

# *Pinal* NUGGET

April 2017  
Volume 10 Number 6

**FREE**

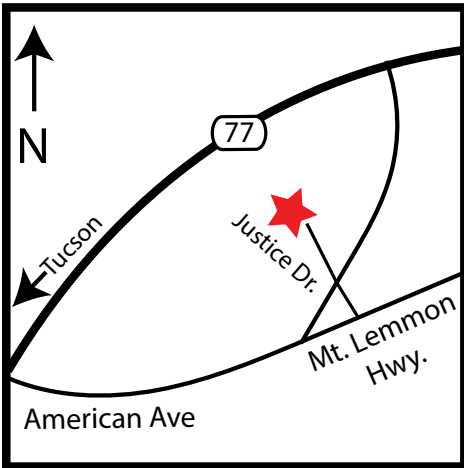
**CALENDAR  
OF  
EVENTS**  
pages 14-15



Photo by John Hernandez

Pinal's wild west  
past is Gorham  
family history,  
pages 4-5

A community publication of [Copperarea.com](http://Copperarea.com)



# Oracle Historical Society's Spring Run Car Show

**The Oracle Historical Society's annual fundraiser, the Spring Run Car Show, will be held Saturday, April 22, 2017. This is the 31st year of the event, which takes place during the Oracle Oaks Festival.**

## NUGGET

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

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The Spring Run is open to all cars, motorcycles and trucks, and participants must pre-register or come to the registration area on the morning of the event. Generous businesses and individuals donate funds to cover Spring Run t-shirt printing and other expenses. The car parade runs through Oracle at 9:30 a.m. and ends at the Pinal County Court House Park where trophies are awarded at 2:30 p.m.

OHS also sponsors a food booth that is open during the entire event, serving green chile, bean or combo

burros, BBQ sandwiches and drinks. All proceeds from the Spring Run and food booth benefit the Oracle Historical Society.

The parade and awards ceremony are free to the public, so plan to come see the display of classic, exotic and new vehicles on April 22. If you would like to enter your vehicle in the car show, entry forms are available at CarQuest in Oracle, Dale's Auto Body in San Manuel, or call 520-896-9609 (leave a message for Margaret). You can also go online to [oraclehistoricalsociety.org](http://oraclehistoricalsociety.org).



### ⬆ ALL LINED UP

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Best Interior, Dee Moore (Oracle) 1957 Chevy Belair



Best Engine, Brent Guyton (Marana) 1965 Ford Mustang

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## AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Pat Gorham went to Washington DC as part of the delegation to christen the USS Arizona. He visited the White House and President Woodrow Wilson.



While working at the prison, Patrick met Territorial and Arizona's first state Governor, G.W. P. Hunt and they became friends.

