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Bowie Alumni Newsletter

Vol. X No. I, March 2010



From the Editor of the Bowie Alumni Newsletter

Susan (Spikes) Bickel



When my cousin Evelyn (Spikes) Lathram sent out a request for a volunteer to become the Editor of the Newsletter, I didn't give it much thought. After all, I only went to school in Bowie for a week, and that was when I was in 3rd grade! Surely this wouldn't qualify me to assume such an auspicious post. But, as things sometimes happen, I found myself becoming more and more excited about the prospect of learning something new and helping to maintain a legacy. So, I decided to sign up!

I am the daughter of George Spikes, Class of 1938. I was born in Chicago when my father was in medical school, and we returned to Bowie shortly after my birth so that my father could work during the summer at Boll's grocery store. We lived with my grandparents, A.R. and Nellie Spikes. This was just the first of many trips to Bowie. And while I don't remember them at such a young age, I was well aware that there was a special place called Bowie, Arizona. My sisters and I even called our grandparents Grandmother and Granddad Bowie.

When I was seven years old, my parents decided to move to Douglas, AZ. On the way there, we stopped in Bowie for a week. I will never forget the excitement as I learned that this was my Grandmother's birthday! We had birthday cake which she couldn't eat (due to something called *diabetes*, she said), but we children loved sharing the day with her. Since the next day was a school day, I joined my cousin Evelyn and went off to school. I remember being so impressed that paper and pencils were free and available to all students. I also remember feeling very handicapped as I realized that I had not yet learned my multiplication tables through the 12s. To this day, I still have to work out these figures longhand.

The week was soon over and my family moved to Douglas where I lived for the next 16 years until I married and moved away. During those years I spent some time in Bowie every summer, "helping" herd the cows for my Uncle Jack. After our "work", we would head toward the swimming pool for fun. During the school year, our family would drive to Bowie on Sundays where we would enjoy dinner with my cousins and grandparents. Frequently we would picnic at the picnic grounds. At the time, I thought that no one else but my family knew where this wonderful place was. I was surprised to learn years later that our picnic spot was always open to the public!

Last year, my husband and I returned to Douglas to live, after an absence of 37 years. One of the first things I did was take my father on a trip back to Bowie. We reminisced and laughed at our recollections.

It feels good to be home again.

Larry has asked that I include the following in this edition of the Newsletter.

Due to continued health problems and family obligations, I find that I can no longer write the Bowie Alumni newsletter. It has been an honor to serve as the Editor.

Larry Lagle, Class of 1958.

Larry, all of us wish you the very best. We appreciate the time and effort you have given to the Bowie School Alumni Group.

Class of 1967



Vic Boll, our Math teacher, sent this picture to Evelyn Lathram. He said it was taken at Barfoot Lookout in the Chiricahua Mountains when we were freshman, so that would be the 1962-1963 school year.

Back row: George Dimas, Sue Ann (Hall) Senter, Shirley Closson, Helen (Chapa) Barry, Nancy (Gardner) Coleman, Nancy (Nitzsche) McCarty

Front row: Karen (Barksdale) Burreson, Armando Fimbres, Glen Jacobs, ?Donny Malone?, Evelyn (Spikes) Lathram, Sylvia (Newell) Hudgins, Burletta LaRue.

Minutes of the Bowie School Reunion Group Fall luncheon held at Hometown Buffett in Tucson, November 14, 2009.

There were 29 alumni and guests at the luncheon. Attendees: Gabino (Bobby) Montana, and his son David Montana, Vic Boll, his son Craig Boll, both from Idaho, and daughter Shannon (Boll) Gauss from New Mexico, Sam and Pat (Doyle) McKee, Dutch and Betty Grusendorf, Lorenzo and Julia Abalos and their daughter, Maria Abalos, Gail (Royster) Sindel, Bobbie (Scott Welker) and Ernie Blandin, Nancy-Jean Welker, Patrick and Kezia O'Donnell, Gary Royster, Bill and Wilma Allen, and their daughter Wanda Yearout, Ollie B. Chapman, Willadene (Blanton) Eckley, Delbert and Jeanne Fousel, Jacqueline (Lenzner) Malone, Larren Yelton, and Evelyn (Spikes) Lathram.

Everyone said how much they enjoyed the Pride Rally held in Bowie in September with Admiral Thad Allen and U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords. It put Bowie forward in a very good light, and the Willcox Range News had a very nice article. Unfortunately, the video of the event did not make it to the luncheon. It is hoped that it will be made available to the group at a later date.

The group heard updates on several projects at the Bowie Schools from Superintendent Pat O'Donnell. The school planted 13 trees in the "memorial forest" in front of the high school during their Veteran's Day program, and the plan is for the AR Spikes plaque to be mounted in a brick wall to the left of the main walkway with the names for whom the trees were planted on the backside. Mr. O'Donnell will be creating a form for future subscriptions for memorial trees.

Other school news: The solar panel went online in July and is generating enough electricity to power the school. Enrollment is up to 91 students, pre-K through 12, and attendance is 98%. The school has an active FFA and Culinary Arts program.

Mr. O'Donnell spoke about the athletic program which is a combined program with San Simon, the Cougars. The JV football team had 5 games this year and the new head coach was very pleased with their progress, even though they didn't win.

The Cougar Girls Volleyball team went to State as a third seed, and unfortunately lost their first game to a very tough opponent. Their coach, J.J. Zerkle, was excited that the alumni were interested in their program.

The report of the Bowie Power Plant from Nancy-Jean Welker is that SouthWestern Power Group is fully behind the project and the construction permits were extended for another 5 years by the Cochise Board of Supervisors.

Evelyn Lathram reminded everyone that with a new calendar year coming up, membership fees are due. Please send your check or money order for \$10.00 made out to "Bowie School Alumni Group" to her at 1920 W. Mountain Laurel Drive, Oro Valley 85737. Your membership expiration date for the newsletter is printed on the address page of the newsletter.

Evelyn noted that there were forms at the sign in-table at the luncheon for anyone wanting to make a donation to the Bowie Schools for an Arizona State Tax Credit. These donations make a big difference to a small school. The credit is good for anyone paying Arizona state taxes; otherwise a donation is a charitable deduction.

Nancy-Jean Welker, president of the Bowie Chamber of Commerce, invited the attendees to become members of the Chamber. The membership fee for individuals is \$10.00 and goes toward improving the economic base of the town. The website, www.bowiechamber.com, has a link to the application form which can be printed out and mailed in.

Under new business, there was a vote to accept the "Operating Rules" which passed. Two officer positions were voted on and approved: Evelyn Lathram as president and Larren Yelton as secretary. Florina (Tapia) Christiernsson continues to serve as treasurer.

"Images of America: Bowie"

Kathy Klump, president of the Sulpher Springs Valley Historical Society (SSVHS), and historian Peta-Anne Tenney have finished the Willcox book in the "Images of America" series. It is available now in bookstores, and through Arcadia Publishing.

Kathy is ready to start on the Bowie book, and she needs LOTS of pictures of Bowie from the earliest days thru the 1960s or 1970s. Pictures of people, places, events, buildings are needed with the dates, and information about the pictures. She is interested in scrapbooks, family albums, school yearbooks, newspaper clippings, etc.; anything related to Bowie history.

Please tell your friends and family to collect any pictures of Bowie and send them to Kathy. Her contact information is: SSVHS, Chiricahua Regional Museum & Research Center, 127 E. Maley, Willcox, AZ 85643, phone (520) 384-3971 or (520) 384-2291, email ssvhs@ssvecnet.com.

Kathy will scan the original pictures and return them to you. She has a photo release form needed to give her permission to use the pictures (with credit) for one time.

She wants to collect pictures until the end of March, 2010, and then will begin organizing them and putting the book together.

To see other books in the "Images of America" series, visit Arcadia Publishing, <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/>. A search by keyword "Arizona" listed 85 titles. Look inside a book, using the "Google Preview" button.

In Memory of:

Evelyn read a note from Jean Olander. Her husband Phil (class of 1946) would love to be able to attend the Bowie functions but it's not possible. The group signed a card that will be sent to them. Evelyn read an email from Lucy Ansley's daughter. Lucy, Ken Ansley's widow, has moved to a retirement home and her new address is 5401 W. Daily Street, #1036, Glendale, AZ 85306. Lucy will be 80 years old in November and the group signed a card for her.

Members that we have lost recently are: Larry Areingdale (class of 1950), a proud alumni and supporter of Bowie, David Diaz (class of 1968) employed by the Bowie School District Maintenance Dept. for 20 years, and Coach Johnny Valenzuela who coached in Bowie 1969-1970.

The treasurer's report:

Balances in the Funds are: Membership Fund (newsletters and mailings) \$1,305.36, Reunion Fund \$2,900.26, Walls of Merit / Eva Hall Fund \$67.89, Flower Fund \$725.45, General Fund \$93.68, AR Spikes plaque Fund \$275.00, for a total of \$5,367.64 (split between checking \$4,530.11 and savings \$837.53). The group has paid almost \$1000.00 in service fees over the last 12 years, and Evelyn and Florina are investigating moving the account to another bank. The group voted to give the school \$350.00 from the reunion fund to help cover the costs of the Pride Rally.

The next luncheon will be held in March, 2010, at the same location, Hometown Buffet in Tucson.
Submitted By: Evelyn (Spikes) Lathram

**You and your guests are invited to a
Bowie School Alumni Luncheon at the Hometown Buffet
5101 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ (520-888-1060).
Saturday, March 20, 2010, 11:30 AM**

(The Hometown Buffet is just north of River Road on the west side of Oracle Road.)

Please RSVP as soon as possible to Evelyn Lathram, 520-219-7930. The all-inclusive price is still **\$9.75** for the buffet, tax, tip and the use of the meeting room. The buffet includes entrees, salads, desserts and drinks. Please bring cash or checks as we will have to collect during the luncheon and pay for the group at the end of the meeting. You will NOT have to pay at the cashier, we will collect the **\$9.75 per person** during the meeting.

Those we will miss:

Our condolences to those who have lost family and friends.

William "Bill" White

Published: Monday, December 7, 2009 9:58 AM CST

1942-2009

William "Bill" White, of Willcox went to be with his heavenly father on Dec. 3, 2009 at the age of 67. Bill was born at his grandparent's home in Virden, N.M. on Dec. 2, 1942 to Eulas and Winifred Payne White.

Bill moved many times when he was young because his father worked for the railroad, and after switching high schools several times in the late 1950s, Bill and his family landed in Bowie where he graduated from high school. After graduating, Bill worked briefly delivering gas then at the lumber mill at Show Low, but found his main life work in 1963 when he was hired at SSVEC, where he continued to work for 36 years, retiring as Maintenance/Construction supervisor. While he loved retirement, he was not that excited about it and went back to work for Westlawn Chapel where he was a dedicated and loyal staff member until he was hospitalized this year.

