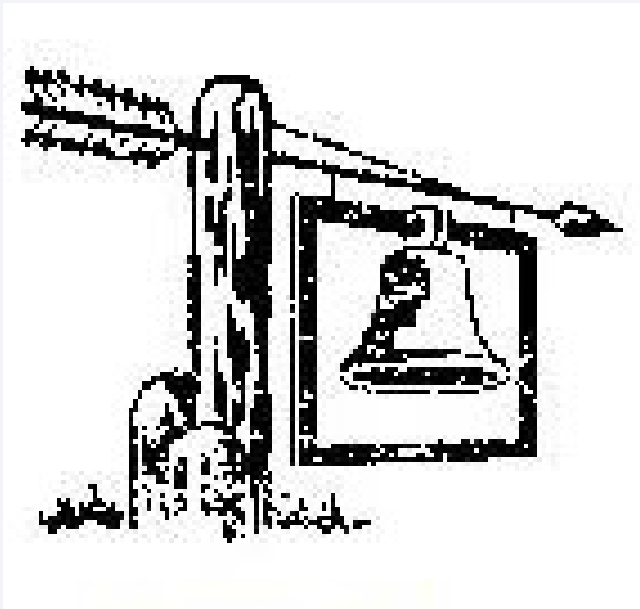


THE OLD BELL COLLECTION

THE GEMSTONES & THEIR HISTORY (2024 VALUATION)



THIS PROPRIETARY REPORT IS A VIP EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE FOR TURQUOISE KINGS
LEARN HOW TO PROTECT THE VALUES OF THE COLLECTION. JOIN THE TURQUOISE
KINGS FAMILY.

Turquoise: Self-regulated?

Buying **Old Bell** comes with a value responsibility! February 10, 2024 (Borrowed from Turquoise Kings).



Should you buy rough turquoise from the Turquoise Kings? You could spend a bit fast in our new [Online Store](#). How do you know that what you buy from Turquoise Kings will not plummet in value in the future? Can you be sure that we will endeavor to protect the "un-regulated" values of your accumulated American turquoise? Yes! We help control supply and demand. Rest assured, that is the plan. Years have proven it. You can trust the Turquoise Kings!

You decide if we can self-govern, (or self-regulate) to protect your turquoise investments. First for the blah blah blah part. What is Nasdaq's pro-definition of a regulated commodity? It is described as "a group of registered commodity futures and options contracts traded on organized & highly controlled U.S. futures exchanges." Any commodity under a real and responsible federated system, has strict rules of clear governance, retaining long values and growth, providing accountability for trading principles, and centralizing a mutual enforcement formula for accurate assessments of any commodity. Here are a few examples: cattle might be a commodity. The prices per head rise and fall, and everyone who trades in cattle (on paper) agrees to centralized pricing controls so that your Friday night rare T-bone doesn't bottom the market out @ \$985 a pound! On the other hand, economics continue to drive value, moderately - so buying cattle almost insures a rise of your dollar's power. Because Texans aren't going to stop buying steak. And neither are New Yorkers! So knowing the consistent and steady growth of the commodity known as cattle, means a cattle invest might be safe. On the other hand, many long decades ago, the midwestern plains States experienced massive agricultural success, too much in fact. There was a massive overproduction of crops, due to the completely unregulated farming industry. Prices for corn

and other staple crops were decimated by the supply that kept pouring in as farmers sold what they had off. Supply and demand clearly dictate that too much of anything makes it - worthless. The government bought what they could, everything in sight in fact, but the silos filled and overflowed, even rotted, and the farmers were dumping mountains of "free grain" in the streets. The government responded by paying the farmers to plough it under, a tradition that is often carried on to this day. Before we feel too self-righteous about this apparent waste, we should understand the protections it provided to the US economy.

The ever-brilliant President Roosevelt, made the New Deal in the 1930s, also signing into law the US Agricultural Adjustment Act. Under this Act, US farmers were governed by a careful science, under US law, that protected the values of grain from over production and thus protected the farmers, the price of bread being steadier, and the economy holding overall! Clearly, regulatory governance of commodities protects everyone: from the farmer's prices and income, to the consumer having access, to the protection against overall economic collapse and even starvation caused by an overabundance. Economic lesson one! Supply and demand! And your investments in bullion are regulated on a global level, providing near absolute safety in a commodity like gold. Your coins are protected! Not to mention the massive stack of old Spanish gold bullion bricks you have hidden in your closet. Well, if your name is Dan, and you are in a secret, desert location. (Sorry, Dan.) Gold is a well-regulated commodity. Without gold, there is no universal currency, but gold has a centralized monetary value that historically has proven to transcend global economics, declared wars, and even flagrant coup d'états! We are fortunate to enjoy globally controlled, real and regulated commodities, that outlive governments and banks!

...The GIA dominated market of certified diamonds and rubies is flowing with well-regulated precious stones. Because those in the chain of effectivity are government accountable, that commodity control mechanism is effective in preserving and setting controlled values. Values shift, but they do not do so in a vacuum, but in a capped and controlled group - that always is governed by the values set by the relevant and current economic facts, along with applicable international treaties and regulations. But they are one of only four universally accepted precious stones. Turquoise is supposedly not a "precious" stone, but only semi-precious. Tell that to 2,500 plus years of Continental Natives and their well-documented history, where gold as a base currency was often replaced with "priceless" Turquoise. In a matter of fact, the currency exchange or trade of wealth under the Aztec Empire was standardized in regulatory value, under the Aztec economic forum. Aztec beads were traded as currency as far as New York, and even Alaska Natives ("Eskimos") were decking their leaders out with turquoise. Arizona Turquoise. Thus, Turquoise Mt used to be called "Aztec Mt" about 125 years ago! On account of ancient Aztec mines and mining implements found amongst stacks of sorted bead size nuggets... By the way turquoise has not gone down in value on the North American Continent in 3,000 years! The Smithsonian declared gem turquoise more valuable than diamonds! The long term supply and demand movements became carefully protected, many long centuries ago, by a dominant governing authority in the entire trade culture. It was largely set by a centralized, imperialistic group industry: the Mining Industry of the Aztec Empire. Arizona miners have found ancient Aztec mines throughout Kingman, Arizona...

But I digress.

Okay, so we do not have a federalized Aztec standard for real turquoise, but gem grade turquoise is rare enough that there are only a few big timers that have control of 90% of the standard genuine (stable) turquoise in America, and even a lesser number of those who have 99% of the American High Grade natural (authentic) turquoise pulled from American soil. You know, some say that the big Nevada #8 Pit on Battle Mountain, turned out over 25,000 pounds, while others bombastically claim that it was over 200k pounds of useable, hard and soft turquoise. Ha! Fat chance. We would be out of business. But if that much came out of the ground to plant rumours like that, the market should still be flooded with an overabundance of turquoise. But it is not because of a kind of Miner's self-regulation! The miners sold tractor truckloads to some folks (we have even known), but only to those willing to sit on 99% of it. So by carefully culling their traders, the big American turquoise miners were still able to regulate the long term values, so they could continue in another mine without destroying the market, with supply. Which leads to a shortage in demand. Which leads to unregulated, plummeting values! So even though there is

a widely known mass stash of Nevada #8 turquoise somewhere (less known), the values have continuously risen, and so has the demand. In essence, the old timer "hoarders" have self-regulated the industry into consistent year upon year value expansion! Turquoise continues to rarely find it's way onto the market, and keeps getting more and more expensive. The big post-1980 drop of well over 500,000 pounds of famous, cheap Chinese Turquoise in the United States put Bell Trading Post out of business, so American manufacturing entities took a blow. Chinese turquoise was widely available, but it only devalued Chinese turquoise. But it had no negative impact on the values of American turquoise, to this day! Because the Brown Family locked down 10,000 pounds of Old Morenci, Morenci became more and more demanded. Now, good Morenci is \$5,000 to \$100,000 a pound, and unbelievably, even more. But the value of the American turquoise never deviated and continued to rise! Some call this market manipulation, or even price fixing. But it is not, it is an unregulated industry collaborating in historical cultural practice, to self-regulate for mutual benefit!

Another great example of this supply and demand self-regulation, is in an early occurrence in our company: one of the owners of the modern Tyrone Mine in New Mexico was negotiating a potential big buy out on some of that particular year's Green Tyrone nuggets. We were trying hard to angle to include one bucket of high grade, natural blue from Tyrone. I had plans to sell at about \$2,500 a pound. I even could have sold natural for \$10,000 a pound for the best Tyrone Blue. But the old Miner explained that he struck a FAT river of gem grade blue - several hundred pounds, and knowing the high demand for Tyrone Blue, he ploughed it under. Like as if he thought it was corn. Some of my clients were horrified to hear this, and I explained he was saving it for retirement. The immediate result was several offers for double and even triple on the Tyrone high grade. But the miner held out. The BIG NO. Incidentally, his values have continued to skyrocket. Point being, that those in the position of high control in the modern turquoise mining industry have to collaborate (deliberately or indirectly) to maintain a limited market-controlled release on all turquoise, to protect the values of what their customers buy annually. For this reason, to maintain general turquoise values, for decades turquoise miners have limited the take on natural gemstone strikes. They just plough it under. Or hoard it. But also, resellers must control their releases carefully!

Self regulation came into play for Turquoise Kings in 2018. Supply of stabilized and natural gem grade turquoise was low nationally, and even global demand was high. But suddenly, there was a formerly unknown supply of over 25,000 pounds of American mined, super grade, stable slabs of genuine turquoise, with many natural gemstone hard authentic high grade buckets as well! The discovered treasure seemed incredible, and we recognized that dropping it on the market at the standard prices of turquoise at the time would only greatly destabilize the market values with an abundance of supply. So we read through 10 or so turquoise related history books, talked to countless industry experts, and laid out a 20 year organized plan on releasing the Old Bell Collection of rough, American turquoise. Boy did it take off then! We had all kinds of efforts and big investments into our marketing, but that was the smartest thing we ever did! A sort of self-regulation caused a great demand for the Old Bell Collection, especially since "we weren't selling it"! By the end of year one, one client we met was fondly nicknamed "Rumpelstiltskin", for trading entire ounces of the finest gold in the world for single pounds of our luscious, stabilized, old slab King's Manassa webbed turquoise from Old Bell! Now the demand has outgrown the founders of the company, who have retired, trusting the future of the release plan to Jeff Wildstar, and the awesome crew at Turquoise Kings! Jeff is a long time turquoise pro, who gets the supply and demand rule: if released supply is kept down, inspired demand is kept up! The plan continues now.

So you decide, after five proven years, if we sort of self-regulate! Sort of? You can count on us, baby! It is because Turquoise Kings "self-regulates", that when you buy Old Bell from us, or Mojave County, Arizona turquoise, for that matter, you KNOW with certainty that we will always and continuously collaborate with the mines, and with resellers who we distribute to, to protect your investment's value growth - long term. So fearlessly invest into "ancient Aztec Currency"!

It is worth more than diamonds. And that's saying a lot. Diamonds are a regulated industry!

TURQUOISE KINGS VIPS! BEING A FAMILY MEMBER COOMES WITH ACCOUNTABILITY!

Bell Trading Post Turquoise Gemstones are products from an unregulated industry. But they have real, intrinsic value that demands responsible ownership. An investment into the Bell Collection is nothing short of a global community agreement (albeit a loose one) to protect values when reselling or manufacturing any turquoise in any form, from the Old Bell Collection by Turquoise Kings. Rough Corinthian Turquoise slabs from the Collection retail for \$1 a gram and up, without exception. Cabochons cut from the collection are valued at \$10 to \$20 a gram and up, but there is freedom to do as you like in pricing your own cut gemstones. The precut gemstone cabochons from the Old Collection were cut by the Bell Trading Post and the Maisel Indian Trading Post. These have been carefully scrutinized within this report, and are valued at retail @\$12 a carat, or \$60 a gram. Both the Corinthian slabs for cutting and the Route 66 cabochons have been put through a 5 + year Test Market, with values based on average sales numbers. The Bell Collection has preset, absolute values. Invest with commitment into the long-term plan of the Bell Collection! Let's take a good look at these cabochons you are purchasing from Old Bell: Learn how to protect your investments into the Bell Collection! Loyalty to the plan will establish protection of your very own mini-Bell Collection.

