

Childhood Memories

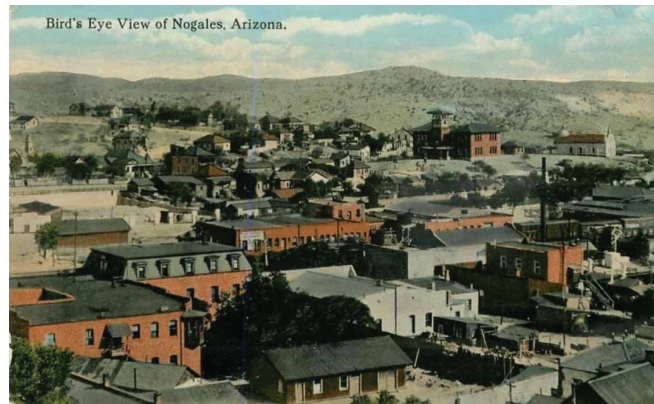
Continued from page 3

Growing up in Ambos Nogales

Yesterday I was with three friends who were raised in Nogales, and we were discussing the activities we did when we were young. One lived on a farm and said that they used to put gasoline in anthills and light them up. One day her cousin did not move away fast enough and scorched his hair. The worst of it was explaining to his mother what had happened.

Another talked about going across the line on Sundays after church with her parents. They would park on Ruiz Cortines in front of the bars and have drinks and botanas (snacks). The parents would get out of their cars and visit while the children would play on the street.

We lived on Court Street near the reservoir. We would cross the border through the hole in the fence and ride the donkeys and eat the wild green onions.



Pimería Alta Historical Society

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PIMERIA ALTA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

JOIN US FOR A NOTEWORTHY EVENT AT THE PIMERIA ALTA MUSEUM

*75th Anniversary Celebration of the
Pimeria Alta Historical Society!*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 2023, FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE FAMILY FUN, MUSIC, FOOD, AND BEVERAGES!
IN HONOR OF THE NOGALES FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE ORIGINAL CITY HALL,
GUESTS CAN EXPLORE THE SLEEPING LOFT, AND
CHILDREN CAN SLIDE DOWN THE FIRE POLE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (520) 287-4621, EMAIL PAHSMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM.

Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva visits the PAHS Museum

Evan Kory



On September 5th the Pimería Alta Historical Society had the pleasure of welcoming Congressman Raúl Grijalva to the Museum for the special occasion of celebrating a federal award that has been secured for the Pimería Alta Museum Archive Project. Congressman Grijalva advocated for the PAHS and presented the opportunity to apply for Community Project Funding. After careful consideration the PAHS applied for a \$325,000 grant through the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) whose mission is to promote the preservation and use of America's documentary heritage essential to understanding our democracy, history, and culture.

This funding will make a critical difference for the PAHS Museum to further preserve the history of the southern border region by digitizing and archiving photographs, documents, newspapers, maps and other items that tell the story of the American-Mexican border region and the American West. This project begins as the PAHS celebrates its 75th Anniversary and the digital archive project will pave the way for our future. As an organization we are committed to preserving our collection through digital technology so that we may share the history of our beautiful region more broadly with the world. We are very grateful to Congressman Grijalva and his wonderful team for their support and look forward to embarking on this monumental project.



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Elusive Coronado Route discovered in Santa Cruz County

John Blake

A Spanish Colonial Villa (town) established to support Vasquez de Coronado's disastrous 1540 expedition has been located. Being the only Coronado site ever to be found, its significance (and resultant controversy) cannot be overstated. All previous history of the expedition must now be rewritten, causing emotions from consternation to denial among Coronado authors and experts, most of whom have espoused now disproven theories in their books and reports. Cibola, Coronado's destination, is a mythical town described in heavenly terms. Some may remember the Bible school description of heaven as a land of milk and honey where the streets are paved with gold. That is similar to what the Spanish considered the Seven Cities of Cibola to be. Spurred on by fabulous wealth discovered by Cortez in Mexico and Pizarro in Peru, Spanish noblemen invested their fortunes, as did Coronado, into the expedition so they could get their piece of the pie. Many lost their lives and fortunes in the endeavor. <https://vimeo.com/783025962>

Local archaeologists, historical



* Francisco Coronado on 1540 expedition from Mexico through the American Southwest. painting by Frederic Remington.

societies and museums are abuzz of late because of this newly rewritten Arizona history. This feat was accomplished by Dr. Deni Seymour, a professional archaeologist, ethnohistorian and ethnographer who has novices and professionals in a

frenzy to absorb the info as it comes available and making plans to interpret and disseminate the corrected story to the public as it develops. Look for our exhibit, coming soon to the Pimería Alta Historical Museum.

Pimería Alta Summer Camp 2023

Suzie Sainz

This summer the Pimería Alta Historical Museum continued its tradition of a week-long summer camp, which hosted approximately 20 kids. Children, ages 6 to 12, participated in art projects, field trips to Patagonia and Tumacacori, and learned indigenous dance routines. Through these activities, our young participants had the chance to learn about the history of Santa Cruz County. By the end of the camp, the kids had also charted their own family trees.



Childhood Memories

Compiled by: Kathleen Escalada

The following are childhood memories from people who grew up in Ambos Nogales. If you have stories you would like to share please email us at pahsmuseum@gmail.com and we will include them in the next Pimería Post:



Photo ca.1955, contributed by Jay Rochlin

The Miquel Ahumada Story

The other day I had breakfast with Frank Watson Ahumada and his sisters Maria Ernestina Vasquez and Patsy Enciso. They were telling me about their grandfather Miquel Ahumada Panta who was born in 1893 in Sinaloa, Mexico. In his teens during the Mexican Revolution his job was carrying stretchers to doctors or to bury the dead. His mother died and his father brought the family to Nogales, Arizona. He later married Ernestina Valenzuela from Arivaca, Arizona. For some time, Miquel worked for Rondstadt Hardware in Tucson. He later opened

Nogales Transfer and Fuel where he transported coal and wood around the state to such places as Fort Huachuca. He also transported goods to Mexico. At one time he was asked to run for Mayor of Nogales but was unable to because he was a Mexican citizen. When he retired, he left his business to his sons Miquel and Camilo Ahumada. He later became a farmer in Hermosillo.

Dia de San Juan Race

In days past when Ambos Nogales were small towns, the Dia de San Juan (St. John the Baptist day) on June 25 was a day

recognized on both sides of the border. It signified the beginning of the monsoons and a time to celebrate. One event for the day was a horse race. It occurred around a hill on the Mexican side near the border. Frank Watson remembers his grandfather telling him about one race. The major horses were El Rayado owned by Ahumada and La Yegua, Hathaway's horse, was winning the first part of the race, but in the second half El Rayado passed him and won the race. Ahumada was relieved for if his horse had lost he would have to tell his wife how much money he had bet.

Continued page 4