Bill was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Willcox Ward # 1, and held many positions in the church. He loved camping, family vacations, restoring antique vehicles and working with the youth in the community as a

coach from soccer to Little League to Bobby Sox to Little Dribblers Basketball. On July 3, 1965 at the LDS church in Animas, N.M. he married Sally Dixon, they were sealed for time and all eternity on March 1, 1980.

Bill is survived by his wife Sally of Willcox, his mother Winifred of St. David and his children Lynne (Keith) Anderson of Tijeras, N.M., Beth Spalsbury (Charlie Hill) of Douglas, Bili Dee White of Tucson, Adam of Tucson, Joshua of Avondale and Kerri White of New York City; and 4 grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Michael of Benson and a sister Wanda (Charles) Meyer of Pomerene and a very special cousin Charles (Gerry) Bentley of Glendale, along with numerous aunts, uncles, niece, nephews and cousins. Preceding him in death was his father Eulas.

Contributions may be made in Bill's name to the Charles Wm Leighton Jr. Hospice, P.O. Box 115, Willcox, AZ 85644.

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Valenzuela, Johnny

September 16, 1946 to October 27, 2009.

Johnny was born and raised in Gilbert, Arizona where Johnny graduated from Gilbert High School. He was a three sport letterman in football, basketball and baseball.

After high school graduation, Johnny continued his education and athletic baseball career, attending Mesa Community College and Northern Arizona University where he graduated

in 1969 with his Bachelors of Science Degree in Education.

Johnny began his very successful and storied 40 year teaching (Social Studies and Physical Education) and coaching (Football, Basketball, Baseball) career in Bowie Arizona, (1969-1970). He also taught in Duncan (1970-1975) Kearney (1976-1986) Cottonwood(1986-1987) and Bullhead City (1987-1998) where he was also the Athletic Director at Mohave High School. Johnny finished his career in Fernley, Nevada at Fernley High School from (1999-present).

Johnny is survived by: wife Linda of 40 years, Fernley, Nevada. One daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Tony Corrales also of Fernley, Nevada, and one son, Jaysal Valenzuela of Reno, Nevada. Johnny had three grand-children. Johnny is survived by: sister, Patsy Hargis, sister and brother-in-law. Barbara and Ron Norton, brother and sister-in-law, Bobby and Mary Valenzuela, sister and brother-in-law, Loretta and Glen Fuller, and brother and sister-in-law, Richie and JoAnn Valenzuela. Johnny also was survived by 3 Aunts and Uncles, 10 nieces and nephews and numerous great nieces and nephews.

Memorial services were held in the gymnasium at Fernley High School, Fernley, Nevada, on Friday, October 30, 2009, beginning at 5:00 pm.

Pastor Edward L. Matchette

Published: Sunday, September 20, 2009 8:43 PM CDT

1929-2009

Pastor Edward L. Matchette, of Bowie Arizona, born 7-1-29, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009 at Odyssey Hospice in Tucson, Ariz.

He is survived by his wife Janie, eight children and spouses, 13 grandchildren and spouses, nine and half great-grandchildren, four brothers and spouses, many nieces, nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his first wife Mary; father and mother, Warren and Josephine Matchette; grandson Paul Edward Charles; and brother Jim.

Edward belonged to His Majesty's Army, the Lord Jesus Christ, faithfully serving for 32 years in Southern Arizona with the American Missionary Fellowship. He was Pastor of Wayside Chapel in Gateway, Colo. for five years and at the time of his death was Pastor of Bowie Baptist Church in Bowie Ariz., where he has been serving faithfully for the last five years and also served as Chaplain of Bowie Fire Dept. during the last two years.

Graveside services were held Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009 at South Lawn Cemetery in Tucson. Arrangements were entrusted to Adair Funeral Homes, Avalon Chapel of Tucson, Ariz. A Celebration Of Pastor Ed's life was held at Bowie Baptist Church, Bowie, Ariz. with a luncheon following, on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 10 a.m. Pastor Tim Fiorello was in charge of the day's service.

David Michael Diaz

Published: Wednesday, September 9, 2009 2:46 PM CDT

1949-2009

David Michael Diaz, 60, passed away Sept 2, 2009 in Tucson, AZ. David was born in Casa Grande, Ariz. on July 13, 1949 and resided in Bowie, Ariz.

Our beloved brother, and son, was employed by the Bowie School District Maintenance Dept. for 20 years. David also coached high school softball and Jr. High basketball. He drove a bus for special events and school transportation. David was a friend to all he met and was also a father figure and mentor to his 35 nieces and nephews and the hundreds of children he worked with through the school system community. When David wasn't working with the kids, he enjoyed golfing, watching movies and being with his friends and family.

David is survived by his mother, Lydia "Lily" Diaz; brothers Alcario, Deo, Charlie and Jaime and sisters; Delfina "Bambi" Diaz, Marina Tapia and Virginia "Virgie" Mefford. David was preceded in death by his father Domingo Diaz,

Sr. and a brother Domingo "Tito" Diaz, Jr.

Visitation and Rosary was Saturday, Sept. 5, at Westlawn Chapel. A Memorial Mass was held on Monday, Sept. 7, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Bowie. Interment of cremains was at Desert Rest Cemetery.

Frank A. Brdecko, Jr.

Published: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 1:27 PM CST
1931-2010

Frank A. Brdecko, Jr. of Bowie died at home on Feb. 9, 2010 at the age of 78. He was born in Deming, N.M. on July 10, 1931 to Frank Antone and Vera Culak Brdecko.

Frank served in the U.S. Air Force from 1951 to 1955 during the Korean Conflict. He moved to Bowie in 1958, and was retired from the State of Arizona, Agricultural Division at the Port of Entry. He also was a farmer. Frank was a member of the Bowie Lions Club and was a loving husband and father.

He is survived by his daughters, Kathy (Tim) Eyrich of Alliance, Neb., Debra (Jack) Garrett of Yukon, Okla., and Angela Ordonez of Bowie; and his sons Frank Brdecko III of Yukon, Okla., and James Brdecko of Bowie, along with 17 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. His sister Virgie Gilbert of Indiana and a brother Tommy Brdecko of Deming, N.M. also survive him. Preceding him in death was wife Rena Carol in 2008, his parents, a son Tony Wayne, his brothers Bobby and Tony, and a sister Anna Mae.

Graveside Services were at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at Desert Rest Cemetery in Bowie. Contributions may be made in Frank's name to the Charles Wm Leighton Jr. Hospice, P.O. Box 115, Willcox, AZ 85644.

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Bowie Area News

Bowie 4th events

By Nicky L. Day/Bowie

Published: Wednesday, July 29, 2009 1:24 PM CDT

To begin we all want to thank our troops. Old and new, near and abroad, for their tremendous sacrifices past and present on this, our Country's 233rd birthday.

Our 4th of July bash in Bowie was a great success! The support from our community and surrounding areas was wonderful. Throughout the day we held many events. The parade procession started the day, which began with a flag raising ceremony, led by one of our own, Sargent Thomas Mefford. The pool events, which included many games and prizes for the kids, bake/food sale, dinner with jam session and karaoke, dance with D.J., bingo was held and we had many prize winners. The final blackout prize was a \$20 Wal-Mart card and Hawaiian summer fun set, won by Dianna Haun. The raffle drawing was held during the dance. We had 42 winners in all, with the 32" LCD HD T.V. going to Delia Guzman (Tellez).

We would like to thank everyone for all the effort that went into this event to make it such a success. I would especially like to thank our new school superintendent Patrick O'Donnell and family, Nancy Welker, Bowie Chamber of Commerce and it's members, Southwestern Power Group/Bowie Power Station, Cindy Heffner and family, Sonia and William Burruel, Pistachio Corp. of Arizona, Jimmy and Kathy Cook, Mark and Jacque Cook, Ft. Bowie Vineyards, Westlawn Mortuary, Bowie Insurance Agency, Mr. Gary Schaefer, Sargent Thomas Mefford and wife, Virgie Mefford and family, JJ Zerkle, Angel Rivas, Bill Hoy, Florina Christiernsson, Phil and Marina Tapia, Across the Street Store, Klump Ranches, John Klump and family, the entire Jackson/Clark family, Rural Accent Community Center, Bruce Austin, Mountain View R.V. Park, Bowie Fire Dept., the entire Sanchez family, and many others too numerous to mention, who put their hearts into making the day a tremendous success.

Bowie Gas Station Burns in Possible Arson

By Carol Broeder/Arizona Range News

Published: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 3:51 PM CDT

A suspected arson fire completely gutted an old Bowie gas station in the small hours of Sunday morning.

The Bowie Fire Department responded at about 3:10 a.m. on Sunday, July 5, after Bowie Fire Chief Rayleen Bright saw the fire out the window of her home and alerted firefighters.

According to one witness, Bowie residents who called 9-1-1 were unable to get a response.

Asked if she was aware of the situation, Bright said she did not know, but that "normally, 9-1-1 would have toned us right out."

"I had already called out all my people, and it toned out as I was walking out my house door," she told the Range News.

However, spokeswoman Carol Capas, with the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, said Wednesday that the log shows 17 calls about the fire between 3:10 a.m. and 3:26 a.m. that day with no other calls detected, indicating the 9-1-1 system was operational at the time.

Contacted Tuesday morning, Bright said, "We just had everything checked out. It is not my line. They (Canyon State) were here yesterday and are also checking today," she told the Range News. "My phone lines are fine."

By the time Bowie Fire Department had arrived on scene, the old "Mefford Gas Station" was fully engulfed, Bright said.

A motor home that had been parked under the structure was also engulfed, said Capas, adding that surrounding brush had been ignited which then caught other vehicles and pieces of equipment on fire.

Bright told the Range News that she suspected it was arson. Bright told deputies that she had found the entrance door had been kicked in, said Capas. She added that the fire remains under investigation.

It had once been a gas station and convenience store, as well as the Greyhound Bus Station, said Bright, adding that the building is now "allegedly" owned by LaRue's Consolidated.

"We were still fighting it at 10:40 (a.m.) the next morning," she told the Range News.

Willcox Rural Fire Department assisted for "a couple of hours," bringing with them a brush truck and a tender truck. Bowie Fire had responded with its new Engine One, tender, and brush trucks.

Bright called the fire "very toxic" and "a danger," since the building was "piled full of junk," including oil, gasoline, and acids. For that reason, Bright did not send personnel into the building.

One firefighter was injured on scene from a fall, but was not hospitalized, she said.

Capas told the Range News that the fire was not reported to deputies as toxic, which would require a response from the Cochise County Haz Mat team.