# Pinal's Wild West Past Is Gorham Family History

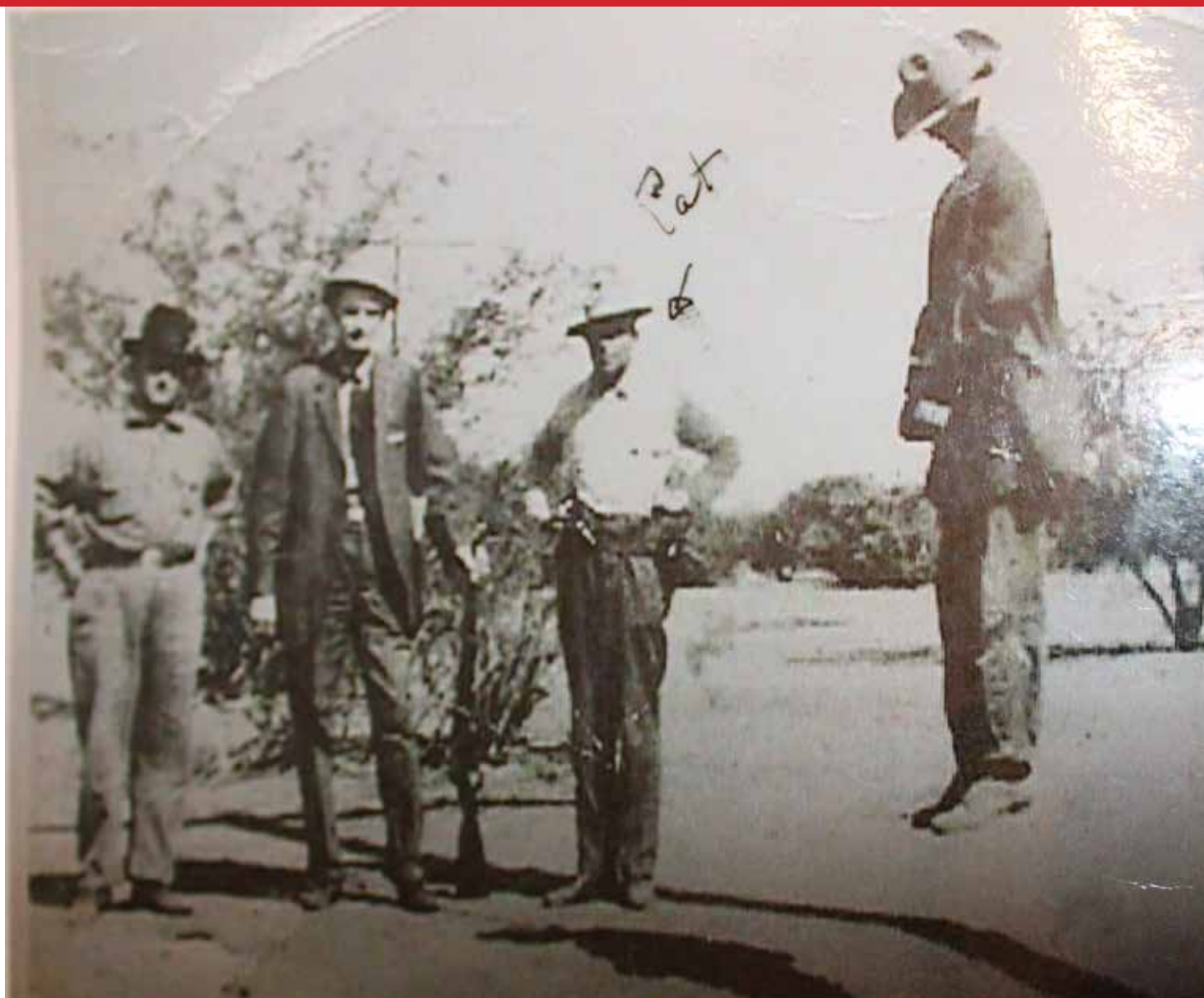
John Hernandez  
Pinal Nugget

**Pinal County's not so distant past can be called "wild and wooly." Gunfights, murders, stagecoach robberies, lynching and all the other typical happenings in Old West movies are in fact part of our county's history. And for one Pinal County family, it's a matter of family lore.**

Patrick Aloysius Gorham was the son of Peter and Anna Gorham, Irish immigrants who settled in the United States around 1864. Patrick was born on January 28, 1875 in Ashley, Pennsylvania. After his father was killed in a coal mining accident, Patrick traveled to Leads, South Dakota where he visited one of his uncles around 1901. The October 28, 1904 issue of the *Wilkes-Barre News* reported that Patrick had spent the last two months visiting family in Ashley. It said Patrick Gorham "returned last evening to the West, where he holds a responsible position in a gold mine at that place" (Leads, South Dakota).

"During Mr. Gorham's stay in Ashley he told many interesting stories of the gold fields."

In South Dakota, he became involved with an Italian girl who he ended up getting pregnant. He was forced to leave under pressure from her family. The woman was sent to California where she gave birth to a son. Many years later, the Gorham children were surprised to meet their brother that they never knew. Patrick headed for Arizona where he would settle in the Bisbee-Douglas area. He worked at a mine in Bisbee and while there met Joe Hardwick, a deputy who would later



**LYNCHING**

Pat Gorham stands next to the body of Star Daley, a man lynched near Florence.

play an important part in an incident in Patrick's life.

In 1910, he went to work at the new Territorial prison in Florence as a guard. Florence prison was built in 1908 to replace the old Yuma Territorial Prison. In August of 1914 Patrick was involved in the pursuit of an escaped convict with W.W. Stovall an engineer at the prison and W.T. Branaman from Florence.

At Rillito they were in the process of searching the train for the escapee when a man armed with a Winchester rifle pointed his weapon at Branaman and threatened him for no apparent reason. After a few seconds when he saw others approaching, the man with the gun left quickly. The men reported the incident to Pima County authorities who caught up with the man who later was referred

to as "the Russian." A deputy shot him in the leg as he ran from them. The Russian ended up bleeding to death as an artery had been struck by the deputy's bullet. Gorham and the men from Florence were called in to testify at the coroner's hearing that the man who threatened Branaman was the same one the Pima County deputy shot and killed. It turned out that the

Continued on page 7

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Sunday, May 7, 2 p.m.  
**Community Concert**  
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**Mariachi Genaro Moreno**



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Sunday, May 21, 3 p.m.  
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**Classic Broadway**

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**SOUTHWEST GAS**

# Pat Gorham

Continued from page 5

Russian had threatened others around Rillito and had robbed a man. The shooting was ruled justified.

