have a combined 40 years of experience researching and investigating the paranormal. They have investigated the Gila County Jail and the Acadia Ranch Museum.

**John Hernandez**  
Pinal Nugget

# Hauntings and Ghosts along the Copper Corridor

**Along the Copper Corridor there are a few tales of ghosts and hauntings that have appeared in books and on the internet. A few of these stories follow:**

### **Rattlesnake Canyon – Dudleyville**

There is a story on the internet that talks about this canyon near Dudleyville where it is alleged that a man named “Lepsy” would hire immigrant Chinese workers to work on his ranch. Instead of paying them, he murdered them and burnt their bodies. He would then hire new workers and do the same to them. It was also said that lawmen that went in the canyon looking for Lepsy also met the same fate as the Chinese. Hikers in the area today are reported to have smelled charred flesh, become ill and heard the sounds of screaming.

Another version of the story says the area was near the reservation by Dudleyville and Lepsy hired Chinese and other minority workers. When you hike through the canyon, you will see charred rock walls, smell a sickening

aroma, feel horrible frightening energies and hear screaming. The murders took place in the late 1800s.

### **Aravaipa Area – The Haunted Corral**

The above story that allegedly took place in Rattlesnake Canyon was probably taken from the story of the Haunted Corral located in the Aravaipa area between Mammoth and Dudleyville. The story involves a man named George Apsey and has some basis in fact. Apsey was a former sailor who built the corral and began ranching in the Aravaipa area. In 1890, a detachment of Indian scouts from San Carlos, led by Lieutenant Watson, were looking for renegade Apaches in the Ash Creek area near Aravaipa, when they came upon Apsey burning a body on the ranch. Apsey tried to tell them that he was burning a hog.

Rowdy, a well-known Apache scout said, “Coche (Spanish for pig/hog) no wear boots, him man.” Apsey was arrested and escorted to San Carlos. He was then turned over to Pinal County authorities in Florence.

Apsey was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to 10 years in the Arizona Territorial prison in Yuma. Following his imprisonment, a rancher found more human remains on or near the Apsey ranch in 1891. It was shortly after this that the corral at the Apsey ranch began being called the Haunted Corral.

In 1937, a rancher named Henry Towner was murdered at the corral by a cowboy working at another ranch. Between 1890 and 1937, it was reported that the remains of at least twelve bodies were found in the Haunted Corral area. Apsey was



known to hire only cowboys who drifted from ranch to ranch and were known as “saddle tramps”. When they disappeared, no one would miss them. Apsey was pardoned in 1897 and moved to California. Some newspapers and some of the public were outraged by the pardon as they felt Apsey should have been hanged for murder.

**Hayden-Winkelman**

From the Hayden-Winkelman School District comes two stories involving students. There are claims of a ghost that can be seen on the Hayden High School football field. It seems that a football player was running with the football when he was tackled viciously. He ended up breaking his neck and later died. On some nights the football player has been seen running down the field. He falls and then disappears.

The other story involves a high school cheerleader who after graduating had a promising future as a cheerleader and possibly a model. The incident took place in 1988 or 1989. One version says she was offered a job as cheerleader for the Arizona Cardinals. Another

version has her being offered a college scholarship for cheerleading. One night she was arrested for possession of marijuana. During the arrest she was allowed to go back to her car where she retrieved a gun from the glove compartment and being despondent over being arrested which she felt ended her cheerleading dreams, shot herself.

Stories say that late at night, someone can be heard on the gym floor doing cheerleading routines. One story about a sighting in 1998 says that Hayden High School hosted a softball tournament. One of the teams spent the night in the gym. Around midnight they saw a young lady in a cheerleading outfit at the other end of the gym doing a cheerleading routine. As soon as the routine was finished, she disappeared into thin air.

**San Manuel**

There are two ghost stories involving the town of San Manuel circulating on the internet. One is the story of a young boy that has been reportedly seen at First Avenue Elementary School.