Sheriff's deputies and firefighters were called back to the scene later at about 11 p.m., after "several hot spots from the earlier fire" reignited and set a nearby vehicle on fire, Capas said. (Editor's note: Managing Editor Ainslee S. Wittig contributed to this story.)

Bowie Power Plant Gets More Time for Construction

By Shar Porier/wick communications

Published: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 12:12 PM CST

BISBEE - With a unanimous vote, the county board of supervisors approved a second five-year extension to Southwest Power Group that plans to construct a natural gas fired electrical generation plant in Bowie. In 2002, Southwest received approval for rezoning to heavy industry of 260 acres outside of Bowie to construct the plant.

At that time, the supervisors added a condition

to the rezoning that required substantial progress on the project by the end of 2007 or the zoning would revert back to RU-4 (a single family residence on a minimum lot size of four acres). When that did not occur, Southwest asked for a second extension with a deadline of 2010. Though some ground work has been done, no construction has begun.

Southwest general manager David Getts explained to the supervisors that the extension to 2015 was needed due to the bad economy and lack of customers to buy the power that would be generated.

"We have gone through a period of economic ups and downs over the past few years. Potential customers don't need electricity now, but they say there will be a need in 2014 or 2015," said Getts. "Though we thought we'd be up and running in 2011, the economic crisis has created consequences in the investors market."

A few Bowie residents concerned that environmentalists' objections would sway the supervisors asked for support of the extension.

Bowie resident Ernie Blandin, speaking on behalf of the Bowie Fire District and the school, asked for support to help offset state budget cuts that are deeply affecting the residents and schoolchildren.

Bowie school Superintendent Patrick O'Donnell sent a letter and stated, "Small towns like Bowie suffer in times like these of lost revenues. Don't give up on us."

O'Donnell explained that Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative was able to meet needs now, but believes the need for more power will increase by 30 percent over the next five to seven years.

Nancy Jean Welker said, "Bowie is a poverty area. Ninety-five percent of the students receive free lunches. The power plant will pay taxes that will help our community."

But they needn't have worried. Supervisors Ann English and Richard Searle (Pat Call was ill)

both were supportive of the plant in the economically depressed small town.

Searle said, "This is my district, and I fully support it. It's a great asset to the community of Bowie. I want to send a strong indication of support by Cochise County."

English said there was no reason to worry about the plant harming the environment. "That is taken care of by the state agencies and requirements by law," said English.

"Anyone who reads knows that people are using less power, but that doesn't mean the need for power is going away. We have this area set aside in the county for this plant. It will serve a need that we will have in the future."

She questioned the need for a condition placed on SWPG that "encourages" the implementation of dry cooling rather than using precious groundwater. "The word 'encourage' serves no purpose," she added.

Dry cooling does use more electricity. So there is a tradeoff - save water or use more electricity. In the end, the condition was left as is.

The supervisors also reasoned that since the Arizona Corporation Commission also had to approve a five-year extension, nothing could move forward unless that occurs.

However, Getts pointed out that the ACC looks at the government support the project has on the local community and government. So, the extension that was approved by the county could help push the matter through at the ACC level.

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Board Sells Parcels of Land, OKs Grant Funding Projects

By Shar Porier/Herald/Review

Published: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 4:04 PM CDT

Published/Last Modified on Wednesday, Apr 29, 2009 - 02:16:30 am MST

BISBEE - During Tuesday's Cochise County Board of Supervisors meeting:

The Bowie Fire District will get \$80,000 for a brush fire and rescue truck. Emergency personnel are often called to accidents on Interstate 10 and need the vehicle.

Firm Seeks Approval of Two Solar Power Plants in County

By Shar Porier/Wick Communications
Published: Wednesday, December 9, 2009 4:58 PM CST

BISBEE - Two special use permits have been requested to construct two 200-megawatt solar power plants at two different sites in the northeastern part of the county and will be discussed at the Cochise County Planning and Zoning Commission meeting Wednesday.

One site is off of Kansas Settlement Road on East Baker Road and East Kimzey Road on 1,600 acres. It would be known as the Oxbow solar plant. The other site would be on 1,120 acres southeast of Bowie off South Apache Pass Road and would be called the Bowie solar power plant.

Both rural agricultural sites would be developed by Sustainability Development LLC with Kim Kristoff as the agent.

Each "concentrating solar power project" would use the sun's heat to provide thermal energy to power a connected turbine or engine to produce electricity with SunCatcher technology. SunCatchers incorporate a 25-kilowatt electrical solar dish that consists of a radial solar concentrator dish structure that supports curved mirrors designed to track the sun and concentrate its light onto a power conversion unit. Waste heat is transferred to the ambient air via a radiator system similar to those used in automobiles. This conversion process does not use water. In fact, the water used on site would be needed to clean the 66,800 mirrors at each site, according to data provided.

Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative's David Bane talked with Kristoff about purchasing the power from the plants, but suggested he go to the Southwestern Transmission Cooperative. Sulphur Springs

Valley Electric is not set up to take on additional power and would have to perform upgrades to substations to transfer the electricity to Southwestern Transmission Cooperative. Bane also said in a letter to the county that Southwestern Transmission Cooperative may also have to upgrade equipment, and those costs would be passed on to Sustainability Development LLC.

"These additional costs typically change the economics of the project to a point where they are not viable, but in talking with Kristoff, these system upgrades were considered in his model," Bane stated.

County Planner Mike Turisk received one letter in favor of the Oxbow power plant and one letter in support of both. He also received four letters of opposition to the Oxbow plant. He recommends the commissioners approve the projects.

If the commissioners approve the requests, construction would begin next year with a completion date of 2012 or 2013. For security reasons, small residences may be built at the sites.

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"Images of America: Willcox" available Rex Allen Days



Kathy Klump and Peta-Anne Tenney produced Images of America: Willcox, through Arcadia Publishing. The book, with 210 photographs, mostly from 1880-1953, is now available. (Ainslee S. Wittig/ARN)

By Ainslee S. Wittig/Arizona Range News
Published: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 12:14
PM CDT

The just released "Images of America: Willcox," combines selected photographs from 1880 to the early 1950s depicting the cattle town's rich western history, including "true tales of Apache Indians, train robberies and shootings."

The book was compiled by Kathy Klump and Peta-Anne Tenney, both of Willcox. Klump is president of the Sulphur Springs Valley Historical Society and research librarian at the Chiricahua Regional Museum and Research Center, and Tenney is an artist and photographer. The pair has spent the last year gathering and scanning photos and writing captions based on extensive research.

The Images of America series, published by Arcadia Publishing, preserves the local heritage of neighborhoods, towns and cities across the country using archival photographs that tell distinctive stories from the past. The photographic books preserve and make history available to everyone.

The 128-page book with 210 photographs will be available by the start of Rex Allen Days for \$21.99 (plus \$3.50 shipping if necessary) at either the Friendly Book Store, 165 N. Haskell Ave., or the Chiricahua Regional Museum and Research Center, at 127 E. Maley in Willcox. Or the book may be purchased from Barnes and Noble or Borders in Tucson or at www.arcadiapublishing.com on Oct. 5 or after.

Each photograph was limited to a 70-word caption, Klump said, so there were limits on how much could be said for each photo - but that keeps it interesting.

"There was just so much history, so many stories, we limited it mostly to the town of Willcox, with a bit of the ranching and farming in the area, because that was the reason for the town," Tenney said.

Photographs span from 1880 (birth of Willcox) to about 1953, the first or second Rex Allen

Days, "because Rex Allen is a big part of our heritage," they added.

"The 1920s, '30s and '40s were really fun," Tenney and Klump agreed.

They also added a chapter about Willcox now, with current pictures, "to encourage people to come and visit Willcox," Klump said. Klump said, "The book will be a lot of fun - even for those who are not from Willcox. It's a completely different style of history than Willcox's official history, 'Southwestern Town.'" (See full biographies online www.willcoxrangeneews.com)

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Updates

Albert R. and Nellie D. Spikes Fund update (by Evelyn Spikes Lathram)

The Fund is administered through the Arizona Community Foundation, more specifically the regional affiliate, the Cochise Community Foundation. The Fund was established in 2008 to support the Bowie Schools and its children.

The grant history is:

- December 2008; to Bowie Unified School District #14, \$1500.00 to fully fund a proposal to put staff through advanced staff professional development
- July 2009; to Bowie Unified School District #14, \$1459.00 to help fund a proposal to put staff through advanced staff professional development

A gift was made to the fund in 2009 by Mr. and Mrs. David Leedom in Haughton LA. Mrs. Leedom (Linda) is the daughter of Vernon Reeves, a teacher and coach in Bowie, and an honoree on the Wall of Honor.

The Bowie Book Project

When did your family come to Bowie?

What did they do, where did they work?

How many generations of children went to the Bowie schools?

Do you have pictures of your family, or events in Bowie, or buildings?

Do you have school year books or newspaper clippings?

Kathy Klump, President of the Sulphur Springs Valley Historical Society, is working on the **Bowie** book, in the "Images of America" series, and she needs LOTS of pictures of Bowie from the earliest days (1880s) thru the 1960s or 1970s.

Pictures of people, places, events, buildings are needed with the dates, and information about the pictures.

She is interested in scrapbooks, family albums, school yearbooks, newspaper clippings, etc.; anything related to Bowie history.

The book will only be as good as the pictures and information you can send Kathy. Please help her make the Bowie book a complete story of the town. Ask your friends and family to collect any pictures of Bowie and send them to Kathy. Her address is:

**Sulphur Springs Valley Historical Society
Chiricahua Regional Museum &
Research Center
127 E. Maley
Willcox, AZ 85643**

Kathy will scan the original pictures and return them to you.

Or, you can email her scanned copies of your pictures, clippings, yearbooks, with the information relating to the pictures.

You can contact Kathy (phone 520-384-3971 or 520-384-2291; email ssvhs@ssvecnet.com) with any questions you may have about the Bowie book project.

To see other books in the "Images of America" series, visit Arcadia Publishing, <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/>. A search by keyword "Arizona" listed over 80 titles, including the "Willcox" book published last year. You can look inside a book, using the "Google Preview" button.

Bowie School News

BOWIE HONORS VETERANS: Bowie Unified School District recognized our local veterans on Nov. 11, Veteran's Day. School was not in session so the students took that morning to pay special tribute to the armed services of our nation. Some of the activities and events included placing flags, balloons and flowers on Veteran's graves at Bowie Cemetery. A parade followed from the cemetery to the Bowie School Auditorium where Veterans were honored. After a hamburger cookout at noon, trees were planted on the school grounds in honor of the Veterans.