Points to Ponder:

- This 5 year study has established values based on real sales numbers.
- Multiple sources were considered. Sales records of Turquoise Kings was assessed, and of other respectable outfits, and established turquoise values that seen in the market.
- This is an unprecedented Release of turquoise Cabochons from ANY private collection.
- 20 Years TIMED RELEASE: Turquoise Kings will release 500K plus carats of exclusive BELL SUNBELL gemstones, all cut by the world- famous Bell Trading Post (Sunbell) company on Rt. 66.
- These gems are all circa 1932 to 1980. Intended to be collected or resold as "Old Bell Cut Cabochons" (or when done by the Collaborative, "ReBell Jewelry" - a TM and protected brand).
- (THIS POINT STANDS FOR THE CORINTHIAN SLABS AS WELL). These gemstones, some stable, some natural - include some of the most rare turquoise mines in the USA, including Lavender Pit Bisbee, NV Fox, NV8, Blue Diamond, Battle Mountain, Hatchita, Cerillos, Kings Manassa, Cripple Creek, Castle Dome, Sleeping Beauty, Morenci and more! The original owner, JT Michelson, helped us know how to identify it!
- IN ALL CASES, everything traces directly back to the Mines, through Old Bell, and JT Michelson was the buyer for the Bell Turquoise for 27 years. And he bought Maisel. He has certified us to identify the various mines based on information only he had.
- Turquoise Kings is developing a 20-year release plan on cabochons from the Bell Trading Post, and the value rate will be tightly controlled during that time.
- If a VIP buys Corinthian Slabs or Finished Gemstones from the Old Bell Collection, at a discounted "family rate", the VIP agrees automatically to help protect values. Any VIP unable to maintain this standard would be cut off.
- ReBell Jewelry is a TM Brand originally created by Turquoise Kings. It is now a spin off, privately share held company, separate from the Turquoise Kings company.
- It now belongs to Professor Joseph Kennedy in Silver City, NM, and to JT Michelson, the original owner of Bell Trading Post who joined up with our company family.
- Turquoise Kings has the largest and most varied American Turquoise Collection in the world, as far as we know.
- Only a Turquoise Kings VIP or ReBell Network Approved Member may read this report. Do not share this proprietary report without permission, it may even be considered corporate espionage to do so.
- Turquoise Kings Reseller and Manufacture Customers must follow this value system:

Rough Corinthian Old Bell slabs are \$1 a gram and up. Cabochons CUT by Old Bell are \$60 a gram and up! Cabochons cut from the rough Collection start at \$10 a gram. Don't risk your own Old Bell value investments! Anyone who buys from you for less, can only should do so PRIVATELY. You have already been given a "family price" – if you are reading this report. When you became a VIP and an Old Bell buyer at private rates you already have agreed to protect the Turquoise Kings Family values.

- All of these cabochons were cut from American turquoise by Bell Trading Post, Maisel Indian Trading Post, and SunBell Corporation employees.
- Turquoise has not gone down in value, ever, in North American recorded history. In harder national times, Tiffany style gaudy jewelry gave way to Fre Harvey "tinies". This is how Jack M. deliberately lowered jewelry costs during the Great Depression.
- That was always the Bell/Sunbell mindset - put turquoise into the common man's hand. That is also the mindset of Turquoise Kings.
- Many of these BELL-CUT gems are now being incorporated into our own southwestern & contemporary jewelry, designed and hand-crafted by our own ReBell designers/artists! Purchasing these Bell

cabochons, which are highly collectable, gives you license to collect, incorporate them into jewelry, or to resell them ONLY as "vintage Bell Cabochons". Advertising "ReBell Jewelry" is an exclusive TM right, and that is by design.

- ReBell Companies does not compete with Turquoise Kings by retailing old turquoise (rough or gemstones) from the Bell Collection at all.
 - Turquoise Kings does not compete with ReBell Companies and recognizes their proprietary rights to recreate and mass produce actual replica items from Old Bell, using the same turquoise used then from the same factory buckets!
 - To clarify, Turquoise Kings manufactures general products, but solely ReBell (and their approved collaborations) reproduces exact Bell Product replicas.
 - ReBell owns the rights to the Bell product lines from Old Sunbell Corporation. Our very own ReBell Honorary Chairman of the Board, for our company, is Mr. JT Michelson, who owned Bell Trading Post for decades and is son of the 1939 founder! Mr. Michelson holds a Masters in Business from Harvard. He also owns ReBell, with *Professor Joseph Kennedy. More on the Professor, soon!*
 - VIPs should feel free to advertise their use of "Turquoise Kings products" and even "Old Bell Cabochons", and their rough as "obtained from the Old Bell Collection by Turquoise Kings", and proudly trace back to us. However, even if you are making Bell style reproductions, do not use the Band TM name "ReBell" in your advertising. It is a protected Brand by ReBell Companies, and constitutes proprietary projects belonging to its shareholders.
 - More coming on ReBell Networking, and how you can get involved!
 - Let us know if you want to start a business, we would like to help!
-

Bell Trading Post Turquoise? Historical Custody and Control Goes How Far Back?



27 March 2022

Imagine the joy of finding these in Old Bell Buckets! These treasures led us back to Mr. JT Michelson, last owner of Bell Trading Post! That's right, all you travelling traders, silversmiths, cowboys and Indians, and all the rest of you too! This lofty claim is well substantiated - so just read on. Turquoise Kings has apparently gained exclusive possession to the largest known collection in the world of American Rt 66 turquoise scrap

- coming from the most famous Indian trading posts there were, from a bygone era. The collection was started during the Great Depression by Maisel Indian Trading Post, and Bell Trading Post. Jack Michelson's (Bell) son JT found a lot of this scrap in the Maisel attic, and purchased it with Leonard Bell - in 1972 - from Ethyl Maisel. It was then likely mixed with Bell and Sunbell scrap going way back. These factories employed hundreds of American Indians, and many other Americans as well. They continued to accumulate lapidary scrap up through the time Bell changed to Sunbell in the 1970's. Mister O Anderson (of Arco) was the last owner of an active Bell company, and this traces back to Bell through that connection. Mr. Robert O Anderson was close to JT Michelson, a primary point that will likely come out in a coming book, by Professor Joseph Kennedy.

The history of this turquoise matters, and we are determined to preserve custody "authority" for the sake of posterity. We are preparing museum exhibits that are loaded with provenance from this very collection. Some MAJOR American Turquoise historical facts will be re-written by things we have uncovered. *More on that soon.* Jack Michelson was a visionary man, and when he founded the Bell Trading Post, he did so with a heart for his local community. According to some reports, he wanted to provide a source of employment for his (Indian) neighbors who, unlike him, were deeply suffering with the times. He preferred Thanksgiving meals with his family - WITH HIS EMPLOYEES. A Great Depression tale that's wonderful to hear. *And hasn't really been told In many years.* Though much of this collection passed through the hands of M Maisel and his famous Indian Trading Post, it was Bell and Sunbell that really started and finished this collection, after absorbing all that Maisel had accumulated from 1938 to 1970ish.

This chain of custody and command is imperative to trace, seeing as the mines that these companies worked with are easily established. After Fred Harvey alone, Mister Jack Michelson and M Maisel are the giants who built the modern style of Native American jewelry and souvenir industry. Our material was obtained directly from the historically established current owner of the Michelson family Bell & Sunbell corporate turquoise estates. Much will be published about this rich American history. Keep checking back! Here is the timeline of our own Bell Collection, Chain of Custody, and Dates. *Some names below are not revealed to protect privacy as requested by others:*

- (1932) M Maisel founds his Indian Trading Post, saving rare turquoise scraps from Native artists. He likely began with high grade! Then added stabilized later.
- (1939) Jack Michelson founds the famous Bell Trading Post, also saving decades of factory turquoise scraps. Jack also first had to work with no stable, cutting natural. Of course all these guys used hot wax. Jack had tremendous vision and paved the way for the innovation that led to the great Sunbell, global corporation.
- (1935 - 19670ish) M Maisel employees sorted scrap various ways, bagging and tagging some high grade, buried in buckets. Bell/Sunbell employees followed suit in the 1970's. Much material came labeled in their original buckets.
- (1957,1959) Mr and Mrs. Michelson of Bell passed away from heart issues. This is why the proceeds of our coming book, are going towards heart research. The family brought in Leonard Bell, Mrs. Bell's brother. Leonard not only saved the company, but he put it on the map. He was referred to with both affection and deep respect by every employee as, "Mr. Bell". Mr. Bell made the company. He was brilliant.
- (1980) Mr. Robert O Anderson (who was the existing owner, he had become the full owner). With the full support of the original family, specifically JT Michelson, who also led the company for years. Mr. Anderson, who built the Alaskan pipeline, and owned the largest ranch in the United States, was the last owner of this material before it went to our source.
- (1965-1979) Bell employees continuously mix old scraps of with jewelry copper bits. (Dated with unique and historically established Bell cabochons mixed in.)These hundreds of dated hallmarks are found mixed with Corinthian scrap!
- (1972) Michelson family/Bell Trading Post famously bought all Maisel Company Stock. Despite purchasing ownership and years of fierce competition, the decision was made by Leonard Bell and

JT Michelson (and O Anderson?) to allow Maisel to continue as direct competition to Bell. Incredible story, more to come on that telling tale. JT Michelson recently confirmed the story of how the material was found at Maisels, originally, when Ethyl called asking them to buy the scrap! Some scrap was utilized, some saved. Uncle Bell helped make masses of Corinthian lines with this scrap. It was useful.

- (1960s) Sunbell "brand" became the brainchild of Jacquelyn Michelson. Both other Michelson siblings sold their interest to their Uncle Bell, and to JT, and O Anderson, and that sibling and group took the company global, from the time dad died in the 1950's of heart failure, till 1979. This was when the largest Corinthian runs were done. And mass production.
- (1970-1979) Corinthian jewelry from the Sunbell scrap collection becomes HUGE as combined scraps were cut. The scrap collection is ignored for anything valuable, in favor of the mass production of the 1970's. An incredible amount of high grade was saved. And it seems, accidentally.
- (1984ish) The Michelson family retired the Sunbell Company years before to O Anderson, except JT, who reassigned his stock to his great friend Mr. Anderson year later. The turquoise scraps disappeared into history. They were all held by someone who obtained the estate.
- (2015) We heard New Mexico stories about scrap buckets from the Route 66 original Indian Trading Posts. Chased the wind for years.
- (2018) Our family discovers a way to the family that purchased the collection and business estate, who graciously sell some scraps. Some, not much.
- (2019-2020) Times being a little tough, our family is asked directly to purchase the entire, verified scrap collection. (Custody and command direct to Bell/Sunbell.)
- (2020) After the buy out, some scrap buckets were found to have some sorted and identified material in bags - along with provenance from Bell, Maisel, and LW Hardy!
- (2020) All identified mines/buckets had clear provenance leading to that conclusion in mine identification. Otherwise, it is sold as "mixed scrap". All vintage Bell and Maisel Cabochons that are in the ReBell Collection came from this scrap. Historical evidence to be published.
- (2020) Our hard research begins. For history, Mines, and Harvey jewelry. Super hard, even rough turquoise material was found in the buckets. All stabilized material in this scrap collection, that was stabilized, was treated by Maurice Maisel, LW Hardy, or Jack Michelson. There was lots of natural also.
- (2020) Mine Identification: Mr. JT Michelson, who purchased ALL rough turquoise for Bell for 27 years (mine direct), certifies us for accurate mine identifications in the Collection, after extensive study and debate. He bought all this turquoise Mine direct, and he is now Honorary Chairman for Turquoise Kings and for ReBell Companies! (More on ReBell Networking soon). Some natural and/or high grade material was found after the final purchase, buried in loose buckets, bagged, tagged by "Maisel" and identified. We do use this for some mine identification. In all cases, the papers, scraps, hallmarks, and tagged bags used to identify mines were in great preponderance.
- (2023) Jeff Wildstar Wiley makes a fair purchase of the entire Turquoise Kings Company. He purchased the company for an undisclosed amount, and traces directly back to the mines just like us. He has been certified by the Original Turquoise Kings to identify material with accuracy from the Bell Collection.
- (2024) The founding family moves on. Jeff becomes the King. The vision lives on!

Provenance/Trade Secrets/Corinthian Cut-Offs: Much of this was set aside for the Corinthian line. Validated and dated from the Bell Corinthian Collection factory. Regarding the thousands of pounds of Corinthian Turquoise that we found, JT Michelson recently agreed that there was great evidence and he believed this material to be his material. We are pretty established on the timelines. But we are 100% established on the source and mostly on timing. This was easily accomplished when the material was cleaned, by a mass preponderance of copper hallmark scraps mixed throughout the material - *and further affirmed in that we purchased the collection in the first person lineage to custody.* All Bell/Sun-bell jewelry making remnants, other than the turquoise itself, have been sorted out. All Indian and or Depression era cabochons also have been sifted out. An occasional old cab slips through. Some pieces have remnants of copper molding from

the factory process that was the proprietary knowledge Bell/Sunbell possessed over many fierce competitors. That is exemplified in samples of provenance that we sorted. The "foil" was the obvious production secret to their successful Corinthian line. I know what it was. Do you?

History and Time Period: The turquoise in this collection was primarily cut by Native Americans and local Americans to NM. Read about our chain of custody and command here. Read the Jack Michelson history, coming soon. And the son, JT is telling the story as we write. More soon! Using the mass preponderance of easily dated Sun-Bell hallmarks pulled from particular buckets in the collection, and attached/dated Maisel Co. tags, and old Cabochons, it was established that this scrap began in the early Maisel and Bell Trading Posts, ran through the famous Bell/Sun-bell "Corinthian Jewelry Indian Jewelry" - production line in New Mexico, circa 1969-1979, and graciously wound up next: at the Turquoise Kings. We went and found the original (king) owner of Bell, JT Michelson, and he joined up with the cause! Welcome to the Kingdom, turquoise will never be the same.

General Turquoise History. Borrowed from Trade Roots.

The name "Turquoise" may have come from the word Turquie, French for Turkey, because of the early belief that the mineral came from that country (the turquoise most likely came from the Alimersai Mountains in Persia (now Iran) or the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, two of the world's oldest known turquoise mining areas.) Another possibility could be the name came from the French description of the gemstone, "pierre turquin" meaning dark blue stone. For thousands of years the finest and most intense blue turquoise in the world was found in Persia, and the term "Persian Turquoise" became synonymous with the finest quality. The ancients preferred blue because a gem-grade blue stone would not change color (King Tut's treasures include a substantial amount of this type of blue turquoise and the color appears unchanged today. The mines of Nishapur, in northeastern Iran, described in 1300 AD as having belonged to Isaac, the son of Abraham, supplied turquoise to Europe and Western Asia for centuries.