The boy is seen holding his head and says, “Teacher! Teacher! I fell off the merry-go-round.” He then disappears. The story alleges that in 1989 a young kid got stuck between the ground and the bottom of the merry-go-round crushing him. Supposedly as he was being carried away by ambulance, he whispered “Teacher! Teacher! I fell off the merry-go-round,” before dying.

The second story involves the spirit of a young girl seen wandering the halls by the lockers of San Manuel High School. She was a student at San Manuel and had been shot and killed at the school. I had heard this story back in the late 1960s from students at San Manuel. There is some basis to this story as in 1956, a female student was sitting on the steps of the school with other students and some teachers in the area near the present-day cafeteria, when she was shot and killed. Apparently, some boys were playing with a .22 rifle in the parking lot when the gun went off and the bullet struck the girl.

Continued on page 10

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**The Copper Basin Railway People**



A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER:

*Jake Jacobson was chosen as North America’s “Railroad Man of the Year” in 1994, the Copper Basin “Citizen of Year” in 1998 and one of the “Century’s Great Railroaders” in 2000.*

# Hauntings

Continued from page 9

Another place which is reportedly haunted or has experienced paranormal phenomena is the Sun Life Clinic. Then there is the story of “White Boots” who haunted the Magma Mine (See story, page 15).

## The Acadia Ranch Museum

The Acadia Ranch building was built in 1882 and now houses a museum operated by the Oracle Historical Society. It was once a working sheep ranch and then became a sanatorium for patients suffering from tuberculosis (TB) as well as a health resort. It has been a hotel and a residence. The fresh air and climate of Oracle was considered to be healthy. It is believed that a number of TB patients may have died in the building. There is a story of a nurse that is said to have contracted TB while working at the Acadia. She died there and her spirit supposedly walks the building tending to patients.

A ghost given the name of George haunts the area that was once a temporary morgue. People who lived in the Acadia reported unexplained footsteps late at night, someone turning on the furnace in the room (the hosts said it was not them) and a knocking on the knocking on the door, when the door was opened, no one was there and the lady felt something invisible brush past her.

It is also known that a young boy accidentally killed himself with his father’s hand gun at the Acadia in 1936. The kid’s name was Robert E. Lee Van Horn. He was seven years old and is buried in the Oracle Cemetery.

Unexplained sounds, ghostly footsteps and other unexplained phenomenon have been reported. Five paranormal research teams have visited the Acadia. One reported that they believe that there are at least two spirits in the building and possibly three. Another group has recorded voices and a door opening on its own with no one there, captured on video.

Other places in Oracle that have reported paranormal phenomena are the Mountain View Hotel (now the Oracle Baptist Church), Triangle L Ranch, Stewart House, El Rancho Robles, Don Juan’s Tavern (now the Ore House) and the American Flag Ranch building.