SSVEC to Send Local Students on the 2010 Washington Youth Tour--Bowie Student Is Runner-Up



Runners-up won \$100 each and have the opportunity to go on the tour at their own expense. From left, back row: Nicole Fierro, Levi Webster, Andrew Nolan and Ariel Rieffer; and front: Lauren Chon and **Lyrissa Newman**. (Photo courtesy/Wayne Crane/SSVEC)

By Wayne Crane/SSVEC

Published: Wednesday, December 2, 2009 12:14 PM CST

Six high school juniors will be touring the nation's capital for one week this summer as winners of Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative's (SSVEC's) 30th annual Washington Youth Tour competition. The students were recognized on Tuesday, Nov. 17 following a dinner honoring them and their parents at the Cochise College Benson Center.

The students who earned all-expense-paid trips next June to Washington, D.C. are Kylee Brubaker, Heidy Kartchner and Rachael Larson from St. David High School, Tyson Estelle from Valley Union High School, Julia Prieto from Buena High School, and Forrest Swift from Benson High School.

At the awards presentation SSVEC's Washington Youth Tour program coordinator Marcus Harston explained that all 11th grade students in SSVEC's service territory are eligible for the competition.

"SSVEC personnel visited the nine high schools served by the cooperative and explained the program and left study materials for a preliminary test," said Harston. "In all, more than 700 students took the preliminary test. Those who scored highest on this test at each high school moved to the next level of competition-an essay. This year's essay topic asked students to develop a marketing campaign on renewable energy and "Going Green." The twelve students whose essays scored highest were invited to the final stage of competition this afternoon. The students took a second test covering more complex materials about SSVEC, cooperatives, and energy, and they were interviewed by a panel of four judges."

The six students who advanced to the final competition but did not win the trip, earned \$100 each for their efforts and the opportunity to attend the upcoming tour at their own expense. These students are Lauren Chon and Ariel Rieffer from Buena High School, Nicole Fierro and **Lyrissa Newman from Bowie High School**, and Andrew Nolan and Levi Webster from Willcox High School.

Students will tour Washington, D.C., June 10-17, 2010.

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Make Learning Life-Long

Published: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 12:14 PM CDT

U.S. Rep. Giffords, Adm. Thad Allen encourage Bowie students at rally

By Carol Broeder & Ainslee S. Wittig/Arizona range news

Adm. Thad W. Allen and U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Tucson, were in Bowie Friday celebrating Bowie schools' successes while encouraging students to persevere.

Allen, the commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard and the head of the Drug Interdiction Committee, is a Tucson native whose roots run deep in Cochise County.

"I don't know if this is a Bowie pride rally or an Allen family reunion," he said, drawing laughter from those gathered at Bruce E. Brown Gymnasium.

Bowie Unified School District, the Bowie Chamber of Commerce and the Bowie School Alumni Group sponsored Friday's event.

Allen said that while his parents grew up about 70 miles from each other, they never met until later in life in Tillamook, Ore. His father, Bill, was born in Texas but grew up in Bowie, and his mother, Wilma, is from Bisbee.

The admiral's father, who had become a lumberjack in Oregon, walked into a restaurant where he noticed "a drunk was hassling a waitress." Bill tossed the drunk into the street, and 10 days later, the lumberjack and the waitress were married.

Allen also has great memories of Willcox, where "my Great-Uncle Peck owned the Texaco station," he told the Range News.

Wilma's mother is the sister of the late Lester "Peck" Bethel of Willcox.

"My roots are in the Golden West," Allen said in his speech. "Dad's family had a small ranch or farm south of here in the foothills of the Chiricahuas. My brother and I shot our first deer in the Chiricahuas."

Allen, who reports to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and President Barack Obama, said people envy the circles he travels in, which includes the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"But every one of those people, including President Obama, came from somewhere," he told the Bowie audience.

"To be successful in life, you must be a lifelong learner," said Allen, adding that being from a small town "is no bar to anything you can achieve."

People of his parents' generation often did not

finish high school, and "college was beyond the realm of expectation," he said. His father, Bill, lied about his age and joined the Coast Guard at 16.

Allen was one of the first in his family to graduate from college and he earned two master's degrees.

"When you learn, you expect your kids to learn," said Allen, adding that's why his children hold master's degrees or are in a graduate degree program.

Coming home

"This is where we come to renew our spirits and find out what's going on," Allen said about return visits to Bowie.

It is where family stories pass from generation to generation. "We point and say, 'This is where the mule died,' " he gave as an example.

Allen's relatives who have passed on in the last 10 or 15 years asked to have their ashes spread in the Chiricahua foothills, he said.

His inspirational message to the Bowie students included a quote from the late tennis great Arthur Ashe.

"Do what you can with what you've got, where you're at," said Allen, adding that one day, someone from Bowie may be the keynote speaker after becoming a police officer, doctor, lawyer or performing another form of service to the community.

Allen then introduced Giffords, telling the story of how he first introduced himself to her as "one of your constituents."

"Even admirals are constituents," he said, drawing laughter from the audience. "You'll find no one in this state with greater dedication to her constituents than Congresswoman Giffords."

In her speech, Giffords pointed out the gymnasium floor, which was put in during the 1940s.

Nearly 70 years later, she said, "We've gone from cutting down trees to build a floor to

powering the school with this tremendous renewable resource - the sun."

"Bill and Wilma, you need to be proud of your son," she said to Allen's parents, who were in attendance. "Of course, I know you are proud."

She said, "Folks from small towns work hard so that the next generation will do better than we did. That's a tribute to the legacy you've been a part of."

Giffords talked about her mother, who attended school in Willcox while her father worked for the railroad.

She also talked about her husband, Mark Kelly, who grew up in a small town in New Jersey. He was not a good student in high school, so Kelly's father suggested he become a welder. That's when he improved his grades and joined the U.S. Merchant Marine after graduation. "Now he's going to be the last commander of a space shuttle," Giffords said.

"We are looking forward to seeing you kids down the road," she told the Bowie students. "We know that you're going to do great things and we just can't wait. That's a lot of responsibility on you, but we know you can handle it."

Bowie Schools Superintendent Patrick O'Donnell talked about "recent successes and positive changes," saying that enrollment is up by 17 percent from last years, and attendance is up at all grade levels this year. He added the school is now accredited through North Central Accreditation and plans to give students the option of Cochise College classes through interactive TV next year.

Nancy Jean Welker, president of the Bowie Chamber of Commerce, told the students, "This afternoon is for you - the very, very important people - our kids."

"This is the center of this town," she said. "The heartbeat of the town. Stay in school and stay in support of this school."

Bowie Alumnus Evelyn Spikes Lathram talked about the school's long history, adding that, and "many alumni have represented the Panthers well."

Allen's own parents, along with Bobbie Welker Blandin and her late husband, Doug Welker, coordinated the first Bowie School Reunion, with the support of several alumni, she said.

It was held on the school grounds in the summer of 1978 and has been held every five years since, Lathram told the audience.

"Our reunions are open to all classes and staff, even if you attended our school for only a few days, and the joke is, 'If you drove through town during a school day, you can come to our reunions,'" she said.

"But, seriously, I hope that every school child here today will attend our reunions after they graduate from Bowie High School."

Last year's reunion, the seventh, was attended by more than 100 alumni; the oldest was from the class of 1935 and the youngest from the class of 1991, she said.

Lathram talked about her own family's history with the Bowie School system.

"My association with Bowie Schools started many years before I walked into that first grade classroom," she said.

"My grandfather, A. R. Spikes, came to Bowie in 1916 as principal of schools. He was superintendent of schools when the high school was built in 1922, the swimming pool in 1936, and this gymnasium in 1940," Lathram said.

"His two sons, Jack, my father, and George, who is here today, attended all 12 grades here in Bowie, as did my two brothers and myself."

The process of bringing Allen and Giffords to Bowie together began about 18 months earlier when the Arizona Community Foundation was honoring Lathram's uncle, Dr. George Spikes of Douglas, for saving the hospital and for his endowment there, said Lathram.

"Ms. Giffords was one of the speakers and Nancy-Jean Welker asked her if she would like to come to Bowie some time," said Lathram, adding that Giffords said, "she had never been to the town and would like to visit."

A short time later, Lathram learned from Bill that Giffords and the admiral were very good friends.

"They both had graduated from high schools in Tucson and had roots in southern Arizona," she told the Range News.

Lathram asked Bill if he would ask his son to visit Bowie and bring Giffords along.

"The admiral was very enthusiastic about a visit and from there on it was just a matter of finding a date that worked for the both of them and didn't interfere with other events in Cochise County," Lathram said.

While in Bowie on Friday, Allen told Lathram that his office "moved heaven and earth" to make it work, as that was the only day Giffords could make the trip.

"Mr. O'Donnell was the primary contact after they agreed to the visit, and I know he had many, many phone calls and emails to finalize the arrangement," she said.

Earlier on Friday, Giffords hosted a briefing in Tucson with Allen on federal drug-fighting efforts. Allen briefed community leaders and representatives from local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

"Arizona is on the front lines of our nation's border security crisis," Giffords said in a statement issued Thursday.

"This briefing is an opportunity for all of us who are working to strengthen border security to hear directly from Admiral Allen and share with him our insights about the fight against the drug cartels."

Allen was in Southern Arizona to conduct an assessment of border security needs, said Communications Director C.J. Karamargin with

Giffords' office.

His Interdiction Committee is made up of 13 federal agencies that advise the U.S. Interdiction Coordinator and the Office of National Drug Control Policy on operational and tactical adequacy, integration, and use of interdiction assets, he said.

Allen is the 23rd commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, the largest component of the Department of Homeland Security.

"He assumed the post in May 2006 after he was widely praised for directing the federal response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005," said Karamargin.

The briefing was held at the University of Arizona's National Center for Border Security and Immigration, which was recently asked by the U.S. Border Patrol to help measure the effectiveness of the agency's checkpoint on I-19, he said.

The center is a consortium of 14 institutions that is developing technologies, processes, and policies to protect the nation's borders, foster international trade, and enhance long-term understanding of immigration-related issues, said Karamargin.

Tucson Sector Border Patrol Chief Robert Gilbert and representatives from law enforcement agencies in Pima, Cochise, Santa Cruz and Pinal counties; police departments in Tucson, Oro Valley and Sahuarita; the Drug Enforcement Agency; Immigration and Customs Enforcement; U.S. Marshal; Arizona Governor's Office; and Arizona National Guard.

Editors Note:

I would like to thank Evelyn Lathram, Larry Lagle and my husband, Brian Bickel, for their assistance and support in helping me create my first edition of the Bowie School Alumni Newsletter.