This changed during the late 1800's and early 1900's when modern miners discovered or rediscovered significant deposits of high-quality turquoise in the western and southwestern United States. Material from many of these deposits was just as fine as the finest from Persia Today, the term "Persian Turquoise" is more often a definition of quality, rather than a statement of origin. Exactly when turquoise first came to the attention of man is unknown. We have archeological as well as literary references that predate the Christian era by five millennia. The four bracelets of Queen Zar, found on her mummified arm, date to the second ruler of the Egypt's First Dynasty, and that was approximately 5500 BC. Turquoise was used for beads by the Egyptians. Combined with other ornamental stones, the turquoise was inlaid in gold by Sumerians and Egyptians to produce very sophisticated articles of Jewelry. Large mines were reported around 3,200 BC in the Sinai. The oldest known source of turquoise is the Maghara Wadi mines in the Sinai Peninsula. Mining expeditions of up to several thousand laborers were sent there annually. These mines were worked for the pharaohs for 2000 years. They were rediscovered in the mid-nineteenth century and worked on and off until the beginning of this century. Turquoise was worn by Pharaohs and Aztec Kings. Its prized blue color is so distinctive that its name is used to describe any color that resembles it. Pre-Columbian Indians in Mexico, as well the American Southwest, used turquoise for beads and pendants. The Anasazi and Hohokam mined turquoise throughout our Southwest. Absolute evidence exists that these prehistoric people mined turquoise at both Cerillos and in the Burro Mountains of New Mexico; also, at Kingman and Morenci in Arizona as well as the Conejos areas of Colorado. Turquoise was a popular item. We know this because so much has been found in archeological sites, many hundreds of miles away from its source. A prime example is the Cerillos, New Mexico, turquoise found in the Aztec regions of central Mexico.

The Magic & History of Turquoise. Borrowed from Trade Roots.

Although not specifically mentioned in the Bible, many scholars believe that the robe worn by the high priest Aaron was adorned with turquoise. Aristotle, Pliny and others refer to stones that must have been turquoise. After the fourth or fifth century AD, many writings appeared discussing the stone. Explorers such as Marco Polo took time to write about it. Turquoise became a major trade and barter item for the early Persians. Persian turquoise was found in ancient graves in Turkistan, and in the first to third century AD, in graves throughout the Caucasus. Persian stones were much coveted in Afghanistan, and as far north as Siberia. Jewelry containing turquoise has always been popular in Tibet, where it was highly revered, perhaps considered more valuable than gold. They had their own source of turquoise, usually with a green cast; a very hard stone often with significant amounts of spider webbing. It would be fair to say that every Tibetan wore or carried a piece of turquoise throughout life. Turquoise was also used for currency in many areas of Tibet.

The history of turquoise in China dates to the thirteenth century AD. Although mining did exist, most stone came from trade with the Persians, Turks, Tibetans, and the Mongols. Much Chinese turquoise was used for carving and in other decorative ways. The Chinese are greatly fascinated by turquoise, and to them it is second only to jade. Turquoise was unknown until the 18th Century in Japan. Turquoise was not of great import in early and medieval Europe. However, as Asian conquests and interactions with Europe occurred, seventeenth century Englishmen traveling there brought the style back with them. However, it was not until Victorian time that it became fashionable for European women to wear the stone. Victorian and Art Nouveau jewelry featured a good deal of turquoise. As turquoise found its way into the mystic arts, ancient doctors exploited the stone's medicinal potentials, which varied from land to land and age to age. It was good for nearly every ailment including insanity. Turquoise is considered beneficial to general physical well-being, and its cooling nature is thought to help high blood pressure as well as to purify the blood and benefit the liver. Its color could forecast good or bad, predict the weather and influence dreams. It was thought to prevent injury through accident and prevent blindness by placing perfect stones over the eyes. Egyptians mounted turquoise in silver to treat eyes suffering from cataract. It was ground into a salve or powder and was rubbed on or ingested to cure stomach disorders, internal bleeding and ailments of the hip. It was even said to be used for snake bites and scorpions' stings.

As a good luck talisman turquoise found usage in nearly every culture. Turquoise has been believed to confer foresight as well as protect the wearer from danger. In various countries, it is believed to fade when illness or danger is near. Another belief is that a fading stone indicates a lover's faithlessness or a friend's disaffection. In many cultures, the stone is regarded as a harbinger of good fortune, success and health. Aztecs and Egyptians considered it a symbol of prosperity. In India, one was to wear a turquoise on the little finger and look at the stone after seeing the new moon to gain great wealth. Since the fourteenth century, harnesses of dogs, horses and other animals have been decorated with turquoise to protect the animal and master from falling injuries.

Turquoise Use in the Native American World. Borrowed from Trade Roots.

Certainly, the prehistoric peoples of the Western hemisphere knew of turquoise. Turquoise was likely found and used by early man. A long time ago someone noticed a clear blue line running through gray rock and saw the imagery of sky and water in stone, and from that time on, turquoise has been cherished above all else in creation. Pieces of turquoise have been found in burial and archeological sites throughout the two continents. It seems clear that turquoise was always considered a stone of life and good fortune and that it even had healing properties. The stone was used in religion, art, trade, treaty negotiations as well as for jewelry. It was considered by some tribes to be associated with life itself. There are legends saying that the People danced and rejoiced when the rains came. Their tears of joy mixed with the rain and seeped into Mother Earth to become the Sky-Stone. Turquoise, the "fallen sky stone" hidden in Mother Earth, has been valued by cultures for its beauty and reputed spiritual and life-giving qualities for all of history. It is a true gem of the centuries.

Other stories say that the stone brought together the spirits of sea and sky to bless warriors and hunters, and that a turquoise arrowhead assured accurate aim. It was also said that fine turquoise was hidden in the damp ground at the end of the rainbow. A Navajo belief is that a piece of turquoise cast into a river, accompanied by a prayer to the god of rain, will cause rainfall. Another example of the native American view of the power of turquoise would be if you are wearing a turquoise ring and suddenly you look down and see a crack in your stone; the Indians would say "the stone took it," meaning the stone took the blow that may have been aimed toward you.

Physical Properties of Turquoise $\text{CuAl}_6 [(\text{OH})_2/\text{PO}_4]_4$. Borrowed from Trade Roots.

Most specimens are cryptocrystalline, meaning that the crystals can only be seen by a microscope. In chemical terms, turquoise is a hydrated phosphate of copper and aluminum, and is formed as water trickles through a host stone for about 30 million years, gradually leaving a deposit. Turquoise is usually found in the "alteration zones" of arid or desert regions. These zones are areas where the native, original rocks have been altered through the intrusion of other rocks from some volcanic or other thermal influence. The hydrothermal alteration is created by magma solutions from deep in the earth being forced to the surface through fractures or pores which eventually change the original rocks.

Several steps and processes are necessary to create turquoise. First there must be a source of copper. This occurs in a rather limited number of areas in the world. There must be a source of phosphorus CO-located with the copper, usually from the mineral Apatite, which is not always in rocks associated with copper. There must also be feldspar for the aluminum, along with deep hydrothermal alteration, which breaks down the feldspars and frees the aluminum needed for the turquoise. The phosphorus usually comes from phosphoric acid leached from the Apatite, during the hydrothermal alteration.

The copper is usually introduced into the "host" rocks by the rising hot magma. The copper readily oxidizes near the surface when it is in the hot magma solution. It reacts freely with the aluminum and phosphoric acid to form turquoise. Another key geological activity is called silicification; it too is an act of hydrothermal and intrusive alteration. Here silica, which is a common associate of turquoise, is introduced into the turquoise deposit. This addition combined with periods of intense heat are responsible for the hardness of the turquoise and frequently the matrix as well.

At this time other minerals enter into the turquoise structure and create color variations. The chemical formula of turquoise is: $(\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O})$ this structure will vary greatly with the introduction of Iron, Calcium, Magnesium, Manganese, Silicon, and Zinc. These additional elements when incorporated in the molecular structure of turquoise influence its color and hardness. The color of turquoise can vary from a deep blue to a deep green, with every variation of color in-between. Generally, the more copper in the molecular structure the bluer the turquoise. The introduction of iron causes a greener cast to the stone.

To explain further, turquoise must consist of copper, aluminum and phosphorus. Other elements can replace various percentages of these and change the molecular structure. For example, two very rare minerals, Chalcasiderite (where iron replaces the aluminum, creating a yellow-green color), and Faustite (where zinc replaces the aluminum, creating a lime yellow-green color), do exist in turquoise environments.

[INSERT BY TURQUOISE KINGS: Orvil Jack opened the famous Blue Ridge claim, leading to the discovery of some of the most color rich faustite "turquoise" greens ever seen! The Old Bell Collection is rich with faustite Orvil Jack style turquoise!]

Usually there will only be a partial replacement of the aluminum with iron and zinc, thus leaving the turquoise altered only in color. That makes faustite! Turquoise is opaque and has a Mohs scale hardness that varies greatly. The deeply mined chalk-like turquoise may only have a mohs hardness slightly over 2, while a gem specimen mined closer to the surface may be up to 6. The hardness varies due to several factors, including both the environment and the matrix or host rock in which the turquoise is found.

In silica varieties of turquoise, quartz particles are present and the stone will be hard enough for use as a gem stone. Silicification will strengthen some of the matrix as well. If some extent of silicification has not occurred, the turquoise will likely be chalky, porous, and soft. It will not be usable in jewelry without undergoing some form of treatment to harden or stabilize the stone. Stabilization may also be used because moisture will cause turquoise to turn toward green This can occur in the ground or in jewelry by absorbing moisture and oils. This is not unlike blue azurite changing to green malachite as its creation environment increases its water content. Turquoise can be formed in many ways. It can appear as nuggets or it can be deposited in cracks in rocks, which then form vein turquoise. Turquoise can be formed in a cavity lined with quartz crystals and, most interesting, can take the place of another crystal when that crystal dissolves and become a "pseudo morph" or false form. This could give the impression that it is an actual turquoise crystal. Since turquoise is a mineral that is deposited by water solutions, turquoise can take the shape of cavities left when the stems and parts of fossil plants were dissolved out of harder rock or matrix, leaving turquoise in its place. Although this is sometimes referred to as "Fossil" turquoise, the term is incorrect, since "fossil" means the actual remains of plants or animals preserved in the rocks of the earth's crust.

If you believe, as Native Americans believe, that the earth is alive, then all things, no matter how small or apparently inanimate, are precious. To the Native American, Turquoise is Life. In the modern age, there is still this primal recognition of life-giving rock: the smooth stones that lie in streams, the clear quartz that juts from limestone, the humble stone found on a walk, the little black pebble lying mysteriously on the path to your door. There are stones medicine men keep in their sacred bundles because they possess powers of healing. There is the stone that comes to you in dreams and the magic ring you wear on your finger. These rocks and stones are alive and give forth energy to those who wear and hold them. Stones and crystals have unique attributes that support and heal us. Turquoise, especially, is known for its positive healing energy, an aid in mental functions, communication and expression and as a protector...

Here in the United States, turquoise is synonymous with the Southwest. In streets, plazas and in the middle of the desert; over plain dresses, velvet blouses, satin skirts, cowboy shirts and ceremonial costumes, Anglos as well as Pueblo and Navajo Indians wear turquoise necklaces, turquoise pendant, turquoise bracelets, belts and pins and as much as they can at one time. Elsewhere, turquoise may come and go with fashion. Here turquoise is more precious than gold, an enduring expression of Native American culture. It

is the birthstone of December and signifies success. All pictures on this page are of untreated, beautiful, Natural Turquoise. Turquoise, once a luxury intended only for the noble, is worn by every native of the Southwest as a sign of relative wealth. The rain gods and the kachinas wear it. The Earth Mother herself was once a little figure made of turquoise, before Talking God brought Changing Woman to life.

Today, turquoise can be found in many countries of the world, but high-grade turquoise is found mostly in China, Tibet, Persia and the Southwest. The name is derived from "Turkish Stone" because it was brought to Europe through the ancient trade route, via Turkey. Pure blue is rare; with most stones either a blue-green hue or else containing matrix. Deposits are found in Iran, China, Australia, Israel and the southwest United States. The deposits in the Sinai were already worked out by 4000 BC. At that time turquoise was used for jewelry, amulets and the preparation of cosmetics by the Egyptians.

Considered precious by the Native Americans, turquoise evokes peace of the soul, as when we gaze at the immensity of the sky. By gazing at turquoise, the same way, we eventually feel a peace that surpasses all analysis. Turquoise amplifies light blue and blue/green rays in the Divine Light spectrum. When handled or worn, turquoise often turns a darker green, which is said to be caused by the absorption of lotions and body oils.

Understanding the Value of Turquoise. Borrowed from Trade Roots.