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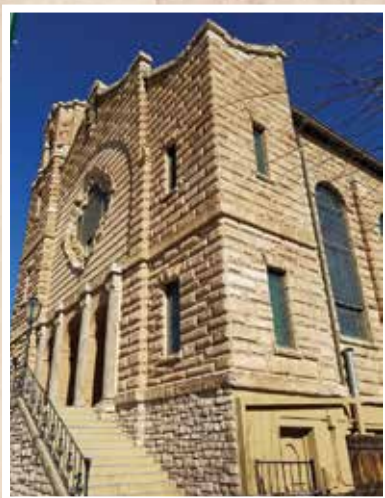
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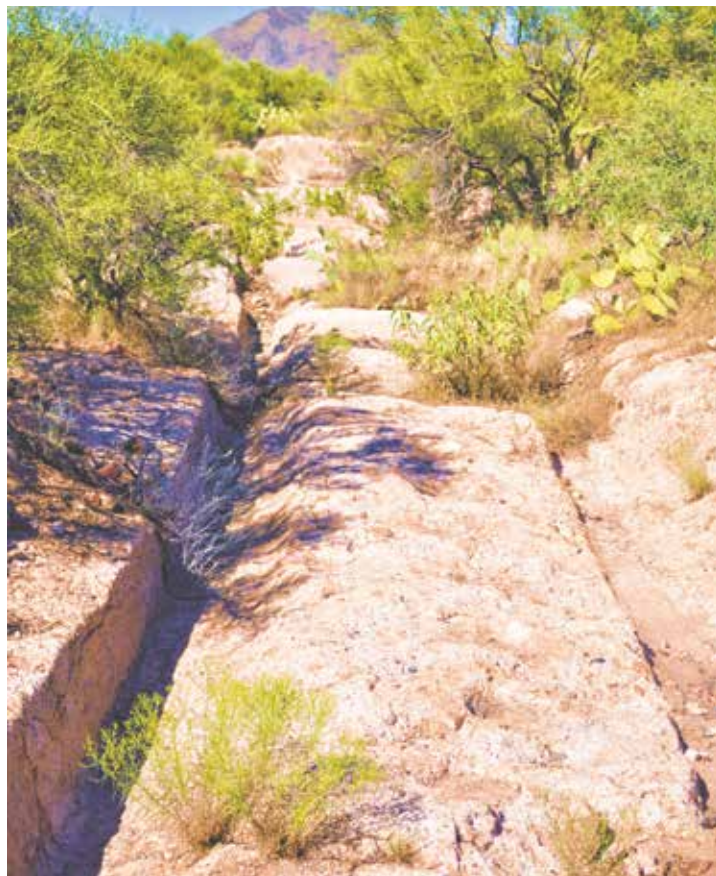
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# Ghost Towns of the Copper Corridor

**A ghost town is defined as a town or city that has been abandoned due to a natural or human made disaster or loss of economic viability or population to sustain a post office. In the western United States there are many mining boom towns that were abandoned after the mines or smelters closed down.**



## **GHOST ROAD**

The ruts in the road are all that remain of a wagon trail leading from Superior to the mining town of Pinal City.





### BEEHIVE OVENS

On a hillside across the Gila River you can see the beehive shaped charcoal kilns. Many people associate them with Cochran and call them the coke ovens but they were there before Cochran was built.



### ABANDONED

You can still see a few foundations of the buildings at the Cochran townsite. There is an old rusted water tank, a slag dump and water pipe laying on the grounds.



### John Hernandez Pinal Nugget

There are a number of ghost towns along the Copper Corridor. Many of them were once promising mining camps whose population left when the ore bodies played out. Some of these ghost towns were in the Oracle area: American Flag 1880 – 1890 & Manlyville 1881 – 1888.

In the Mammoth and Dudleyville areas there was Camp Grant 1875 – 1879, Schultz 1894 - 1902, Tiger 1939 - 1954, Copper Creek 1906 – 1942, Alma 1891 - 1898, Mesaville 1878 – 1888, Sombrero Butte 1919 - 1945.

Along the Gila River and surrounding hills in the Hayden-Winkelman and Kearny areas were a number of mines and the camps that grew around them. These included Troy 1901 - 1910, Cochran 1905 - 1915, Belgravia 1918 – 1930, Riverside 1877 – 1900, Kelvin 1900 – 1956, Christmas 1905 – 1935, Ray post office established in 1899, Sonora 1907 - 1965, and Barcelona. The

town of Ray was built in 1909. Sonora and Barcelona were located in the Ray area but due to the prejudices of the time, were segregated communities. Sonora was mostly Mexican and Mexican-American workers and Barcelona were workers from Spain. All three towns are long gone from where the open pit mine of ASARCO now exists. Relocation of the workers began in 1958 and lasted until 1965.

The ghost towns around the town of Superior, established in 1902 include Queen 1881, Silver King 1877 - 1912, Picket Post 1878 changed to Pinal 1879 - 1891, Magma 1915 – 1928, Reymert 1880 – 1898 and DeNoon 1890 - 1891.