Personal Stories about Bowie and the People Who Lived Them

By Gabino “Bobby” Montana, 2008
The 8th grade

The first time I met Richard Vehstedt was when we started 4th grade in San Simon, Az. It had to be after Labor Day, Sept, 1939. In those days school started on Tuesday after Labor Day. I was 9 ½ years, Richard must have been about my age, maybe a few months younger. Anyway, I don't recall too much about those days. We didn't pal around too much – I guess we stuck close to home at that age. The biggest event I remember was reading in front of the class. I don't even remember recess, but we must have played football, basketball, and baseball. We also played a lot of marbles. Our pants with worn-out knees were proof of that.

When our nine months of school were over in May 1940, Richard and his younger brother, Bobby, and their mother boarded the Southern Pacific train to go back to New York and to Mr. Vehstedt, who was a policeman. I should state that Richard's mother's folks lived in San Simon. They operated a bar and grill. I don't recall the name. Maybe it was the Lewis Café after their name. I only remember them as Mr. and Mrs. Lewis. They were a very nice couple. My second meeting with Richard Vehstedt was when he, his brother, and his mother returned to San Simon, Az., in the summer of 1943.

Richard and I started 8th grade in Sept. of 1943. Mrs. Nellie Spikes of Bowie was our teacher. She taught 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. All 3 grades were in the same room. She taught everything to the 6th and 7th grades. Richard and I and a third 8th grader who dropped out at midyear went to our Principal (Raymond Cordes) for Arizona history and to Mrs. Pierce for English.

I remember our classroom had big windows that faced to the south. Every day we would see troop convoys; truck after truck filled with soldiers escorted always by MPs (Military Police) headed to the west coast, where they

embarked on ships to go fight the enemy (Japanese forces) in the South Pacific.

We also enjoyed everyday seeing Cochise's Head to the south. Cochise's Head is a mountain formation that looks just like an Indian face facing up to the sky. Looks very realistic and majestic.

We went through our daily routine in the classroom, learning a little more each day. Mrs. Spikes taught us arithmetic, geography, U.S. history and other subjects that I can't recall. Every afternoon both the high school and the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades would get together in the gym/auditorium for music (singing). Mrs. Spikes would play the piano and we would sing-a-long. That was an enjoyable 46 or 50 minutes as I remember. The one thing that irked us 8th graders was that we did not have recess in the morning. Every day we would envy the 6th and 7th graders when they went out for their mid-morning recess. Richard and I would have to stay in our room and Mrs. Spikes would teach us something, maybe U.S. history.

In the afternoon, after we came back from our lunch, we would have two or three more subjects. We did have a free hour, study hall. Richard and I would use that time to talk about airplanes and we tried our hand at designing airplanes. We also used that time for homework. But it wasn't all work; we got in some flirting with the high school girls. We also did some reading. I don't know what Richard read, but I tackled 2 big books; “The Forsythe Saga” and “The U.P. Trail”. “The U.P. Trail” was one of Zane Grey's books. I thoroughly enjoyed both. I also read Hemingway's “For Whom the Bell Tolls”.

Weekends found us playing a lot of pool. San Simon had a combination pool hall, barber shop, restaurant and dance hall. We played rotation, a game where you had to make/shoot the pool balls in numerical order from one to fifteen. Another popular game was bottle pool; I don't recall the rules. Sometimes when we were low on money, Mac, the owner of the pool hall, would let us do a few chores, like sweeping and

cleaning the hall. Sometimes we raked his back yard and burned the leaves in a 55-gallon barrel.

One project that we started was building a club house. To the west of the Lewis Café was a dirt road that ran north for three miles. Richard and I rode our bicycles up and down that road on Saturdays. On one of those little rides we spotted an adobe building that was only about half there. It had no roof and only partial walls. It was a tiny structure, maybe 8 feet square, probably a storage shed for hay. Richard and I thought we could restore it using lumber. We were not going to use adobes; we didn't know the first thing about making adobes. Anyway, we started carting lumber on our bicycles after school and on Saturdays to build our own little club house. I just want to say we did not buy our lumber, but we did not steal it either. We used lumber we found in junk piles or sometimes people would give us a piece or two of lumber.

It was supposed to be a secret club house. It was secret for maybe two or three weeks until one day we found a rag that someone had set on fire and thrown into our club house. Right then and there we knew it was the end of our secret club house. We quit working on it and we never knew who the culprit was.

Another weekend activity we indulged in was building model airplanes. They were the balsa wood and tissue paper type. Each airplane took about two to four weeks. As I recall we bought our models in Lordsburg, N.M. (35 miles to the east) or in Willcox, Az. (40 miles to the west). Richard and I were busy little beavers. When we weren't together, we still did our chores at home. I remember Richard was quite good at carpentry work. He was always fixing things for his grandfather's café and his residence.

During the second semester, from January or February to the end of school in May 1944, Richard and I visited two sisters in the 7th grade to help them with their homework. We were there two to four times a week. They tried to teach us to dance – that was a tall order. Richard and I both had two left feet. It was an

enjoyable time in our young lives. In May I broke away from our little group. I got a part time job washing dishes in one of the cafes; 4 hours after school every night. I know it was May (1944) because all the customers that came in talked of nothing but the upcoming invasion of Europe, so we could put an end to WWII. Everyone knew it was coming – we just didn't know when or where. It finally happened on June 6, 1944 (D-Day). The war went on with Germany until May 1945.

But back to Richard, He and I were the only graduates from the 8th grade. There was only one graduate from high school, a girl, because all the boys were in the military.

Shortly after graduation, Richard, his brother, and their mother left San Simon for home in New York and back to their father and spouse. They went by Southern Pacific Railroad; that was the mode of travel in that era.

I'll end the tale of two young boys and their adventures in the 8th grade in 1943-1944 in San Simon, Az.

Innocent

One Monday morning our principal came in to our room and told Mrs. Spikes he needed to see me and Richard. Right away I knew something was wrong. We went out with Mr. Cordes and he told us to go see Mr. Garrett. Mr. Garrett was the janitor for the elementary school. Mr. Garrett was without a doubt the best person in town. He really loved all the kids and would help us in any way he could. If somebody got hurt he was right there to console them. If somebody got a scratch or a cut or scrape, he was right there with the antiseptic, gauze and tape. He was our first aid person, counselor and "grandfather" to all of us. He also broke up fights whenever they occurred. And everybody loved him in return.

Anyway, Mr. Garrett told us to clean the girls' bathroom. Someone during the weekend had scattered paper towels all over the bathroom. Richard and I asked Mr. Garrett who had done all that mess. He told us that someone had

reported us to Mr. Cordes. I could tell it hurt him to have to tell us that. We had been at the school playing on the playground equipment, but we did not mess up the bathroom.

We told Mr. Garrett we would help him clean the bathroom, but he said “No, if you boys didn’t do it, I don’t want you to clean it up. I will tell Mr. Cordes that you didn’t do it.” So we all went to Mr. Cordes’ office and Mr. Garrett told him. “These boys say they didn’t mess up the bathroom, Mr. Cordes. I’ll take care of it.” Mr. Cordes sent Richard and me back to class and poor Mr. Garrett had to clean the bathroom. I found out about a week later who the guilty party was, but I never reported him. I don’t think I even told Richard who it was – it was just forgotten.

Our Teacher

Our teacher, Mrs. Nellie Spikes, wife of Az. State Senator A. R. Spikes, was one of the best teachers that I ever had in my education. That’s including elementary, high school, and college. She was my teacher in the 7th and 8th grades (in San Simon). Richard (Vehstedt) was there only in the 8th grade. Mrs. Spikes was a soft-spoken lady, never had to yell at anyone or raise her voice in anger. She was very calm and patient and very pleasant with everyone; students and teachers alike.

Mrs. Spikes and another teacher from Bowie, Mrs. Natalie Grusendorf, drove from Bowie to San Simon and back home to Bowie every day in Mrs. Spikes’ 1930 four door Model A sedan. That Model A was very reliable. The only times Mrs. Grusendorf drove was when Mrs. Spikes’ car needed service or had a flat tire.

Those were the days of World War II when everything was rationed. I’m sure Mrs. Spikes had to get extra gas stamps from the Govt. (The normal gas ration was four gallons per week). And forget about new tires – they were very scarce. If you needed a new one, you had to re-cap your old tires if they were still good enough. Re-caps were good for up to 30,000 miles if you were a careful driver and drove at 35 miles per hour.

Mrs. Spikes’ car also served as a shuttle service. San Simon did not have a movie theater but Bowie did. They had movies on Tuesday and Friday nights. Once in a while some of her students, even an adult sometimes, would hitch a ride with Mrs. Spikes into Bowie to go to the movies and then catch a ride with someone back to San Simon. Richard and I did that a couple of times on a Tuesday night. I know at least once I went with her on a Friday night and stayed overnight with Carlos Chavez and his family. Carlos and I started 1st grade in 1936 but before he entered 7th grade his dad was transferred from San Simon to Bowie. That had to be in 1942. Then my family would go to Bowie and pick me up on Saturday.

Mrs. Spikes also invited 2 sisters from the 7th grade and one girl from the high school to spend the weekend with her in Bowie. Then they would be back in San Simon on Monday morning, ready for school.

One of the 7th grade sisters was named Imajean Jackson. I remember Mrs. Spikes telling the class a joke. She said she had known three sisters in her youth. They were named Ima Pigg, Ura Pigg, and Bea Pigg. Bea (short for Beatrice) was Imajean’s sister.

Mrs. Spikes also told us a story about Mr. Spikes. When Mr. Spikes was elected to the Arizona Legislature he introduced some legislation to try and reduce the caterpillar population in Cochise County. I got to see that, just west of Bowie on old hiway 86, which ran through Bowie. The caterpillars were so thick in that area, they would cross the hiway and cars would run over them. That made for a messy situation and the hiway would become slick which made it dangerous for drivers. I never knew if any legislation was passed, also I never heard of any accidents occurring due to the caterpillars. But Mr. Spikes got a new name. His colleagues at the State Capitol in Phoenix named him Mr. Caterpillar.

I don’t know if this story ever made the newspapers. If it did, it had to be in the early 1940s. It could be in the Phoenix Gazette or the Arizona Republic.