Since the late 1950's, there has been a larger demand for turquoise than there has been supply. Since supply has not been able to satisfy the demand, there have been many market-oriented businesspeople (sometimes unscrupulous), who have tried to fill this void with alternate products. The range of turquoise treatments is huge. Soaking soft, light colored turquoise soaked in a liquid plastic creates the effect of a much higher quality material. This idea was not new as it was done with animal fat and tallow thousands of years ago. Another technique is achieved by grinding soft turquoise into a powder and then compressing it, later adding various resins and sometimes dye, to create a "reconstituted" block of turquoise. The various possibilities are numerous, and I will try to make some sense of them for you. The words treated and stabilized are similar, but not necessarily synonymous. They describe the same type of process, and there are several, for impregnating soft, porous turquoise with liquid plastic and hardening or stabilizing it. One of the newer processes being used today is called 'enhancing'. This process creates a slurry, and then charges the turquoise with electrical energy, intensifying its hardness and color. The actual chemical structure does not change, as opposed to stabilizing with plastic. Most of these processes are well-guarded secrets, so any description is, at best, only an educated opinion.

The treating of turquoise is not to be condemned and it is not wrong to buy or sell it; but it is wrong to misrepresent it or to mislead people. It should be sold as treated or stabilized and should not hold the status and value of Natural Gem Turquoise, which is the true gemstone. In my opinion 98% of all turquoise mined is stabilized or enhanced in some way. This is generally the turquoise that is softer, porous and chalky and will not hold together by itself. Treating the stone in this way makes it darker and harder, less likely to fall apart or crack when worked. To complicate the subject even further, there is high-quality turquoise that is stabilized due to the seam-structure in the stone that might fracture if not treated. This material is often treated with "opticon", a kind of [resin - TK] super glue used as a fracture-seal, just before cutting, in an effort to hold the matrix together. It is getting more difficult for even gemologists and turquoise experts to tell the difference between some forms of treated turquoise as opposed to the natural. [Often this is because the resins used are near or fully organic, even attaining gem quality at times. Insert by TK]

Turquoise Terms & Definitions. Borrowed from Trade Roots.

Here are a few terms and their definitions that may help in understanding the various processes:

“Authentic” Natural Turquoise means a stone with no alteration to its original state. Such stones are merely polished and cut into shapes before being made into jewelry. Natural turquoise remains porous, as all-natural stone is to varying degrees, and may tend to change color over time as it is worn and handled, absorbing ones natural body oils.

“Genuine” Stabilized Turquoise means that the natural material as it comes from the ground has been chemically altered to harden the stone, usually by infusing an epoxy or similar chemical into the porous surface of the stone. The stabilization process serves to maintain or sometimes darken the color of the stone so it will not change. Generally, the color remains natural in this process.

Color Treated Turquoise and or Turquoise Composite means that the natural material, as it comes from the ground, is usually too soft and pale to be of any commercial use. It is then altered in similar ways as the stabilized product, but a blue dye is also added to the mix. Treated turquoise is best recognized by its transparent plastic appearance. It looks unnatural because it looks too blue and too highly polished. Reconstructed Turquoise is the name used for turquoise dust and chips that are mixed with plastic resins and dye and compressed into a solid block so as to resemble natural turquoise.

Simulated or Imitation Turquoise is not really turquoise. This material is pure plastic which has been colored with blue dye. It contains absolutely no actual turquoise whatsoever. Pieces of rocks, sand, pyrite and black dye are often added to the formula to imitate matrix.

BELL TRADING POST, ALBUQUERQUE, NM (1932 -1969)

[HOME](#) / [RESEARCH](#) / BELL TRADING POST, ALBUQUERQUE, NM (1932 -1969)

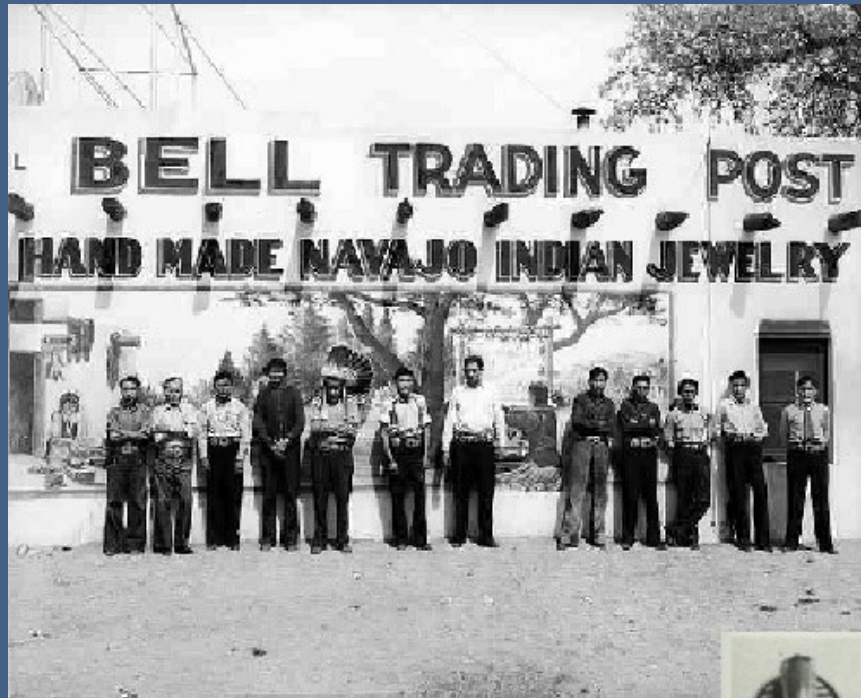


Photo : 1A

Photo : 1B

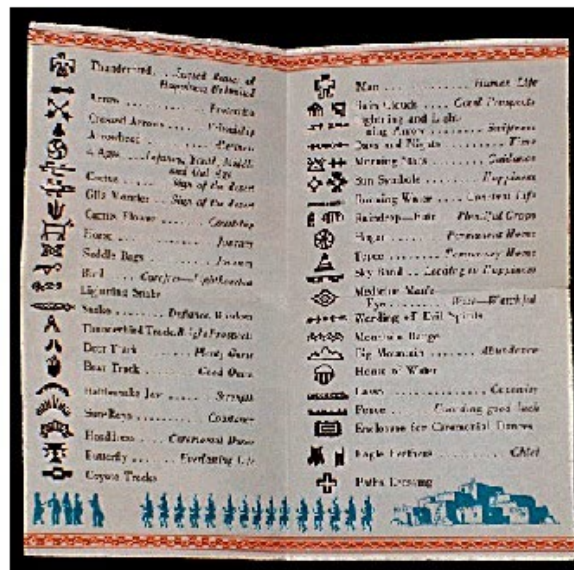


Photo : 1C



Bell Trading Post Patents

THIS ARTICLE IS BORROWED FROM ESTATES IN TIME.

In 1932 during the worst of the Great Depression, Jack Michelson and his wife formed Bell Trading Post. Choosing a location along the route of the newly established highway "Route 66". Following the business plan of famed entrepreneur Fred Harvey, Jack hoped to support his family selling Native American jewelry to travelers passing through Albuquerque New Mexico.

The early 1930's were extremely difficult and jobs were in short supply. While this provided Jack with an abundance of Native Americans wishing to make his jewelry. Business was still very poor for the new upstart. Forcing Jack to use any cost cutting advantage he could find.

Decades earlier Fred Harvey had realized the Navajo taste in jewelry differed from that of travelers from the East. While traditional Native Americans wore heavy Sterling Silver with large Turquoise stones. The tourist leaned more towards lighter jewelry with smaller settings.¹ Due to this reason Harvey had incorporated specialized machinery to mass produce jewelry which catered to the tourist of the day.

By 1935 Bell Trading Post followed suit installing his own machinery which was used by his Native American workers. In addition Jack began creating jewelry from Copper and Nickel Silver to cut cost as well. During these early years Bell Trading Post marked their jewelry with an image of a bell. While using various labels such as "Bell Jewelry", "Nickel Silver", "Solid Copper", and "Sterling". Even though Bell used these different marks Jack decided not to file the Trademarks during the decade to save the cost. For the most part during the 1930's Bell had little competition in Albuquerque and Jack didn't feel the need.

Throughout the 1930's Bell Trading Post survived thanks to his location on Route 66. Roosevelt's New Deal brought the CCC, while Truckers used the road for transport.

Bell Trading Post and the Recovery

In 1939 the Great Depression loosened its grip on the nation, yet it also brought competition to Albuquerque. Only a few blocks away Maurice Maisel completed Maisel's Indian Trading Post in 1939.² The building elaborately designed in Pueblo architecture. An event which made the two men fierce competitors for the rest of both men's lives.

During 1940 America was preparing for war and the US government chose the Southwest as its training grounds. The US spent 230 million on new military bases in Arizona alone.³ Due to the remote arid landscape. As a result the area was teeming with young soldiers away from home for the first time. Often wishing to send gifts back to loved ones.

This was the beginning of a boom time for Bell Trading Post. Over the next two decades Bell Trading Post would expand production into Collectible Sterling Spoons such as the "San Francisco Cable Car Spoon" shown above in Photo : 1B. While selling their products wholesale to various tourist shops across the Southwest.

After the war many of the soldiers who had trained in the Southwest returned, this time with their families. While some came back to stay, others traveled to show their loved ones the sights they had seen before. Nat King Cole released the song "(Get your kicks on) Route 66" in 1946 and the tourism industry was born. While not a tourist destination, Albuquerque was a growing town in the middle of the state. With ample lodging, restaurants, and repair shops. The three most important elements for the traveling family..During these years, the late 40's through the 50's Bell Trading Post did well. Then in 1957 Jack Michelson passed away⁴ leaving the company to his two sons, Jack and Douglas.

A New Era for Bell Trading Post

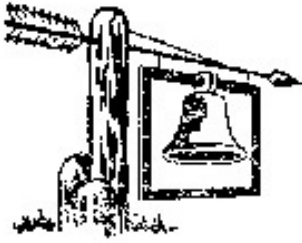


Photo : 2A

On October 7th 1960 the American television series "Route 66" premiered. Building upon earlier excitement, tourism to the Southwest showed no signs of decline. Yet the construction of Interstate 40 had begun with a path bypassing the Bell Trading Post Store.

Wishing to secure the future and company growth the Michelson brothers reinvested heavily. Not taking any dividends from company stocks through the 60's into the 70's.⁵ Focusing on their wholesale business to main tourist attractions around the Southwest.

One of the first actions by the brothers was to file the first company trademark. In 1962 a trademark was filed for Bell Trading Post as shown in Photo : 2A.⁶ Competition with Maisel's Indian Trading Post continued on through the most of the 1960's until the passing of Maurice Maisel in 1968.⁷ Which Resulted in the Trading Post's closure.

Bell Trading Post Becomes Sunbell

By 1969 the Michelsons felt they needed to expand their product line. Entering into a partnership with a third-party Sunbell was formed as a Foreign Corporation in California on January 8th, 1969.⁸

- 1: *Antique American Indian Art LLC* : "[About Fred Harvey Jewelry](#)"
- 2: *National Parks Service Travel Guide* : "[Maisel's Indian Trading Post](#)"
- 3: *National Parks Service Travel Guide* : "[Route 66 1926 - 1945](#)":
- 4: *US Find a Grave Index* : [Jack Michelson](#)
- 5: *Legale.com* : New Mexico Supreme Court ; Case 551P.2d 638 (1976)
- 6: *United States Patent and Trademark Office* : Serial No. 72137710
- 7: *Ancestry.com* : Birth, Marriage, and Death:Records
- 8: *Corporationwiki* : "[Sunbell Corporation](#)"

Photo : 1A: Albuquerque Museum Photo Archives

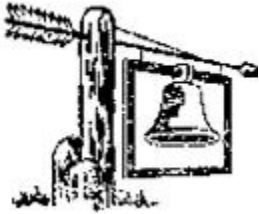
Photo : 1B: A Collector's Guide to Spoons Around the World ; page: 321

Photo : 1C: Maisel's Indian Trading Post Brochure

Photo : 2A: United States Patent and Trademark Office : Serial No. 72137710

Talking ReBell "rings a bell" about Old Bell.

26 March 2023



If you grew up anywhere near the Route 66 four corner's region of America, talking about Bell jewelry probably "rings a bell" for you. Ha. Bell and Sunbell were eventually the number one in the tourist world. Jack and Mildred Michelson's tale begins in 1935 in the Santa Fe region of New Mexico, and was the start-up of the Rt 66, iconic Bell Trading Post. One written story goes that during the early 30s, Jack was troubled by the plight of his neighbors milling the streets, looking for non-existent work of ANY SORT. That was the classic desperation seen across America during the Great Depression.

Most of the neighbors Jack had were Native Americans who were suddenly left without a means because of the market crash that ended the Fred Harvey/Tiffany's turquoise era. Jack saw an opportunity in the throngs of suddenly-unemployed civilians - especially Navajos, Apaches, Pueblos, and Utes in his town. Hundreds of talented, trained artists and silversmiths suddenly had nothing to do. This really caught Jack's eye, and he wanted to do something about it. His dreams were effectively fulfilled, because his mechanical and business innovations changed the industry.

Jack was said by newspapers to be a kind man, who cared deeply for those in his community and business. This was exemplified by his habit of skipping a family holiday like Thanksgiving, and sharing his family meal with earliest 200 employees he had, instead. So that they could enjoy the best during the Great Depression. Because he couldn't enjoy his best without them. Jack was just... nice. He was known and appreciated for it by his work force. By the 1970s, Bell's successor, Sunbell, went global and "made it all the way"! Jack's family business and their Uncle Bell (w/O Anderson and JT Michelson) were selling "Friendly Injun" moccasins and copper Corinthian jewelry by then. But the mega-company was the result of Jack's mighty vision.