While working at the prison, Patrick met Territorial and Arizona's first state Governor, G.W.P. Hunt and they became friends. In June of 1915, Pat was selected by the Governor as one of the delegation to the christening of the U.S.S. Arizona battleship at the Brooklyn, New York Naval Yard. The trip was by train and Governor Hunt was accompanied by his Chief of Staff, Adjutant General, Charles W. Harris, and by Pat Gorham and H.R. Stevens, guards at the Arizona State Prison. Gorham and Stevens were Hunt's bodyguards for the trip.

The Arizona delegation first visited Washington D.C. where they were given a reception at the White House by President Woodrow Wilson. They posed for a photograph with him. In New York, the delegation was headquartered at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel. They spent several weeks back east visiting the sights of New York City. They met inventor Thomas Alva Edison and were treated to a luncheon on his estate. They also visited Sing Sing prison in New York.

On June 19, 1915, the battleship Arizona was christened. There was some controversy before the christening. Arizona was a "dry" state having passed a prohibition law which took effect on January 1, 1915. Instead of using a traditional bottle of champagne, the Arizona delegation had brought a bottle of the first water to flow over the new Roosevelt Dam. Some of the

older naval personnel felt it would be bad luck not to use champagne for the launch. A compromise was made and two bottles were used, one of the Arizona water and one of champagne.

Later in 1915, Patrick was hired as a Deputy Sheriff by Pinal County Sheriff Henry Hall. In Florence, Pat met Mollie Westfall who was working at the post office. They were married in 1917.

On May 6, 1917, Patrick was present at the site of the "lynching" of Star Daley. Patrick had been ordered to the scene to investigate and arrived after the hanging. Daley, whose real name was Vane Ashemore, had been arrested for the murder of James Ray Gibson and the kidnapping and rape of Gibson's wife along the Apache Trail. The Richardsons were on their way to their home in Globe from Tucson when they stopped to camp somewhere between Superior and Mesa. It was there that Daley shot and killed James Richardson. He then, as the newspapers put it, "outraged" Mrs. Richardson during the night. He stole the Richardson's car and fled toward Mesa with Mrs. Richardson. When the car ran out of gas, he left Mrs. Richardson with the vehicle and began walking. He was arrested in Mesa.

Daley was taken to the Maricopa County Jail in Phoenix. The Maricopa County Sheriff heard about a plot by vigilantes to remove Daley from the jail and lynch him. He felt it prudent to have Daley escorted to the state prison in Florence where he would be safe. Two officers took Daley in a car and headed

for Florence. Fifteen minutes later the vigilantes found out and headed after the police officer's vehicle. Friends in

Pinal County were notified and the officers and Daley were stopped at a roadblock

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## ↑ GOV. HUNT

Pat Gorham on left, Governor Hunt in middle, man on the right is unknown. Probably taken at the prison in Florence.



## ↑ SON OF A LAWMAN

Jack Gorham is the son of Pat Gorham. He is pictured with some of Pat's tools of the trade.



**In 1964 my family traveled throughout Holland, France and Spain in a rented VW van. We visited the caves at Altamira and I saw the 18,000-year old paintings.**

## The Art of Dan Blanco

**John Hernandez  
Pinal Nugget**

**Daniel Rafael Blanco was born in Cleveland, Ohio to Victor Blanco, a noted astronomer from Puerto Rico and Cicely Woods, an economist from Illinois. He moved to Tucson as a teenager and would spend summers at the Cerro Tololo Observatory in Chile. In his early 20s, Dan and friends started a business, Sunshine Woodworks, where they made musical instruments and toys.**

Dan passed away on Sept. 19, 2016. During his lifetime, he was an accomplished Opto Mechanical Engineer who was a telescope builder involved with a number of telescopes around the world including the world's highest telescope, Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT). Daniel was the Chief Engineer at the MMT Observatory located on Mt. Hopkins, Arizona in the Santa Rita Mountains.

In 2010, Daniel bought the historic High Jinks Ranch near Oracle. High Jinks is located along the Arizona Trail and many hikers enjoyed Daniels hospitality at the ranch. He was an Honorary Trail Steward for the Arizona Trail. Dan began renovating

and restoring the buildings at High Jinks creating a Bed & Breakfast and the Chicken Coop Art Gallery where some of his art is on display. Dan was a valuable member of the Oracle Dark Skies Committee, with his University of Arizona astronomy connections and dedication to dark skies. The Oracle Dark Skies Committee was instrumental in getting Oracle State Park designated as an International Dark Skies Park. Dan donated a notebook of astronomy related activities for school kids to the Oracle State Park.

Dan was a world traveler throughout his life and an artist. On the High Jinks website, he wrote about his art: "In 1964

my family traveled throughout Holland, France and Spain in a rented VW van. We visited the caves at Altamira and I saw the 18,000-year old paintings – the paint was still glistening wet. Soon after the caves were sealed to preserve these ancient masterpieces." The cave of Altamira is located near Santillana del Mar in Spain. The cave is famous for the pre-historic paintings on its walls.