As I stated before, Richard and I graduated (from 8th grade) in May 1944. Richard went back to his home in New York and I moved to Bowie with my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Garcia. We ended up next door to Carlos Chavez and his family. And Mrs. Spikes and Mrs. Grusendorf taught in San Simon for at least another year (1944-1945).
Gabino "Bobby" Montana, August 2008

Memories from Ray Fousel – Class of 1944

Conclusion

In 1929/30, I had a problem with my right leg. I could not stand up on it. I was taken to the Thomas-Davis clinic in Tucson for examination. The doctors didn't know what the cause of my problem was. They took so many X-rays it turned my leg black. It was put in a cast for 6 mo's I remember learning to walk again. The end result of my leg being in a cast at that fast growing stage of my life was this; my right leg is now 11/2 inches shorter and right foot almost 2 sizes smaller than the left side. In 1948 I injured my right leg in Oakland, Ca. I was sent to the Southern Pacific Hospital in San Francisco for X-rays, The doctors there surmised that the 1929/30 leg problem was caused by a vitamin deficiency. [Vitamins were an unknown at that time] I remember staying at the Rex motel [cabins] on So. 6th Ave. while in Tucson. The street cars ran from the U of A west on 3rd Street to Stone Ave.; south on Stone Ave to 6th Ave; south 6th Ave. to end at 22nd Street. Another car line made a loop on Congress and Broadway streets. When the railroad underpasses at Stone Ave., 6th Ave., 4th Ave., and Broadway were built in the early 1930's, the street cars were done away with and busses were put in use.

When the wonderland -of-rocks was dedicated as a national monument in the 1930's, Dad had the soft drink concession at the top of the park. We camped out for 1-2 nights at the concession stand. There were so many cars on the mountain that late comers has to park more than 1 mile

back down the highway from the ceremony site. All of the dignitaries from southern Arizona were there to make speeches. The first rodeo that I remember was held on the north side of the tracks on a large alkali flat north of Mexican town. The next one was held west of the high school on a large open piece of land. Dad had the soft drink concessions at both of these also.

In 1939 the school decided to by uniforms for the band. They consisted of; Royal Blue & Gold cap, same colors for a cape, White shirt, black bow tie, white English riding pants, black belt & black English riding boots. The clothes were made to order every one was measured and fitted. When a band member graduated or left school, they turned in their uniforms. If someone out grew their uniform it was turned in and a larger size was given out. The incoming band members would be outfitted in the turned in uniforms. We were the only marching band in southern Arizona where everyone was dressed exactly alike from head to toe. That first year there were over 90 members in the band [the largest ever]. The first Drum Major was Eldon Harmon. The Majorettes were: Mary Lee Gannon, Barbara Scott, Francis Moore, Shirley Dillon, Billie Jean Bouck Dell Kelly. The band was invited to march and play in Lordsburg, N.M. Wilcox, Safford, Douglas, Benson, and Tucson. I remember one time in Lordsburg; it was so hot the pavement started to melt. The march had to stop for a while. When we started to move, we couldn't, our boots were stuck in the paving. We had to have help from the parade watchers to pull our boots out of the asphalt.

We always went to Douglas for the cinco-de-mayo rodeo & parade. On the way back to Bowie one night, the bus lost its lights just north on the town of Elfrieda. There was a little light from the stars, we boys took turns running down the middle of the road and the bus driver followed us. We ran for about 10 miles. Midway between Pearce & Cochise we were too tired to continue. The bus was driven to the side of the road and parked. Some of us scoured the country for wood to build a fire. We stayed there until daylight, then continued on home. Some of the

towns-people started out to look for us. We met about 5 miles west of Bowie.

In 1940 or 41 the international small miners convention was held in Tucson. We were invited to lead the parade. That did not set well with The Tucson High band. We were never invited back to Tucson. I was a member of the band for 6 years. 7th grade I tried to learn to play the trombone. It didn't work. 8th grade I started playing a trumpet. I played that until ½ way through my junior year. I played the solo trumpet part sophomore & junior years. Because the baritone player graduated, I was asked to play the baritone. When Delbert graduated from high school he played a trumpet solo at his ceremony called Polka de Peoney. I played the same solo on the baritone when I graduated from high school. A classmate Patty Doyle [McKee] was my pianist.

In the late 1930's, the state started to realign and pave hi-way 86 [now interstate 10]. It was known as the Benson-Stiens pass cut-off. It was 96 miles of dirt. In Benson, The hi-way crossed the railroad by the depot, went north about a mile, turned east about ½ mile, then back south to the railroad tracks, then turned east to cross the bridge over the San Pedro river About a mile east of the bridge the road turned north east and started the climb out of the river valley; through Texas Canyon; passed by the Adams Ranch; then turned east to Dragoon crossing the railroad and turning northeast to Cochise. Just north of Cochise, the highway crossed back under the railroad using a railroad bridge over a natural waterway. It continued north-east through Willcox on the west side of the tracks. 8 miles north of Wilcox at Raso it turned east. 8 miles east of Raso was the junction with hi-way 666 [the road to Safford]. At the junction there was a service station owned by a man named Panky. [The junction was known as pankeyville] [They had a teenage boy that was afraid the Indians from the reservation would come down over the hill and scalp him.] It continued east to 1 mile west of Bowie where it crossed to the south side of the tracks. It stayed next to the tracks until Central Ave. It turned south for 2 blocks and made an L turn around Dad's service station

again turning east about 1 ½ miles where it again crossed to the north side of railroad and continued on to San Simone, passing through San Simone for 4 miles where it again crossed to the south side of the tracks at a railroad siding called Bawtry. The county road to the communities of Hilltop, Paradise & Cave Creek [now Portal] connected to the hi-way here. The hi-way continued up the mountain to the town of Stiens Pass then on 2 miles to road fork to connect to U S hi-way 80. The road was paved from there on to the east. The paving was so narrow that when Greyhound lines first got the large coaches there was only 4 inches of clearance between them when they met on the hi-way.

When the new paved hi-way was completed, it cut almost 10 miles off of the distance between Bowie & Tucson. This was done by bypassing the Adams ranch and the towns of Dragoon & Cochise and eliminating all the curves between Bowie & Willcox. The hiway construction created an economic boom for Bowie & Wilcox. Francis Upham, Dell Kelley, Dorothy Brown, Helen Duke and Velma Ann Kiser married men that came to Bowie to work on the hi-way construction. Pat Patterson and Everette Robinette and their families had house trailers that rented space from Dad in the camp yard.

Sometime in the 30's a cloudburst rain storm caught a bus in the waterway and washed it over on its side. At Bawtry there was a 1 pump gas station-country store. It also had the only swimming pool prior to the Bowie pool. This pool was kept full with water from an artesian well. Artesian wells were common in the San Simone valley prior to 1950. The well also supplied water for a large peach orchard. This property was owned by A. B. Hulsey.

For 2 or 3 years in the early 1930's Dad had a partner in the station. His name was Paul Burroway. Dad would have him to run the station and we would go camping at Cave Creek for the 4th of July. Some organization from the south end of the county usually had a big B B Q and celebration there at that time. Everyone was invited to come take part in it. I remember one

time it was raining, Mom & Dad were sitting in the car lighting firecrackers and throwing them out the window. For some reason Dad rolled up his window and forgot about it. Later he lit a fire cracker, to throw it out [forgetting about the window] it hit the window bounced back onto his thigh. It blew a big hole in his white flannel pants and made a big bruise on his leg. At night there was usually a dance over the hill in the community of Paradise. We kids would play tag and kick the can among the dancers. When we got tired or sleepy we would go to the car and sleep. Fireworks were legal in Ariz., until after WW II. We had roman candles, sky rockets, regular firecrackers, m-80's spewing fountains and sparklers.

Paul Burroway came from Ohio. He married D. T. Milners' daughter, Alma. They moved to Phoenix ending the partnership. He later became a successful architect and designed many buildings in the Phoenix area. Milners' son Dana, became a commercial pilot for T W A and flew until the after of WW II.

Before WW 2, Bowie was a large railroad shipping point for cattle. 2 times a year ranchers would round-up their cattle and drive to Bowie to be loaded onto cattle cars for shipping to slaughter houses in Phoenix, or Los Angles. North of Bowie, ranches were owned by the following: Tay Cook, Mr Ellsworth, Howard, Martin, Chaney, and Gene Seeley. South of Bowie, ranches were owned by the following: Pages, Ned Hall, Nelson, Bartlett, Trent, Brown, Blanton, Lacey, Hunter, Lawhorn, Schaeffer, Knape, Mulkins The one farthest from town would usually be the one to start a roundup. They would gather up all the cattle they came across in the drive and herd them into the stockyard at the railroad. There was one big pen at the entrance gate that would hold several hundred head of cattle. If this pen was not big enough to hold the herd a passage way to the opposite end of the stockyard was opened This bunch of cows would be driven to that end and the remainder of the drive would be penned. In the center of the pens was a small pen about 12 feet square. Above this pen was a platform with a built in table for the brand inspector. All the

cattle [5 or 6 at a time] were brought into this pen and the inspector's helper would call out the number of head with each brand. This is the way that it was determined who owned each head of the cattle. On either side of the inspection pen were 3 pens that held the cattle after they had been inspected. After all the cattle had been inspected and counted, the railroad would be notified bout the number of cattle cars that would be needed for the shipment. There was usually 100 or more cattle cars held in storage at the A & E yard north west of town.

There were 2 or 3 sets of tracks that the cars were setting on. There were large rows of white sand between each set of tracks. When it was known that a large shipment was going to be up coming 1 or 2 section crews would go to the area and put fresh sand on the bottom of the cars. A switch engine would be ordered to bring the cattle cars to the stockyard. It would stay hooked up to the cars until all the cattle were loaded. 2 cars could be loaded at a time. Several of the high school boys would stay out of school to help in these roundups. They would get excused absences from Mr. Spikes. Those I remember doing this were; Leo Mendes, Edward Fousel, Hampton Eaton, and Clark Martin. The brand inspector was Joe Schaeffer. He worked the stock yards in San Simone, Bowie, & Wilcox.

In the 1930's, the grammar school always put on a Christmas play in the high school auditorium. At the end of the play, they always passed out large mesh bags of fruit, nuts, and candy. The bags were made by the girls' home-ec class. Some of the town men would go to the mountains to cut down a large pine tree and bring to the high school to be set up in the auditorium. The fruit candy and nuts were brought to the home-ec classroom. The high school students would fill and close the bags and place them under the tree in the auditorium. I don't remember how or who supplied the candy, nuts and fruit. School would then be out until the 1st Monday after the new year.

It was after the Christmas play in 1941 that Billie Jean Sheffield and I started our long life

together. She asked me to take her to the teepee to dance and after to walk her to her home in the A & E yard. It was common for the high school kids to gather at the teepee to socialize and dance to the juke box. We continued this off again on again romance until our marriage on Jan. 25th 1945. The romance still continues.