Imagine: In 1932, millions of Americans were waiting in long bread lines for an Uncle Sam hand out. Thousands of factories were closing nationwide. The stock market was cooked. Millionaires jumped off of sky scrapers by the dozens. But Jack was opening a factory. He planned to produce (not trade in) Native turquoise jewelry. Jack was Caucasian, so this was a new thought. He determined to find a cost-effective way to produce high quality turquoise "Indian" jewelry, and keep it attainable to the common man. Those who could never shop at Tiffany's; or even the famous railway Fred Harvey Houses for tourists!

Turquoise was already a "high-class" trend by then, and the Depression did nothing to lower the values. Most jewelry of that time was made gaudy and showy, with oversized cabochons - making it impossible to obtain without an income to match such luxuries. Since turquoise continued to appreciate even throughout the Great Depression, it took tremendous innovation to START manufacturing it to the common man affordably. Jack hired a die maker and created and customized machines (likely from Providence, Rhode Island - The capital of jewelry manufacturing at the time), to cut and "mass produce" processed turquoise for jewelry. This was the era in which they brilliantly cut the size of an average cabochon from 250 carats

or so to as little as .5 carats so that a regular Joe could buy "Indian jewelry" for his wife or girls. He took a fine jewelry concept, and without compromising quality, made it available to any income. Then he built the Route 66 "Indian" super 60s trade culture. In 1957, he moved on from this world, but he left behind a growing company!

The [history of the Bell Collection](#) and their Trading Post scrap turquoise deserves to be tempered with the story of Jack's kind ways. Jack died of heart failure in the 1950s. His family really took that to heart, and that thought speaks more [to the heart of the matter.](#)

We wanted to find a way to preserve those historical facts for posterity's sake. When we first bought the Bell/Maisel Collection of turquoise, we got a lot more than we bargained for. We found hundreds of pieces of verifiable provenance mixed throughout the dozens and dozens of buckets and barrels. We found the little hand-made stamp prototypes for turquoise punch outs that were likely invented and hand made early on, and later produced by a company (in Brooklyn?).

But more importantly, we found tens and tens of thousands of cabochons cut by Bell and Sunbell and maybe Maisel - and carelessly mixed throughout the scrap from their factories. Many buckets and barrels also had trademarked items in great preponderance, and that allowed us to date the material in some cases. Lots of the natural cabochons we found date all the way back to the original Trading Post! The value of these cabochons, both the stabilized ones from Sunbell and the natural mines from likely an earlier time (Bell or Maisel Trading Post), has only appreciated since then, to now. That was the fact that led to the business in the first place - turquoise doesn't depreciate. Ever. Turquoise has been the number one trade item for many tribes and nations throughout history. Cortez found the Aztecs making currency from turquoise, but creating plates and utensils from gold! Interestingly, it is even believed that turquoise has never decreased in value on the North American continent in 3,000 years! This growth in value and demand continues to this day, prompting the Smithsonian Institute in 2014 to publish the question, "[Why is Turquoise becoming rarer and more valuable than diamonds?](#)"

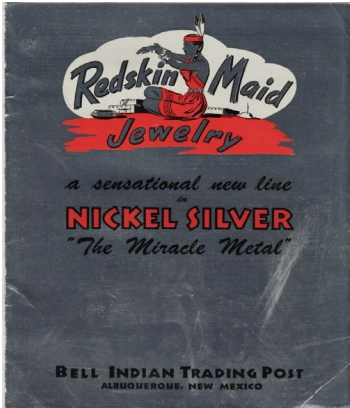
The ReBell Collaborative is a simple concept, really. ReBell and Turquoise Kings want to memorialize the Bell story. We take something from Bell and try to collaborate with artists and jewelers to "Re-Bell it". And we want to see business and employment as a result. We want to make the circle bigger, and close it again - around you! The story is easily summarized. During the Great Depression era, and soon following, Bell Trading Post hired hundreds - and then thousands - of American Indians and others along Route 66 to cut thousands and thousands of tiny gems and make jewelry. The factory was a family, and the gems were cut with love.

The point of cutting tiny cabochons (a new concept at the time) was keeping the cost down for the common man. Jack's initial point was to provide employment, and change his community. The point was always far more lofty than some manufacturing business, and it definitely changed lives. Jack's concern for his community ran so deep that in World War II, when silver sales were banned, Jack supposedly got the US Congress, on his personal lobby, to pass a Bill allowing ONLY American Indians to purchase silver (?). His generous spirit paid him back well that next year, when his rough silver back stock ran out. So says the story that during this period, hundreds of Native employees of Bell kept the company alive by purchasing the silver needed to run the factory, using Jack's money.

Jack's story inspired my family so much, we went into the turquoise business, and I abandoned being the champion of a corporate career. We have thousands of gems, and a burning desire to meet and incorporate many more artists into the ReBell Collaborative, as we attempt to bring this story back to life. Many of these BELL-CUT gems are now being incorporated into our own southwestern and contemporary jewelry, designed and hand-crafted by our own ReBell designers/artists! Right now, we are wanting to create ReBell Jewelry by Turquoise Kings. Soon, ReBell by Joseph Kennedy. ReBell by White Crow. Or even, ReBell by You. Get it touch with your ideas! Be a creator. Join the ReBell Collaborative!

Cowboys and Indians, back then.

January 21, 2022



Just a play on words? We are in changing times! Read on.

Regarding insensitive advertising done in those days: Bell Indian Trading Post's headquarters were located for its entire history in the Rt 66 downtown area in Albuquerque, NM. Albuquerque has a long history of cultural conflict, centered around the Native American culture, and directly preceding the Route 66 ignorant but loving craze of modernity. *There was a time where there was no nostalgia about it.* There was conquest, and wars, more wars and massacres. This city had to come to a sort of peace about it all. It was not an easy road for most locals, of any race. One Pueblo tribe

outside of Albuquerque challenged the great Conquistador Cortez, and he cut the hands off of every single male in that Pueblo nation. *Let's thank our lucky stars Cortez is gone.* Scary. I once had a descendent of those families talk to me (in love) about it, to help me understand the 400 year old familial wounds and social suffering found in the local nations, and in their history, around Albuquerque, New Mexico.

When Mr. Jack Michelson started Bell Trading Post in 1939, it seems that he had it in his heart to provide gainful employment for many of the unemployed masses yet on the streets of his home town (a direct result of the Great Depression). With his 30-40 new employees, he laid quite a groundwork for the coming corporate conglomerate Sunbell. When Mr. JT Michelson took over with his sister, Mz Jackie Michelson, after their dad and mom both died around 1957, Mz Michelson had the brilliant idea to "rebrand" and "trademark" as Sunbell Corporation. The siblings hired their mom's brother, a corporate executive from California, to come run the company. Mr. Leonard Bell, their uncle, came and oversaw the rebirth of Bell into the modern superhero, international dominator that it became under his new leadership. Mr JT Michaelson came back in the early 1960s, from Harvard University, with a Master's degree in business. He and his best friend (the great Wildcatter, Mr. Robert O Anderson) eventually bought Jaquelyne Michelson's stock, *and the world was their oyster!*

Throughout the decades, both Bell and Maisel prided themselves on hiring almost exclusively from the Native American population. Both companies had a huge focus on "Indian" jewellery and "Indian-made" products. JT even shared his Thanksgiving dinner with over 400 employees for decades - most of them American Navajos, Apaches, Zunis,

and various Pueblos. It would be unacceptable today, but those companies proudly advertised "Indian made" and crossed all kinds of lines of cultural humour in their advertising. But both men were famously adored and loved by their employees. We know that a cultural sensitivity has developed in recent years, one that I can understand and appreciate. Nonetheless, their borderline, "honest injun" humour in paper advertisement actually paved the way for the "great Fred Harvey" craze of the 1990s till now! Today, Native American jewellery and smithing has become sacred, even to the Anglo population. Was it truly Native made? Then it is sacred. We have even passed countless laws in our country to stop fraudulent outfits. But this wasn't fraud. It was great American companies funning and transitioning away from a "wild man" brutal culture of racial discrimination. Shaking our heads at the ignorance of the past, funny or not, the Catalogue below is itself incredibly interesting from the historical perspective. This republished, wholesale catalogue from Bell Trading Post, gives a wonderful feeling for what the product lines were like. It also contributes a silly memorial to a simpler time along Route 66, when racial offense was low, profit was high, and Bell Trading Post was printing Wholesale Catalogues off like there was no tomorrow. JT was flying over to Kingman to buy turquoise once a month for years, miners were bringing it into the counter and selling it, and the world was a big fluffy place where everybody seemed happy.

Least, that's how we want to remember it!

Some people today think that Bell and Maisel merged in 1935. But that is simply not true. As the Honorary Chairman of ReBell (our sister company), the original Mr. JT Michelson laughed when I asked if they merged, and launched into the saga of a bloody, family-based competition (war) that lasted from the Fred Harvey days of 1939 to 1972 when Mr. Maisel passed! At that time, Mr. JT Michelson teamed up with Uncle Leonard Bell to buy out Maisel, but I digress, that's another story. Maisel and Bell remained fierce competitors most of their entire existence. Fact.

Bell Trading Post had too much fun making this Catalogue! But it beautiful, and the good spirit of the company lives on with a soft heart for Native Americans, through Turquoise Kings and their sister, ReBell Companies. We may think ourselves more careful then that generation, but we are intertwined in the Native culture, built around turquoise. Some day we will push through the great American National Treasure Act for Turquoise to honour Native Americans. Force the Morenci to reopen! But that's a story for another day. By the way, Mr. Jack Michelson invented nickel silver - seen on the cover above! True story. I know that the past hurts. But now, the times say we should outgrow the silly stuff. With joy! Cowboys and Indians have now become... fellow Americans. Read on.



a sensational new line
in
NICKEL SILVER
"The Miracle Metal"

BELL INDIAN TRADING POST
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Redskin Maid  Jewelry

The workmanship on this jewelry is of the highest quality



\$6.75 doz.

7600



\$6.75 doz.

7603



\$6.75 doz.

7604



\$6.75 doz.

7601



\$6.75 doz.

7605



\$6.75 doz.

7602



\$6.75 doz.

7606



\$13.50 doz.

7608



\$6.75 doz.

7670

Matches Earring 7719
Matches Ring 7558

LINK BRACELET 7607

Matches and should be sold with Concha Belt Nos. 7506 and 7506-S



\$9.00 doz.

7607

No. 7668, same without stones.
\$4.50 doz.

The Jewelry illustrated is made of genuine solid nickel silver and photographed actual size.

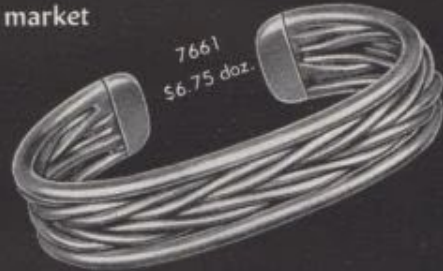
BELL INDIAN TRADING POST, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Redskin Maid  Jewelry



BRACELETS

This jewelry has the eye-appeal and the price-appeal for today's market



Photographed Actual Size

The Jewelry illustrated is made of genuine solid nickel silver

BELL INDIAN TRADING POST, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Redskin Maid  Jewelry

BRACELETS

The jewelry shown in this catalog is highly polished and brightly finished



7654
\$3.60 doz.



7657
\$1.80 doz.



7662
\$6.75 doz.



7663
\$9.60 doz.



7653
\$3.60 doz.



7655
\$3.60 doz.



7650
\$6.75 doz.



7671
\$6.75 doz.

LINK BRACELET 7672

Matches and should be sold with Concha Belt No. 7500



7672 \$4.50 doz.

The Jewelry illustrated is made of genuine solid nickel silver and photographed actual size.

BELL INDIAN TRADING POST, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

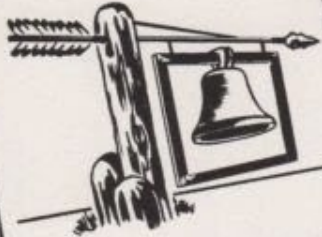
Honest Injun!



This
NEW LINE
IS THE BIGGEST
SMASH HIT
You've Ever Seen

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

BELL INDIAN TRADING POST
In the Heart of the Indian Reservation Country
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO



BELL INDIAN TRADING POST

1503 WEST CENTRAL AVENUE ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

DEVOTED TO MAKING STERLING SILVER, TURQUOISE
and PETRIFIED WOOD JEWELRY

A MESSAGE TO THE TRADE --

The way to make money in business is to give your customers what they want at a price they can afford to pay.

When conditions change, the alert merchant recognizes the change, accepts it -- and profits by it.

Conditions have changed. People no longer have extra money burning their pockets.

However, people have not changed. They still have the same desire for personal adornment they always had. They still want attractive jewelry to wear and take home as gifts. They will buy such jewelry when they can find it at the price that fits their pocketbook.

The jewelry shown in these pages was designed and produced to meet these new conditions. There is nothing "cheap" about it but the price. It is designed, made and finished just like the higher priced jewelry.

Our Redskin Maid Copper Jewelry is making a sensation in the trade -- and this new Redskin Maid Solid Nickel Silver Jewelry is the key to still more profits. It has already been tested in retail stores all over the country. Just display it -- it sells itself. Rush your order today!

Sincerely yours,

J. Michelson

Jack Michelson
Bell Indian Trading Post

IN THE HEART OF THE INDIAN RESERVATION COUNTRY

Redskin Maid



Jewelry

CONCHA BELTS

Require no Federal Excise Tax

Sensationally priced for sports wear and western garb

No. 7500..... \$15.00
Doz.