The Globe-Miami mining district included the ghost towns of McMillenville 1877 name changed to McMillen 1878 – 1882, Nugget 1881 – 1884, Copper Hill 1908 – 1933, Pioneer 1882 – 1885, and Stanton 1880 – 1882.



### LEFT TO RUST

A rusted water tank is a ghostly memory of the town of Cochran.



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**SKELETON CREW**

The Mammoth Ore Cart, Skeleton Crew, by Jerry Parra, pays homage to those who have died in the mines.



**GHOSTLY APPEARANCE**

Artist James G. Davis's vision of White Boots, the ghost of San Manuel.

# 'White Boots' Ghost of Magma Mine

**John Hernandez**  
**Pinal Nugget**

**There is a local ghost story that comes out of the San Manuel Magma Copper Mine that has been around since the early days of the mine and actually a lot longer in other mines around the world.**

The ghost has gone by other names but the stories are similar. I have a childhood memory of the story from my father who was a miner most of his life in Jerome, Miami and San Manuel. The memory was of my father talking about a ghost they called "White Boots" that wandered around underground at the mine. It was when I went to work underground at the Magma mine that I heard more about this mythical spirit.

The version I heard was that a miner while working underground had been involved in a bad accident where he was cut in half. The upper half of his body was found but his legs were never recovered. Shortly after this, it was said that a pair of white boots had been seen walking (some said floating) along the rail tracks and mining drifts on all levels of what was then the largest underground mine in the United States. White Boots was said to be

searching for his body.

When I first heard the story, I believed it was story told by older mine workers and supervisors to instill some fear in us to make us work safer and adhere to safety regulations. When you are over 2,000 feet below the surface of the earth, it is a scary place to begin with. Add to that the possibilities of being run over by a train or ore cars, crushed by falling

Continued on page 16

# White Boots

Continued from page 15

rock, blown up by dynamite, falling down a shaft or through a grizzly down a raise, electrocuted, or poisoned by carbon monoxide from underground fires and you can understand the concern for safety.

Underground mines are a dangerous place to work! The San Manuel mine had its share of tragic accidents. According to the Miner's Memorial in Mammoth, 55 men were killed in mining accidents in the St. Anthony, Tiger and San Manuel copper

mines, mill, smelter and refinery. One of these accidents even involved a man being cut in half by three runaway loaded ore cars in 1956, the first year of production for the mine and smelter. There was no shortage of the spirits of dead miners to give rise to tales of ghosts.

Some of the stories I heard about White Boots and other ghosts from men who worked underground and that have been shared on the internet follow:

The internet stories claim that several workers have seen lights from workers in the distance from their work area only to find out later that no one else was working

on their level. One worker reported that someone he had never seen before worked with him in his assigned line for over a half hour. Later he found out no one else was working in that area. He never saw the worker again. A few other miners had this same experience and said that this ghost was a mine worker who had been killed in a cave in. He was buried by so much rock and dirt that they never found the body. Orbs and strange lights have been reported in some of the many underground tunnels (drifts).

Hector Lovemore worked at the mine from 1970-1999. His recollections about

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White Boots were that the miners and bosses seemed to blame old White Boots whenever something went wrong such as equipment failing to operate or breaking down.

Another long time Magma worker said that one time he and another miner went looking for one of the workers on their level. They found him passed out on the ground. When he came to, he told them that he had seen White Boots and had passed out from fear.

Ernest Granillo, a former San Manuel resident, told this story: "In August 1966, I was working for Magma Copper as a chute

tapper waiting for the POTUS to send me Greetings. I was on the graveyard shift and was on a crew under Vick Darlik. About an hour into the shift I was preparing to move to the next grizzly in my line.