In 1939 when the new hi-way was beginning to be constructed, several buildings needed to be moved or removed. Dad's station was one of them. A building moving company from Tucson or Phoenix came to town to do the moving. They put big jacks under the 4 corners of the building, jacked it up, put big timbers and wheels under it, turned it 45 degrees, moved it back about 100 feet. A new foundation and concrete floor was made and the building was set down on the new foundation. This took about a week to accomplish. While the building was being relocated, it was my job to be a night watchman. I had to spend my nights there until the building could be locked up again

In the summer of 1941 when Edward & Delbert moved to Los Angeles to attend aircraft building school, it became my job to run the service station. Dad was working on a bridge & building gang for the railroad. I was there from 6:00AM to 6:00PM. Mom would give me a 1-2 hr break in the afternoon. I would usually go to the swimming pool at that time. Dad would come to run the station from 6:00PM until he closed it around 10:00pm. When school started in the fall of 1941 Mom ran the station. When gas rationing started in 1942 Dad closed the station for the duration of the war.

In the late 1930's, the Rural Electric administration built a large generating station near Elfrieda. Power lines were built to all the communities in Cochise Co. All homes and businesses that wanted to hook-up to the new source of reliable power had to be rewired up to the then national electrical code. An electrician came to Bowie from Bisbee to do the job of rewiring. I worked as his helper. It was my job to get into areas that he was to big to get into. I learned to wire non-commercial buildings up to code at that time. That was when I had to get my social security card. After REA started supplying electric power to the town, the local utility that supplied power shut down. The local power company was started when L. O. Scott purchased a gasoline powered engine and generator. He set it up in a tin shed behind the Doc Parrish house. Jim Cawood was hired to maintain it. After a few years, Citizens Utilities [from Chicago, Ill]

acquired the franchise and added a large one cylinder diesel engine and generator to the system.

Jim Cawood would go to the shed before dark to start the diesel. To do this he had to light a blow torch to heat the ignition head on the engine. When the head got red hot, compressed air was used to start the fly wheels turning. Diesel fuel was fed into the chamber and ignited by the hot head. That started a chain reaction that kept the engine running. The two generators working together were then able to supply the town's power needs. Both units would run in tandem until 10:00PM when the diesel would be shut down for the night. With the shutdown of the local power company, the utility company sent a company employee to dismantle and salvage the local assets. I got a job with him to help accomplish this. He would climb the poles, take the wires loose, and drop them to the ground. I would start rolling up the wire. After all the wire was rolled up for the day, he would load it onto his truck. When all the wire was taken down, rolled up and loaded on the truck, we started to take down the poles. I had a small cart with a box on it. I carried a short piece of chain and a jack, a hammer, a crescent & pipe wrench. I would tie the chain around the pole, hook the jack under the chain and jack the pole out of the ground. When the pole was on the ground, I would remove the cross arm off the pole and the insulators off the cross arm. I don't remember what happened to all the used material. I do remember that most of the poles were redwood.

The name of the electric company was [is] Sulpher Springs Electric Co-op. The office was in Wilcox. Every month they would mail out a foldover post card to every customer. The customer had to read his own meter on a specific day and mail the return portion back to the office. The bill would be figured and mailed back to the customer. It had to be paid by a certain date.

Addendum:

Fri, 21 Nov 2008:

My older brother was good enough to correct me on a couple of things that I wrote in my Memories. 1st: Ed Lafoe was a section foreman not a roadmaster. He came to Bowie when Driscoll transferred out. He had 2 kids, Ed Lafoe Jr. & Mary Louise. He was terminated from the railroad. The other was: I omitted Tom Morrison. He was a swing shift telegrapher who came to Bowie when Bruce Gilbert transferred out. He had 1 son named Tom Jr.

One of the benefits of having a brother 5 years older than you is, he can correct your mistakes.

Ray

STILL GOING STRONG **By Bill Allen in 2006**

In September of 1930, the small town of Bowie, Arizona, opened its first kindergarten class. Among the dozen or so children were three boys; Bill "Junior" Allen, Samuel McKee, and Raymond Fousel. The three boys went through grade school together and are shown among their classmates in a class picture taken in 1936.

At that time there were two girls attending the same school, who were destined to become wives to two of the boys. Billie Jean Sheffield and Raymond Fousel were married in January 1944. Patricia Doyle and Sam McKee were married in 1945. Junior Allen was the last to get married. He went all the way to Oregon to find Wilma Bailey, a Bisbee, Arizona, girl. They were married in 1946.

After getting out of the Navy, Billie and Ray raised four children, three boys and one girl. They are retired and living in Cottonwood, Arizona. Their family now includes 10 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Sam also served in the Navy and he and Patty raised five children, two boys and three girls. They are now retired and live in Tucson, Arizona. Their family includes 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Bill got out of the Coast Guard after the war and worked as a logger in Oregon where he and Wilma were married. In 1948, he reenlisted in the Coast Guard and they raised their family of two boys and one girl in many different places. Bill retired in 1965 and Tucson was to be home of record for the family. In 1970, the oldest boy passed away. The family has grown to include 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandsons.

It is pleasure to join Billie and Ray, and Patty and Sam, as we celebrate our 60th anniversary.

Memories of the 1950's, by Licurgus Shirdie Mahan Jr.

Our life style was at the bottom of the food chain!! We stripped sugar cane for molasses, chopped cotton; picked cotton for \$1.50 a hundred lbs.; butchered our own meat;

hunted for food, not for the sport of it, and always ate what we killed. Don't kill anything you don't want to eat. My Dad would tell me "'YOU KILL IT, YOU EAT IT". We raised our own food, canned it without refrigeration, milked our cow, made our cheese, and churned our butter.

We didn't have an indoor toilet till 1955 - we used the outhouse. When the well quit flowing, we packed our water from one that was still flowing.

When electricity came to our road, we got one light bulb. We didn't have to use coal oil lamps, but we didn't stop using wood for the cook stove and heaters till 1958. We used wash pots for heating the washing water outside and packed it inside the adobe house to take a bath in a #10 tub.

I worked for a close-by farmer for .50 cents a day. Mother cleaned homes for \$3.00 a day and that day was from sun-up till dark.

In 1958 thru 1960, I worked for Jack Spikes cutting and bailing hay in Bowie. I knew Sen. Spikes and Dr. Spikes. I have flown with Jack, rode with him, worked some cattle for him, done cat work for him, fence work, etc.

I dug graves for my loved ones by hand and for others. I went to San Simon School from 1945 to 1967. Walked from school to work at the Shady Grove Truck Stop for .50cents an hour, after school till 12 mid-night - walked 2-1/2 miles - sometimes someone would give me a lift.

I helped my Mother wash clothes on her winger Maytag, after boiling them in the wash pots for 1 cent a lb.

I married Kay Thomas in 1960; raised one daughter and 3 sons. We have 8 grand children and 3 and 3/4 Great Grand Children. We have been married for 49 years come Feb 27th. Kay was 15 and I was 19 and everyone in both towns - San Simon and Bowie - said it would not last!!

Things have changed; they say for the better; BUT I wish it was still the 50ties and all the HONORABLE people were still alive to be with. NO one will ever realize the pleasure it was to have known the people of the past. Life was so much fun, and every day we had something to look forward to; a cup of coffee with

people that had the time to talk, laugh and plan the day. Not a day went by that you didn't know what you were going to do.

Yes, even then, there were the good and the bad, but so many more good people than bad. Good people always saw if ONE was HUNGRY OR COLD, if they knew about it, no matter what color they were. WE WERE all people than. NOW, well HUH, you better get the hell out of the way or get shot or run over. DRUGS will be the ruination of our country if the laws don't get a handle on it. It's such a shame parents don't take time to raise their children instead of just letting them go wild.

I was in Bowie and San Simon when the steam trains ran, water flowed out of the ground, wildlife was abundant, and people cared. People Lived. NOW, people exist feeding off each other like parasites.

If you read all this, THANK YOU!
Licurgus Shirdie Mahan Jr., December 2008

(Born in 1939, Cloverdale, New Mexico, in an old school house delivered by the neighbor ranch woman. My first Dr was in 1948 in Deming, New Mexico, when we buried my brother at 10 who died from a ruptured appendix.)

Message from the Editor:

We welcome your stories, personal news, old and new photos; anything you may wish to share with the Alumni. Please send your items for publishing to:

Susan Bickel
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Or:
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Wandering Among Indian Bread Rocks by Matthew J. Nelson

This article originally published in the September 2008 issue of The Desert Leaf.

For nearly a decade I have been intrigued by the Dos Cabezas Mountains in southeastern Arizona. The first time I consciously noticed them was on the morning of Jan. 1, 2000. From high within the Galiuro Mountains east of Tucson I waited in the darkness for the sun to rise on the new millennium. I mistakenly assumed the sun would appear somewhere over Mt. Graham in the Pinaleno Mountains, a peak sacred to all of southern Arizona's Native American tribes. But as the giant orange star lit up the horizon, it rose between a two-headed peak that I had never really noticed before - the Dos Cabezas.

It would be more than eight years before I finally explored the twin peaks just two hours from Tucson. Nestled near the borders of Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico, the Dos Cabezas Mountains are a hidden treasure that should be high on your list of places to visit this season.

The drive from Tucson to the foothills of the Dos Cabezas is spectacular. After crossing the San Pedro River near the town of Benson the landscape slowly begins to transform from the familiar Sonoran Desert we know and love to the neighboring Chihuahuan Desert. Yuccas begin to appear, first as a few bushy-headed aliens among the grasses and prickly pear cacti. Before long they become the dominant species.

As you climb away from the San Pedro River Valley you'll soon enter Texas Canyon, the picturesque pass where granite boulders appear to have erupted out of the earth. This is a particularly impressive collection of rocks, and it would be a great destination if it weren't for its proximity to I-10 and a popular rest area. Despite signs warning not to deface the rocks, and ongoing graffiti removal efforts, brightly colored names and messages spray painted onto the rocks are still common. Texas Canyon is perhaps best known for its nearby attraction, The Thing. This roadside tourist trap has become part of the culture of the Southwest due to the 247 cryptic billboards extending hundreds of miles away from this lonely spot on the map. If you've never stopped to check out "the mystery of the desert," it might be worth the \$1 admission. I'll leave that up to you.

Near the town of Willcox, look south and admire the massive Willcox Playa. If you visit in early

September the ancient lakebed might seem like a mirage shimmering in the morning light. After a long summer of monsoon storms, the playa fills with rainwater and takes on the appearance of the giant lake it once was.

Although it's only an inch deep in most places, the big blue image is a refreshing contrast to the playa's normal dusty and barren character.

Look east and the prominent Dos Cabezas dominate the skyline. The twin summits are among the most dramatic peaks in southeastern Arizona, and beckon hikers to scramble near vertical rock to over 8,350 feet above sea level. We'll save that adventure for another time. For now, continue heading toward the town of Bowie, where you'll access the seldom-visited southeast corner of the Dos Cabezas Mountains. From a distance it appears that the only granite you might find within these mountains is on the cabezas themselves, but after turning south on Apache Pass Road (see "Finding Your Way" for specific directions) you'll see a wilderness of rocks appear before you.