No. 7501-S, as
illustrated..... \$33.00
Doz.



No. 7501, same
without stones. \$18.00
Doz.

No. 7502-S, as
illustrated..... \$33.00
Doz.



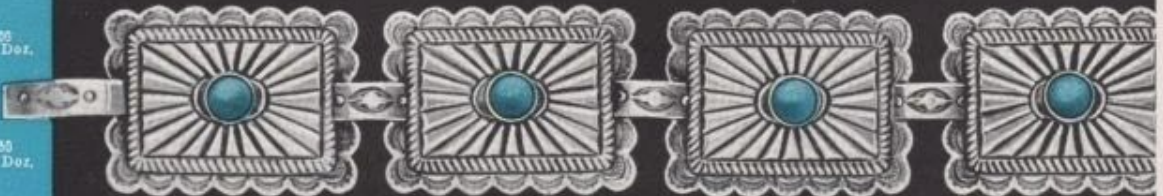
No. 7502, same
without stones. \$18.00
Doz.

No. 7503-S, as
illustrated..... \$36.00
Doz.



No. 7503, same
without stones. \$19.50
Doz.

No. 7504-S, as
illustrated..... \$36.00
Doz.



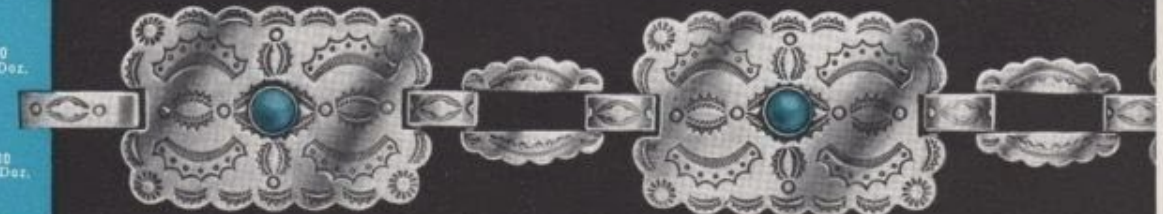
No. 7504, same
without stones. \$19.50
Doz.

No. 7505-S, as
illustrated..... \$39.00
Doz.



No. 7505, same
without stones. \$24.00
Doz.

No. 7506-S, as
illustrated..... \$33.00
Doz.



No. 7506, same
without stones. \$18.00
Doz.

The Jewelry illustrated is made of genuine solid nickel silver and photographed actual size.


BELL INDIAN TRADING POST, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO



BELL INDIAN TRADING POST

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
IN THE HEART OF THE INDIAN RESERVATION COUNTRY

THIS CONVENIENT ORDER FORM REQUIRES NO POSTAGE

Redskin Maid  *Jewelry* in Genuine Solid NICKEL SILVER

Please ship us the following:

BRACELETS

- doz. No. 7600 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7601 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7602 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7603 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7604 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7605 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7606 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7607 @ \$ 9.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7608 @ \$13.50 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7650 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7651 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7652 @ \$ 9.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7653 @ \$ 3.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7654 @ \$ 3.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7655 @ \$ 3.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7656 @ \$ 3.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7657 @ \$ 1.80 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7658 @ \$ 1.80 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7659 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7660 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7661 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7662 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7663 @ \$ 9.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7664 @ \$ 9.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7665 @ \$ 9.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7666 @ \$ 1.80 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7667 @ \$ 9.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7668 @ \$ 4.50 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7670 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7671 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7672 @ \$ 4.50 doz.-\$

BRACELET SETS

- doz. Set No. 15 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. Set No. 16 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. Set No. 17 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. Set No. 18 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. Set No. 19 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. Set No. 20 @ \$ 7.50 doz.-\$
- doz. Set No. 21 @ \$ 7.50 doz.-\$
- doz. Set No. 22 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$

BROOCHES

- doz. No. 7850 @ \$ 3.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7851 @ \$ 3.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7852 @ \$ 3.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7853 @ \$ 3.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7854 @ \$ 3.00 doz.-\$

CONCHA BELTS

- doz. No. 7500 @ \$15.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7501 @ \$18.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7501-S @ \$33.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7502 @ \$18.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7502-S @ \$33.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7503 @ \$19.50 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7503-S @ \$36.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7504 @ \$19.50 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7504-S @ \$36.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7505 @ \$24.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7505-S @ \$39.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7506 @ \$18.00 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7506-S @ \$33.00 doz.-\$

EARRINGS

- doz. No. 7700 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7701 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7702 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7703 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7704 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7705 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7706 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7707 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7708 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7709 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7710 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7711 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7712 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7713 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7714 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7715 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7716 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7717 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7718 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7719 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7720 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7761 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7762 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7763 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7764 @ \$ 3.50 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7765 @ \$ 3.50 doz.-\$

RINGS

- doz. No. 7550 @ \$ 4.50 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7551 @ \$ 4.50 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7552 @ \$ 4.50 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7553 @ \$ 4.50 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7554 @ \$ 4.50 doz.-\$
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- doz. No. 7556 @ \$ 4.50 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7557 @ \$ 4.50 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7558 @ \$ 4.50 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7559 @ \$ 4.50 doz.-\$

KEY CHAIN

- doz. No. 7801 @ \$ 1.50 doz.-\$

COMB

- doz. No. 7800 @ \$ 3.60 doz.-\$

BARRETTE

- doz. No. 7802 @ \$ 6.75 doz.-\$

BUTTONS

- doz. No. 7900 @ \$.72 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7901 @ \$.72 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7902 @ \$.72 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7903 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7904 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7905 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7906 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7907 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7908 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7909 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7910 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7911 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7912 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7913 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7914 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7915 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7916 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7917 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7918 @ \$.72 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7919 @ \$.72 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7920 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7921 @ \$.60 doz.-\$
- doz. No. 7922 @ \$.60 doz.-\$

PLEASE NOTE —

Because of the extremely low wholesale price of this jewelry, we must ask that your order total at least \$25.00. We cannot cover our handling and shipping costs with less!



SHIP TO:

Firm Name _____

Street _____

City _____

Redskin Maid Jewelry

BRACELET SETS (3 bracelets to each set)
have been proven as popular sellers



Set No. 15
\$6.75 doz. sets



Set No. 16
\$6.75 doz. sets



Set No. 17
\$6.75 doz. sets



Set No. 18
\$6.75 doz. sets

Photographed Actual Size



Set No. 19
\$6.75 doz. sets



Set No. 22
\$6.75 doz. sets



\$7.50 doz. sets



\$7.50 doz. sets

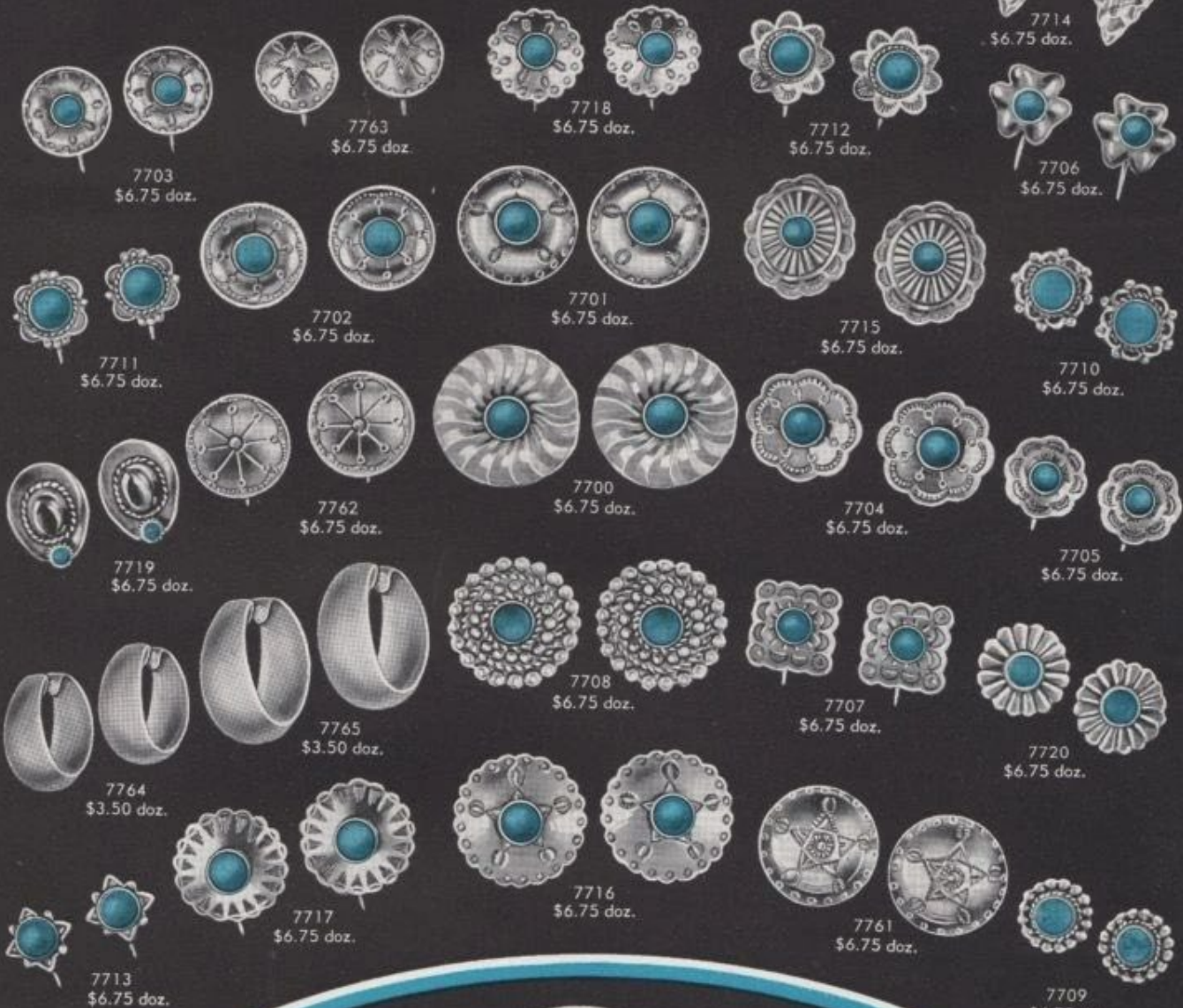
The Jewelry illustrated is made of genuine solid nickel silver

BELL INDIAN TRADING POST, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Redskin Maid Jewelry

EARRINGS

Proven sellers matching the entire line



RINGS

The Jewelry illustrated is made of genuine solid nickel silver and photographed actual size.

BELL INDIAN TRADING POST, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Redskin Maid Jewelry

BROOCHES



7850
\$3.00 doz.



7854
\$3.00 doz.



7853
\$3.00 doz.



7852
\$3.00 doz.



KEY CHAIN

7801 \$1.50 doz.
Requires no Federal Excise Tax



7851
\$3.00 doz.

COMB

7800
\$3.60 doz.



Photographed
Actual Size

BARRETTE

7802
\$6.75 doz.



BUTTONS

Require no
Federal Excise Tax

Requires
no Federal
Excise Tax

Requires no Federal Excise Tax



7920
60c doz.

7919
72c doz.

7901
72c doz.

7918
72c doz.

7900
72c doz.

7902
72c doz.

7903
60c doz.

7916
60c doz.

7905
60c doz.

7906
60c doz.

7904
60c doz.

7921
60c doz.

7907
60c doz.

7922
60c doz.

7917
60c doz.

7915
60c doz.

7913
60c doz.

7910
60c doz.

7908
60c doz.

7909
60c doz.

7912
60c doz.

7911
60c doz.

7914
60c doz.

The Jewelry illustrated
is made of genuine solid nickel silver

BELL INDIAN TRADING POST, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Redskin Maid Jewelry

BROOCHES



7850
\$3.00 doz.



7854
\$3.00 doz.



7853
\$3.00 doz.



7852
\$3.00 doz.



KEY CHAIN

7801 \$1.50 doz.
Requires no Federal Excise Tax



7851
\$3.00 doz.

COMB

7800
\$3.60 doz.



Photographed
Actual Size

BARRETTE

7802
\$6.75 doz.



BUTTONS

Require no
Federal Excise Tax

Requires
no Federal
Excise Tax

Requires no Federal Excise Tax



7920
60c doz.

7919
72c doz.

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60c doz.

7912
60c doz.

7911
60c doz.

7914
60c doz.

7917
60c doz.

The Jewelry illustrated
is made of genuine solid nickel silver

BELL INDIAN TRADING POST, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO



BLUE SKY EAGLE

designs

IN GENUINE SOLID

NICKEL SILVER

the

MIRACLE METAL

to bring you

LOWER PRICES

FASTER SALES

and **BETTER**

PROFITS

than ever before!

***Priced Sensationally Low
to bring traffic into your store***

A History of Bell Trading Post by the Rathbone Museum. Borrowed.



The Bell Indian Trading Post was a company born out of the imagination and entrepreneurial ambition of Jack Michelson and his wife Mildred Bell Michelson. Jack was born in St. Louis, MO in 1900. Jack made his way to Albuquerque, New Mexico sometime during the 1920s, which had a nascent Jewish community built around the jewelry trade. He soon met his future wife Mildred, who had also moved to Albuquerque from Kansas, in unique circumstances. According to their daughter Jacquelyn, "My mother, a registered nurse, met my father when assigned as his private duty nurse while he recovered from pneumonia at St. Joseph's Hospital in Albuquerque."