Dan said he was inspired by this "oldest of all human art." He created reproductions and original art based on the inspiration of the paintings at Altamira using oil on artboard. Dan's paintings will be on display

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## THE ART OF DAN BLANCO

Dan Blanco's artwork was heavily influenced by the primitive art in the cave of Altamira in Spain.



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## Dan Blanco

Continued from page 8

at the Oracle Art Station, 1395 W. American Ave., during the Oracle Artists Studio Art Show. The Oracle Artists Studio Tour is being held on Saturday and

Sunday, April 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To find out more about Dan Blanco's art and his work at the Hi Jinks Ranch visit [www.highjinksranch.net](http://www.highjinksranch.net).



### ↑ HOME

High Jinks Ranch was Dan Blanco's home.



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Sunday, April 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
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View the Oracle Oaks Festival Parade from the Patio on Saturday, April 22  
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# Pat Gorham

Continued from page 7

set up by the Gila River bridge a few miles from the prison. The vigilantes took Daley back near the scene of the crime and hanged him from a telephone pole. A hole was dug and he was buried on the spot. It was the last lynching in Arizona.

There is a story that after Daley's body was taken down and being prepared for burial, that a group of people showed up and wanted to get their photo taken with Daley hanging from the pole. It may have been a newspaper photographer that wanted a photo. They were so insistent that Daley's body was re-hung on the pole while more photographs were taken. There are some photos to back up the

story, one taken of Daley with his hat on and one without.

Some newspaper editorials blamed the lack of the death penalty as the reason for the vigilante hanging. No one was ever prosecuted for the lynching. Politicians called for the reinstatement of the death penalty over the incident. After the Power shootout incident in 1918, with three law enforcement officers being killed, the cry for the death penalty ended with the law being changed.

*Editor's Note: Be sure to read next month's Nugget for the continuing story of Pat Gorham. Special thanks to Jack Gorham for the photos and stories of his father, Pat.*



## LYNCHING

A newspaper clipping of the lynching of Star Daley. Pat Gorham is pictured with the onlookers.

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# calendar of events

## Spring 2017

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

### WINDMILL HIKE

April 15, 10 a.m., Ranger led hike on the Windmill Loop Trail at the Oracle State Park. This four-mile roundtrip hike will include a shuttle to the backcountry trailhead within the park. Explore trails and spring wildflowers in the lower elevation northeastern section of the old Kannally ranch, and visit an old homestead site. A reservation is required. For reservations, please call 520-896-2425. [bit.ly/OSPAZ](http://bit.ly/OSPAZ)

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### CATALINA CONCERT

April 15, 6:30 p.m., Concert at the Catalina State Park. New Mexico's Enchanting Cowboy, Mike Moutoux, will visit the park in Oro Valley and enchant his audience with classic cowboy music. The concerts are held at the main trailhead at Catalina State Park. Guests should bring a chair, food and water. The park is located on State Highway 77 (Oracle Road) at mile marker 81, just nine miles north of Tucson and six miles north of Ina Road. Cost is \$7 per vehicle. [bit.ly/2nBqfgV](http://bit.ly/2nBqfgV)

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### MIAMI BOOMTOWN SPREE

April 21-22, Downtown Miami, Arizona. Annual Miami Boomtown Spree. Enjoy mining skills competition, vendors, games, food booths and entertainment. For more information, call (800) 804-5623 or visit [globemiamichamber.com](http://globemiamichamber.com).

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## ORACLE OAKS FEST

22

On Saturday, April 22, 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

22

On Saturday, April 22, 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)



## AJ FLATIRON PARK OPEN

22

April 22, 5-8:30 p.m., Grand Opening of the Apache Junction Flatiron Community Park, 100 N. Apache Tr., Apache Jct. This free event is open to the public. Come play at the park. One Minute Millionaires will perform from 5-7 p.m. and a movie to be determined by popular vote ([www.ajcity.net/movienight](http://www.ajcity.net/movienight)) will be shown on the 26-foot movie screen. Enjoy lifesize Jenga and other games and a splashpad. [ajchamber.com/events](http://ajchamber.com/events)



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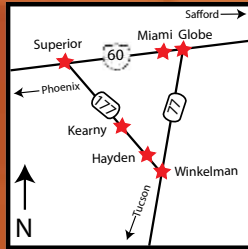
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May 13, 8 a.m., Learn Your Lizards Guided Walk at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum in Superior. This entertaining guided tour around the gardens is not just for kids – our popular Lizard Walks are for all who enjoy Arizona's most common, colorful and charismatic little reptiles. There's no additional fee to attend Lizard walks and other nature tours here, and no pre-registration necessary, just be in our Visitor Center breezeway at start time. See photos and read more <http://bit.ly/BTALizard>



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