Reminiscent of the Coyote Mountains near Kitt Peak, the eastern foothills of the Dos Cabezas are breathtaking. Balanced rocks, hoodoos and massive faces of every imaginable shape and size can be found in this tiny yet spectacular piece of wilderness. Hidden among the granite boulders is the Indian Bread Rocks Picnic Area, the perfect destination for a day of hiking, rock scrambling and exploration.

The picnic area has a few basic amenities, including a few picnic tables, barbecue pits and a toilet. The area appears well maintained yet rarely used. My sense is that it is an occasional destination for families from Bowie and Willcox, but other than that, I doubt few Tucsonans have ever even heard of Indian Bread Rocks. There is plenty of evidence among the boulders that Apaches and other native peoples once lived and hunted here, but don't be fooled by the rock art on the slabs near the picnic tables. These are modern petroglyphs, also known as graffiti.

Although no official hiking trails exist within the 11,700-acre Dos Cabezas Mountains Wilderness, the area around Indian Bread Rocks is ideal for cross-country wandering. The coarse-grain granite grips shoe rubber particularly well, so walking up steep angles is easier than you might think. To begin your exploration, hike immediately east of the picnic area up the 30-degree granite slab and within minutes you'll be able to soak up outstanding views of the San Simon Valley to the northeast. If you look to the west you'll begin to get a sense of the myriad layers of granite that comprise

Indian Bread Rocks. Pick your next destination and start walking.

For those comfortable with bouldering and rock scrambling, the potential within Indian Bread Rocks is unlimited. Within a few minutes of the picnic area you'll find dozens of prominent boulders that can easily be scaled with just a few confident moves. The south faces of many boulders sport huecos, or wind- and rain-carved cups, that make ascending the rocks much easier than their featureless north sides. Just remember, climbing down is harder than climbing up.

Just like at Cochise Stronghold in the Dragoon Mountains, the more you explore Indian Bread Rocks the more you'll discover. Desert gardens appear on hidden terraces and atop individual boulders themselves, and tiny fissures act like canyon ecosystems within this multilayered jumble of rocks. The terrain is relatively easy to walk through, except for some thick patches of prickly pear and acacia trees that should be avoided.

The biodiversity here is remarkable. At just over 4,000 feet Indian Bread Rocks is perfectly suited to support plants from both the Upper Sonoran and Transition zones. The abundance of food and medicine plants makes it an ethnobotanist's dream come true; there are prickly pear pads (nopales) and fruit (tunas), barrel cactus fruit, cholla buds, mesquite beans, jojoba, and acorns (bellotas) from nearby oak trees, to name a few. The nearby mountains rise thousands of feet above the valley floor and support a large population of deer, javelina and other game animals. Jaguars have even been spotted here. It's no wonder why people once lived among the rocks.

Keep your eyes on the ground as you walk along and you'll likely see evidence of those who came before us. Decorated potsherds, flaked stone and other artifacts hide within the granitic sand, and one particular area has five bedrock mortars (or metates) where people used to sit and grind mesquite beans and acorns. As an aspiring archaeologist, I believe that there is nothing more exciting than finding a little piece of history while out in nature. It's an opportunity to connect with someone who walked across the same landscape as you, many hundreds of years before. As with all treasures, they should be left right where you find them. "Leave what you find" is a core principle of Leave No Trace ethics, and is particularly important when it comes to artifacts.

Oftentimes wandering off trail without a specific destination is the best way to experience a new place. Trail walking encourages the all-too-common practice of putting your head down and marching until you've

reached your destination. But with wandering you soak up every step of the journey; your senses are heightened and constantly stimulated. Some visitors to Indian Bread Rocks will hike for about 10 minutes outside the picnic area while others may amble for many hours to the upper regions of the granite paradise. It's a perfect destination for families, offering plenty of adventure and discovery for hikers of all ages and abilities.

The Dos Cabezas Mountains are just one of the many hundreds of sky island mountain ranges in Arizona. Each is unique and beautiful, remote and wild, and on any given day you're likely to see more red-tailed hawks and desert spiny lizards than humans.

Finding Your Way

From Tucson, head east on I-10 toward El Paso. Twenty miles east of Willcox, exit the freeway at the town of Bowie (exit 362). Take the frontage road into downtown Bowie and turn right (south) on Apache Pass Road toward Fort Bowie. Drive south for 4.4 miles past the pistachio groves, then turn right (west) on Happy Camp Canyon Road. Follow this well-maintained dirt road for three miles, then turn left (south) into Indian Bread Rocks Picnic Area. The Bureau of Land Management wilderness sign makes it very easy to find.

Matthew J. Nelson is a nature writer, professional outdoor guide and Sonoran Desert devotee with a penchant for granite boulders. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

Frontiersman

By W. Lane Rogers/for the Range News

Published: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 3:19 PM CDT

James H. Tevis was a sturdy individualist unencumbered by convention. In 1891, the Sixteenth Territorial Assembly enacted legislation establishing a 20-year tax exemption for railroads building new lines. Representing Cochise County in the lower house, Tevis supported the revenue-deflating measure. At the same time, he sought to economize by closing the territorial prison at Yuma. He proposed that felons be hanged; those convicted of misdemeanors be whipped, publicly.

A Virginian born in 1835, Tevis left home at 14 to work as a cabin boy on the Mississippi River. He was not much in the 1850s when he became a soldier of fortune filibustering with both William Walker and Henry A.

Crabb in Mexico and Latin America.

1857 found Tevis in Arizona where he experienced high adventure as an intrepid frontiersman and resolute settler. He migrated from the San Francisco River to the Sonoita Valley to Apache Pass, skirmishing all the while with Apaches. When the manager of the Butterfield stage station transferred to a safer clime, Tevis assumed its operation.

He joined attacks against Apaches, participated in at least one foray into Mexico, and accompanied a raiding party into Navajo country. In a story that may be apocryphal, it is said that he was captured by Cochise but escaped.

Attracted by a gold strike at Pinos Altos, Tevis left Apache Pass in 1859. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he joined rebel Texans and was given command of Arizona scouts, earning the lifelong sobriquet, Captain Tevis.

After the war, he married Emma Boston and took up ranching near Austin, Texas. Then, in 1879, he returned to Arizona-in the company of Emma, five daughters, and three sons.

Drawn to his old haunts, Tevis claimed land north of Fort Bowie. Surely, he knew that the Southern Pacific Railroad would seek right of way across his claim. It did, he prospered, and the village of Tevis, later Teviston, sprouted.

Tevis filed multiple claims in the Chiricahua Mountains, established the Tevis Mining District, and was among the organizers of the Cochise Mining and Milling Company. He owned a store in Teviston and property at Tombstone valued in 1883 at more than \$6,000.

With the exception of a brief stint in Tucson, Tevis lived out his life at Teviston operating the Southern Pacific Hotel. The Arizona Daily Star noted that, "The captain has grown rich feeding tourists."

Teviston died in 1905. Three years later, in June 1908, the post office mandated a name change-and Teviston became Bowie.

Fort Bowie

By W. Lane Rogers/For the Arizona Range News

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2008 6:03 PM CDT

Fort Bowie had its genesis in the Confederate occupation of Tucson-then part of New Mexico Territory-in 1862. In May, Col. James H. Carelton led his 2,300-man California Column into the largely Mexican town anticipating battle with rebel Capt. Sherod Hunter's troops.

Hunter, acting on intelligence reports, had fled the city and marched his numerically inferior force east toward the Rio Grande River. Determined to engage the Confederates, Carelton set out across present-day Cochise County in pursuit.

He did not find Hunter. However, Apaches found him.

Aware of the column's every movement, Apache harassment was unrelenting. Then, on June 25, some 60 Apaches swooped out of the Dragoons and attacked. Three soldiers were killed.

Deep in Apache country Carelton made an unwise but fateful decision. He ordered Capt. Thomas Roberts to lead 126 men into the west entrance of Apache Pass. Cochise took umbrage at the intrusion and deployed 700 Apaches in a bloody ten-hour battle. If Roberts' figures are reliable, four soldiers were killed or wounded; 63 Apaches were killed.

Carelton decided that it was "indispensably necessary" to establish a permanent army installation at Apache Pass. Consequently, some 100 soldiers were left behind to construct a fort named for Col. George Washington Bowie, their regimental commander.

Fort Bowie's mission was to control access to water at Apache Springs, to provide escorts for civilian travelers through the pass, and to attack Apaches at every opportunity.

The original fort was little more than breastworks. In 1870, a new location 700 yards east was chosen, and excellent accommodations were constructed. Still, Bowie was not a popular duty post. Major complaints were heat and Apaches-not necessarily in that order.

Fort Bowie played a significant role in the Apache Wars, and during the 1880s was among the most important

army installations in the Southwest. Countless forays into Apacheria were launched from the post, as well as search and destroy missions into Mexico's Sierra Madre until Geronimo's final surrender in 1886.

Not discounting incidents here and there, Geronimo's surrender signaled the end of the Apache Wars. Rendered obsolete, the Fort was abandoned by the army in 1894. Scavengers from outlying towns-San Simon, Bowie, Dos Cabezas, Willcox-appropriated doors and windows and usable lumber, and the fort's adobe buildings melted into the landscape.

Enloe's Trimarans Sweep Newport Ensenada Race and Border Run

2009-04-26 Released By Lynn Fitzpatrick

H.L. Enloe* had two trimarans on the starting line on Friday. At 11:15 am LeiLoe, his Corsair 31 took off from Newport Beach, California along with six other trimarans and catamarans as part of the inaugural Border Run Regatta.

LoeReal's elapsed time over the course is second only to Stars & Stripes, the catamaran sailed in the 1987 America's Cup, which won the Newport Ensenada Race in 1998 with an elapsed time of 6:46:40.

Enloe purchased his 60-footer, the Mariner's trimaran from the movie Waterworld. While Kevin Costner transformed the trawler trimaran into a sailing trimaran by flipping gadgets and switches in the movie, Enloe enlisted the assistance of Morrelli & Melvin to modify the trimaran, make it seaworthy and put her back into racing condition. Morrelli & Melvin was also part of the design team for the America's Cup-winning Star & Stripes catamaran.

Enloe and his crew, which included Tim McKegney, Cam Lewis and North Sails' John Gladstone averaged 14.8 knots over their 130 nautical mile cruise down the 125.5 mile course to Ensenada.

LoeReal's Newport Ensenada times: 8:45:0-
Elapsed;15:23:30-Corrected.

*Howard Enloe (Bowie class of 1953) is the son of L. A. and Midge Enloe