The Bell Indian Trading Post as the company was initially known, started off as most did, as a financial backer, distributor and retailer for local native American craftspeople. In this case, weavers and silversmiths primarily from local Diné (Navajo) clans. At first, the store would supply raw materials for crafts people to make finished products in their local style and means. For the silversmiths, this was bench and handwork. Suggestions would be made about product types and designs that sold well. Benches and tools would be provided by the trading post to those who wanted to get into the trade. The Bell Indian Trading Post had a small storefront on Copper Avenue with a workshop in the back.

During the depression, Jack had to come up with innovative ways to keep the business growing, reducing costs and affordable to an increasingly interested public. Ever since the late 19thc, Fred Harvey and his tourist business cultivated a nationwide interest in the Southwest and in Indian culture in particular. His restaurants, hotels and tourist shops actively stocked native crafts. Jack started coming up with manufacturing and material innovations that allowed his products to continue native styles but be able to replicate them for fractions of the cost. He bought and taught local Navajos the use of drill presses, dies and tools and other modern equipment. He started making jewelry out of copper and "genuine solid nickel silver" which actually contains no silver (alloy of copper, nickel and zinc). This side of the business became heavily wholesale with catalogs and salespeople across the country.



Starting in December 1941, Jack got the company involved in producing wartime insignia and metal work while also still supporting his domestic business of Indian jewelry. The business came to a crisis however as the US federal government control of price and supply of silver as strategic material meant an end to the Indian souvenir trade. According to an article in the Albuquerque Journal dated Aug 16, 1942, Jack Michelson predicted over 5,000 local silversmiths would be put out of work. The reason being that the US had taken over all silver stocks and was buying silver at 71.11 cents an ounce. The market price was 35 cents an ounce, which Jack and his cohorts were able to buy from foreign markets (mainly Mexican pesos to be used as bullion). But the US government

was shutting this end-around off. As it turns out, a consortium of the Trading Post owners like Jack were able to convince to government to release a small portion of domestic silver stocks to the United Indian Traders Association to keep local smiths solvent.

With Indian jewelry frozen, Jack told the Albuquerque Journal at a big 1942 Thanksgiving dinner he threw for his native employees, "now the same craftsmen make wings for the air corps, and miniatures for their wives, mothers and sweethearts. Identification bracelets and all types of shoulder insignia with varied branch and rank marks are manufactured." (AJ, 11/27/1942) He employed over 200 native workers and their families, saying, "they turn out good work which has been complemented by New York jobbers (probably for packaging and shipping)." He also began producing insignias for the AirForce, as his son would later do as well as Sunbell Corporation! This Company has always been loaded with resilient men able to take a company through! The fact that Native Americans were now manufacturing military insignia caught the eye of Paramount news and a camera crew and director were sent out to the Bell Trading Post in 1943 to film the workers making wings. In an article about the filming, Jack Michelson talks about how he had to convert to different machinery and labor to make the new



items. This included acquiring a 300lb drop press, making dies for the wings at the shop and training workers on how to make and run both.

Paramount Newsreel Man to Film Indians Working on Silver Army Insignia Here

Paramount newsreel camera pictures will be taken of Indians working on silver army insignia Saturday by E. K. Edwards of Denver, motion picture company representative, Edwards informed Jack Michaelson, owner of the Bell Trading Post, 403 West Cooper.

More than 100 Indians will be shown at their work benches or stamping machines putting out insignia and jewelry shipped all over the world in the place of Southwestern Indian jewelry.

Michaelson calls his conversion to wartime industry unique. He imported a tool-maker and steel engraver from New York, along with the man's several thousand intricate tools.

Dies are made at the shop behind the trading post for use with massive machinery. One machine employs a 300-pound drop with a 15-ton pressure for stamping out wing insignia.

In an effort to secure enough labor Michaelson is experimenting with training his own tool men. One such young man, an Isleta Indian, studied only to the sixth grade in school but is already adept with tools.

Women are replacing men at some silver benches as their predecessors are called to war service, Michaelson said.

Next door to the trading post

is the Chief Weavers which is rushed with orders from military neckties made from wool cloth woven by Indians.

Clyde Tingley, former governor of New Mexico and now city commission chairman, probably will be inducted into the Navajo Indian tribe at the motion picture filming Saturday noon.

It would take a million graphite particles, such as cover electronic tubes, to measure one yard.

ALBUQUERQUE



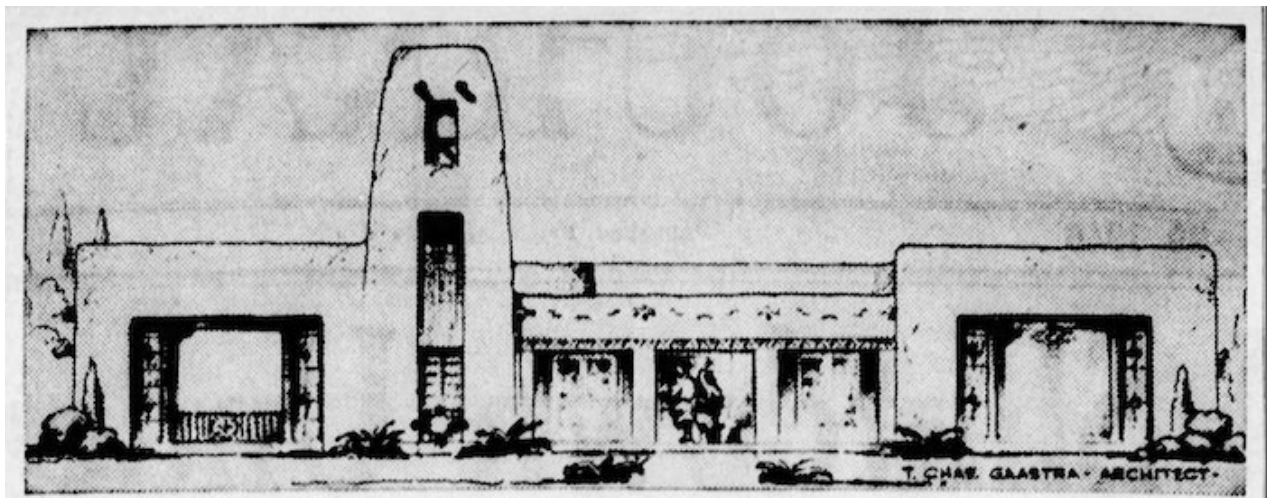
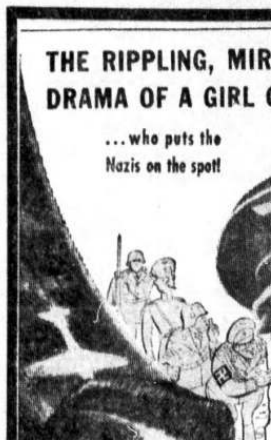
INDIAN DINNER PARTY: Shy, barely speaking to her fellow guests, Mary Toledo, left above, accompanied by her husband, Abe Toledo of Torreon, to a Thanksgiving Day party given for Indian silver workers here Thursday by their employers. Their infant daughter, Amalia, in the papoose frame, and daughter Louise, are shown above with Mrs. Louis Lente, extreme right, resident of Isleta. Family parties attired in tribal dress made the gathering colorful and picturesque.

No 'V Day' Parade In Albuquerque

Rising Bonds Counts

200 Indians Who Make Military Jewelry Enjoy Holiday Dinner With Employers

Colorful Tribal Costumes Enliven Thanksgiving Affair of Bell Trading Post, Chief Weavers



A MILLION-DOLLAR INVESTMENT in the jewelry and neckwear manufacturing industry of New Mexico is represented in the sketched plan above of the Bell Indian Trading Post, established and operated by Jack Michaelson of Albuquerque. The building, to be located at 1503 West Central, will be ready for occupancy in late summer and will eventually house 400 employes, Michaelson said Saturday. The firm was founded here in 1934. Chief Weavers, in which Michaelson is associated with Louis McRae and Dr. E. A. Staab, will occupy a part of the plant.

Once the war was over, Jack and Mildred were able return to native crafts and wholesale souvenirs with even bigger ambitions. In 1948, they completed an entirely new complex located at 1503 West Central Ave on what was the original Route 66 at the time. What was touted as a "Million-Dollar Investment" at the time by the Albuquerque Journal: "Four hundred employees, men and women eventually will be housed in the two-story Indian pueblo type building." (AJ, 1/20/1946) Jack Michelson declared, "the new structure, when completed, will be one of the largest factories for jewelry production west of Chicago." Western and Indian motif jewelry and souvenirs continued to boom with popular post-war culture and increasing car travel out west. Since the very late 30s through WWII and now post-war, the manufacturing and material innovations Jack implemented meant he could deliver inexpensive Indian jewelry in large quantities worldwide. Sales offices were around the country with a chief salesman in NYC and a staff of 8 traveling salesmen.

Unfortunately, the boom times for the Bell Indian Trading Post were soon tragically cut short. In 1957, Jack Michelson died from his third heart attack and his wife Mildred died just two years later of her first heart attack. This left the three teen-aged children, J.T., Douglas and Jacquelyn with an unclear future. With the help of Leonard Bell (One of Mildred's brothers and also in the jewelry business), the family pulled together and continued its operation while learning on the job. Bell continued to do well with Indian jewelry, inexpensive southwestern souvenirs, charms and a line of souvenir spoons. In 1962, they filed their first trademark to establish legal ownership of the Arrow sign post with Bell sign mark. Most of their business was manufacturing and selling wholesale to the trade. They were able to expand starting in the early 1960s with a series of government contracts for military insignia in keeping with the US military expansion. This was a different and more procurement heavy business model than the WWII contracts. Competition was stiff and pricing and oversight were heavily controlled. But it grew the company's revenue.

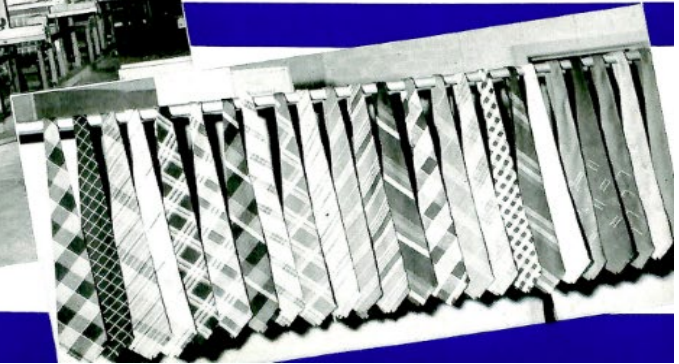
As indicated by the two different US department of defense tags on the jump qualification wings, one set was made pre-1971 (Bell Trading Post Inc.) and one was made post-1971 after the company was re-organized as Sunbell, with Bell Products being the new division that made military insignia. 1975 marked the company's 40th anniversary as it essentially ended its final association with its Trading Post origins, leaving the pueblo building downtown and moving to modern manufacturing facility in West Mesa, NM. The financial landscape for Sunbell continued to decline however and by 1981 the company closed.



Bell Indian Trading Post at 1503 West Central manufactures sterling silver, turquoise and petrified wood Southwestern and Indian style jewelry, also "Redskin Maid" copper jewelry.



Chief Weavers, also at 1503 West Central, manufacture Indian hand-woven ties.



BELL TO MAKE BADGES

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bell Trading Post, Inc., Albuquerque, has been awarded a Defense Dept. contract for furnishing the Army with 344,000 rifle badges. The contract is for \$52,804.

Bell Trading Post of Albuquerque has been awarded a \$78,729 contract to manufacture qualification badges. The contracting group is the Defense Clothing and Textile Supply Agency in Philadelphia, according to Dick Valdez, regional director of Small Business Administration.

Sunbell Jewelry Division Marks 40th Anniversary

Sunbell Corp.'s Bell Jewelry Division, the nation's largest manufacturer of Southwest-styled jewelry and costume jewelry, Wednesday celebrated its 40th anniversary in Albuquerque.

Founded in 1935 by the late Jack Michelson, Bell Indian Trading Post marked its first five years at 403 West Copper as a classic trading post.

"Jewelry, rugs, shawls and other native handicrafts were bought and bartered for silver and turquoise, while jewelry made by on-premise silversmiths was sold at retail," said J.T. Michelson, president of the firm.

BY THE EARLY 40s, Michelson said, trading and retail activities were phased out in favor of "more mechanized jewelry manufacturing and wholesale marketing." During World War II, the company produced metal badges and insignia for the U.S. armed forces.

The present plant at 1503 Central NW was completed in 1947.



J.T. Michelson

That facility is scheduled to be vacated when Sunbell's new 150,000-square-foot West Mesa plant opens sometime in March. Currently employing about 550 persons, Sunbell expects to have at least 1000 persons on its payroll within a year from the opening of its new facilities.

WITH THE NEW plant,

Sunbell will be able to consolidate Bell Jewelry, Bell Products and Gregorian Copper in the new quarters.

Ms. Mary Gallegos, a production control supervisor and a 28-year Bell employe remembered the opening of the current plant in 1947. "It was a dream come true. We moved from two small buildings to a beautiful new place."

Paul Jasler, a tool and die maker with Bell 25 years, said the first machinery and equipment for the plant came from Providence, R.I. "It was the first of its kind in New Mexico."

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OLD TOWN



From JT Michelson's personal Collection of Old Bell.