I followed all the safety precautions, putting in control boards and placing a board across the grizzly. As I proceeded across the grizzly a rock, large enough to cover the grizzly and about two feet high, crashed out of the draw point, through the control board and onto the grizzly. At that precise moment I felt someone grab me and pull me across the grizzly. But there was no one there but me. However,

whomever or whatever it was that pulled me across, saved my life. Perhaps it was Botas Blancas or one of the other spirits that roamed the mine."

The ghost known as White Boots was known to have haunted the mines of Miami, Superior, San Manuel and Bisbee as well as other mines around the country. I am sure the story of White Boots will continue at other mines now that most of these have been shut down. Maybe he will return to Superior now that Resolution Copper may open up. As long as there is a need for metals, the spirits of the miners will never die.

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# calendar of events

## Spring 2018

We wanted to share a few of the local events with our Pinal Nugget readers.

### PIECES OF FRIENDSHIP

3

March 3-April 8. The Copper Country Quilters of Globe will host their 28th Annual Pieces of Friendship Quilt Show at Cobre Valley Center for the Arts. All Globe/ Miami area quilters are invited to enter their quilts. Entry forms are available for pick up at Julie's Sewing Corner, Hill Street Mall, G-M Chamber of Commerce and The Center for the Arts. [slhquilts@cablone.net](mailto:slhquilts@cablone.net). [globemiamichamber.org](http://globemiamichamber.org)



### PIONEER DAYS

15

March 15-18, annual Pioneer Days in Kearny. Parade on Saturday at 10 a.m. Carnival. Fantastic food. Entertainment throughout the weekend. There will be the usual merchandise vendors with handbags, t-shirts and toys the children love and on Saturday there will be information booths lined up along the Little League area of Pioneer Park. [facebook.com/copperbasin.chamber](https://www.facebook.com/copperbasin.chamber)



### APACHE LEAP MINING FEST

16

March 16-18, Main St., Superior, Annual Apache Leap Mining Festival. Entertainment throughout the event, Chihuahua races, roping competition, food and retail vendors, crafts market, art walk, beer garden, Saturday night street dance and concert, speakers, lots of "hands on" things to do for all ages. Mining competition! Family oriented and ALL FREE except carnival and vendors. [superiorarizonachamber.org](http://superiorarizonachamber.org)





## GLOBE MIAMI HOME TOUR

7

April 7-8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 34th Annual Historic Home and Building Tour, E. Sycamore St. & S. Broad St., Globe, AZ 85501. Enjoy the territorial architecture of Globe as you are driven in style to each stop where a host will regale you with stories of the early days, point out architectural details and give a history of the building owners. Tours leave from the train depot in downtown Globe. [globemiamichamber.org](http://globemiamichamber.org)



## ORACLE ARTIST STUDIO TOUR

7

April 7-8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; More than 40 artists and artisans, working in nearly every medium, are showing and selling their original art in working studios, eclectic galleries and shared venues. The Visitors Center at 1470 W. American Ave., Oracle, provides a convenient first stop for visitors, with displays of works by participating artists, a full self-guiding tour map, and refreshments. <http://oraclestudiotour.com/>



## ORACLE OAKS FEST

21

On Saturday, April 21, Oracle Oaks Festival. The Oracle Community Center, once again, hosts the Oaks Festival. Start the day with breakfast at the Oracle Community Center, then cheer along at the festival parade. The Center's parking lot will be lined with vendors and information booths. You can even head over to the Oracle Library for the semi-annual book sale. [oraclecommunitycenter.org](http://oraclecommunitycenter.org)



## ORACLE SPRING RUN CAR SHOW

21

On Saturday, April 21, Oracle Spring Run Car Show. Sponsored by the Oracle Historical Society, head to Oracle and the Pinal County Building on Justice Dr. where more than 150 classic cars and trucks will take over the parking lot, truly a sight for all vehicle enthusiasts. [oraclehistoricalsociety.org](http://oraclehistoricalsociety.org)





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