THE CONTINUING SAGA:

ALL BELL COLLECTION INVESTMENTS WILL LIKELY GO UP IN VALUE!

TRUSTED VIP RESALE REQUIREMENTS INCLUDED

Memo: Current minimum advertising requirements for resale are set as shown on the following list. Selling in private for significantly discounted rates is your prerogative, but by carefully following these protocols when advertising or selling online, by adhering to these prices, you protect the overall value of the Collection. This is the first principle of being a Turquoise Kings VIP with "family rates" and rights, you must agree to help set the long range values. Thank you for following these minimum protocols in public advertisement:

- @ \$1 a gram and up, on the rough and Corinthian genuine turquoise. Stabilized slabs.
 - @\$2 a gram for any authentic natural high grade obtained (a rarity). Natural nuggets.
 - @\$12 a carat on the precut Route 66 Old Bell Cabochons. Many are worth more.
 - @ \$10 a g on cabochons cut from Old Bell Slabs, \$20 a gram if cut from natural.
 - @2 a gram for any turquoise purchased, with exact identification, if it's a bonafide TK-ID.
 - If you are purchasing at "family rates" in private, then you have unofficially agreed to these protocols.
 - Applies to Bell Collection items advertised for resale with terms like "Old Bell, or Turquoise Kings".
 - *The continuing saga involves 350 factory sized cases of Old Bell Jewelry, Conchos, and more.*
-

Please be accountable and be loyal to the protections of values for the Old Bell Collection by Turquoise Kings! Resale sales in private are a personal prerogative, but reselling publicly is a responsibility. ***MEMO: BE AWARE OF THE SECRET TREASURE HUNT FOR THE OLD BELL COLLECTION'S LAST SECRET UNIT. WE ALREADY FOUND IT. THE CAREFUL RELEASE OF THIS SECRET UNIT WILL INCREASE VALUES! THERE ARE OVER 350 CASES OF BELL MADE FINISHED PRODUCTS IN THIS "Secret Unit".*** Protecting values means this find will profit YOU!

The Secret Unit of Bell Trading Post? Coming Yet. Wait for it...

26 March 2023



Wait, what?! Yah, another secret unit of Bell Trading Post treasures! We searched for almost two years, looking for the legendary, rumored turquoise stash from the Old Bell Trading Post, on Route 66! We found it in an unnamed place, hours from OLD Rt 66 anywhere! In early 2018, when we found the old Bell factory storage unit, (circa 1970s) full of rough American Turquoise, we could not have predicted or even guessed at the road that was ahead! There were tens of thousands of pounds of super grade slabs, and high grade nuggets. Some containers and bags were labelled for their American sourced mines, some were not. Some was stabilized, some was natural hard. *We learned to label and identify the mine sources for much of the material.* Some was pre-labelled, and by reading books, talking to old timers, and finally becoming certified by finding the original purchaser for all the turquoise purchased by Bell Trading post, we learned to have a clear idea of the mine sourcing.

I remember the first time JT Michelson almost cried, and emotionally said from the dining table in his exquisite ranch home in Albuquerque, NM, "Oh my goodness. This is my turquoise! This was mine!" Then he got a distant look in his eyes, and told us about buying out the famous Maisel Company in 1971, and how much of the turquoise in his old buckets actually traced back to Maisel Indian Trading Post, as early as from the 1930s! Mr Michelson was the former owner of this turquoise stash, as the owner and president of the past Bell Trading Post/Sunbell Corp. Until we showed up, it had been almost 50 years since he saw his old turquoise stash. Even though he was the company president, he flew to Kingman for years - once monthly at the peak. *He personally purchased every piece of turquoise ever bought by the company!* He used to have a time specified weekly, where he would stand at a counter in the factory, and the miners would line up to sell him their buckets. He knowingly learned the look of each mine, and he showed us to know how! He bought from every American mine that turned earth in modern times, and he was a choosy old boss, taking only the best of everything. In 1939, his father started the Bell Trading Post as a direct competitor to the famous Maisel Indian Trading Post! Mr. Michelson, who has a Masters in Business from Harvard, was a tremendous leader in the industry, and helped stamp Route 66 Indian Memorabilia in the American mind forever - and bought Maisel out!

This treasure and it's history is noteworthy.

The entire turquoise world fell in love with our newly found Old Bell stash, bursting with rarity and nostalgia. A group of online collectors rapidly developed, and began to love the Bell for a variety of reasons. Bell was the biggest tourist phenomenon on Rt 66, and they put "Indian" Americana into the mass produced world, changing the US market forever. Interestingly 99% of their labour force were Native Americans. Bell bought a LOT of turquoise. They controlled the gift stores in over 400 Stuckey's Truck Stops. They did a lot, and spread out. They were the #1 US Copper Plate makers of the 1970s, known as *Gregorian Copper*. Theirs was the first genuine, Indian produced moccasin BRAND: the famed *Oglala Lakota Moccasins*. Their Corinthian Copper and Turquoise Jewellery was a massive hit, and they could not produce enough of it, making millions of dollars on that one product, in a very short time. eBay is flooded with that old Corinthian Jewellery by Bell (*known as Sunbell by then*). Interestingly, a Corinthian Bracelet did cost \$1.25, wholesale, back then. The price was *handwritten* in a full colour catalogue that Mr JT Michelson carried everywhere in his Corporate Handbook, for wholesale pricing. Now they sell on eBay for \$450 to \$550! If you had a 1970s copper (location) spoon or curio, likely Sunbell made it! Interestingly, Jack Michelson Sr invented nickel silver around 1940 or so, due to the impossibility of obtaining substantial sterling stock in the Second Great War, ultimately moving the industry more towards copper as well. Bell dominated the curio and memorabilia

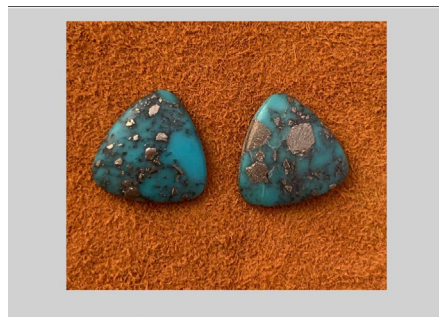
industries, and generated many millions of dollars doing so. With such a huge operation, Bell was buying turquoise like there was no tomorrow!

But now, it's tomorrow. And the turquoise is ours. And yours. *What a find!*

The mass of buckets and barrels that we found were bursting with the old provenance behind all these products, leading us into investigative projects. There were 1950s labels from LW Hardy, and bags labelled "Pilot Mt"! There was jewellery and jewellery parts throughout the scrap. There were cans labelled Bisbee. We opened them, and they were full of obvious Bisbee! There was King's Mannassa, Seven Dwarfs, Blue Diamond, Morenci, Old Kingman, Ithaca Peak, Lavender Pit, Turquoise Mountain, Pilot Mountain, Landers, Blue Ridge, Orvil Jack Faustite, Royston, Candeleria, Nevada #8, Mona Lisa, Fox, and more. None of it was even remotely disappointing. We wound up with some of the most rare (and most vintage) exotic turquoise in the world, and helped stir a national renaissance about Route 66 Turquoise history and nostalgic culture! The idea of "ReBelling" the turquoise, gave us the idea to remanufacture old Corinthian Jewellery, since the turquoise for Corinthian was prepped, sized and labelled by the old factory, and that's how we found it - labelled "for Corinthian"! This led to the idea of something called ReBell. A network of projects, collaborations, and partnerships. With a love of the history! Turquoise Kings invented the ReBell idea, but it outgrew them, and is now entirely run by Professor Joseph Kennedy! *Watch out for ReBell, their stars are rising. And now ReBell and Turquoise Kings are prepping to go find the other unit. Together.*

Oh boy! Another treasure hunt!

What is "the other secret unit"? When the company was disbanded in 1980, they auctioned off the assets and products. There were multiple units. There is another Old Bell unit, full of many thousands upon thousands of pieces made by Old Bell. There are crates of old Gregorian Copper, there are moccasins packed and carefully wrapped, by the box, made by the Bell Sioux Factory. There are boxes of Corinthian Jewellery and sterling, there are castings in too much quantity, to asses it on the spot There are barrels full of pineapple sized, American mined, turquoise boulders. There are stacks of Old Corinthian Jewellery, a 100K nickel Conchos made by Bell, and much, much more. There is over \$1,000,000 in inventory from the old Company in that unit. So we wanted to find and obtain it! We knew it existed! Our lead Treasure Hunter was on a mission for years, and now he has the contact info for the unit. We have actually been there in person, it is the size of a large convenience store, and packed to the 20 foot high, industrial ceiling. WE WILL get the unit funded and purchased this year, we are seeking a financial partner. The other unit has hundreds and hundreds of cases of old finished and semi-finished product from Old Bell Trading Post, Sunbell Corporation, and Maisel Indian Trading Post! You know you want it. I want it. We all want it! We are willing to share it. *Sharing is nice.* Maybe you're supposed to fund the Secret Unit Project. Please [inquire](#). Maybe you're just supposed to go crazy with nostalgia, and just wait. Wait for it... *The Secret Unit is coming!*



Old Bell Cut Morenci Cabochons. Valued @ \$60 a gram! Found in the 1970s buckets. Dripping with pyrite.

MINES AND THEIR STORIES. BORROWED FROM TRADE ROOTS.

Bisbee Turquoise Mine

“Bisbee Blue” is a name given to turquoise that originates from the Bisbee Mine, near Bisbee, Arizona, in Cochise County, USA. The term refers to the turquoise that comes from copper mines in this region. Turquoise from the Bisbee mine has a reputation as a hard, finely webbed stone with high blue color, ranging from sky blue to a dark lavender blue. The matrix patterns vary a great deal, but can be characterized by the deep chocolate brown to black webbing. The hardness is 4.5 on the mohs scale.

The name “Bisbee” conjures a mystique among all turquoise aficionados, and it is one of the most sought after of all domestic turquoise. The turquoise from Bisbee is highly collectible and it is one of the more famous of the American mines. Although the turquoise from the Bisbee mine has a wide variety of color and hardness, the most exceptional quality originates from the Lavender Pit, especially the east side. Such stone has beautiful high blue color with a dark distinct matrix. The turquoise is found as stringers that form as much as a few inches wide, as well as minute stringers in pyrite; also, small nugget masses in granite and quartz.

Bisbee mine turquoise was one of the first to appear for sale on the modern American market, which is at least partly responsible for its fame. The turquoise mine was a secondary operation to the Bisbee copper mine, operated by the Phelps Dodge Corporation. The vast majority of Bisbee turquoise surfaced when the Phelps Dodge started their open pit mining operations at the location now known as the Lavender Pit. The mine has been closed since the early 1970's, so anything new coming from the mine has been scavenged from the old dumps.

Much conglomerate rock had to be removed by Phelps Dodge before the deeper copper ore could be mined. This conglomerate was considered waste rock to the mining company, but was actually a hidden treasure as the host rock for Bisbee turquoise. This waste was discarded in huge piles called "dumps." The corporation made no decided effort to recover the turquoise, so almost all of it was recovered by company employees taking it out covertly in lunch boxes. Though this activity was prohibited, it was rarely enforced. For several years, through the late 1970's, these individuals (locally known as "dumpers"), were the only source for this fine turquoise. Also, during this time, Phelps Dodge began leasing out rights to individuals to mine the dumps for turquoise. However, the large majority of Bisbee turquoise was extracted during the 1950's and 1960's through the covert actions of mine employees.

There are other very rare materials from Bisbee that were mined both from stream beds in the Mule Mountains, as well as from the Campbell shaft. The various lesser-known formations, other than turquoise, among the copper oxides of Bisbee are of interest, as they rarely form in a similar way anywhere else in the world. There is a conglomerate mix of Azurite, chatoyant malachite, chrysocolla and cuprite...all in a single stone, coming from the Campbell Pit, that is incredibly understated and altogether unrecognized for its uniqueness. In 2004, Phelps Dodge Corporation decided to

bury the old mine under hundreds of tons of dirt and rock. They felt that the miners, due to the increasing value of the turquoise, were paying too much attention to the turquoise and not enough to copper mining.

Blue Diamond Turquoise Mine

The Blue Diamond mine is located south of Austin, Nevada, and produces a very hard light to deep blue turquoise, with an attractive swirl or mottled pattern of light and dark blues. It has brown to black matrix. The mine is located at a high altitude and cannot be mined in the winter months due to the extreme cold and snow.

Blue Gem Turquoise Mine

The Blue Gem Lease Mine has been staked also as the Turquoise Tunnel and the Contention, and at one time it was on the Pedro Lode claim belonging to the Copper Canyon Mining Company. The Blue Gem mine is located south of Battle Mountain, in the SE 1/4 of Section 29, T. 32 N., R. 44 E., at about 4,000 feet north - northeast of Copper Basin. It is surrounded by the copper workings of the Copper Canyon Mining Co. The parent company is the Duval Corporation. Blue Gem turquoise occurs in argillized quartz monzonite cut by two limonite-stained sheer zones, one trending N. 35 o W. and dipping 75 o NE., the other trending N, 25 o E. and dipping 55 o NW. An extensive breccia zone about 10 feet wide is developed between the two bounding sheers. Exceptionally good quality turquoise forms veinlets up to three-quarters of an inch thick along the shears. Pyrite-bearing quartz veins are closely associated with the turquoise.

The Blue Gem mine was at one time located deep underground, accessed by tunnels as deep as 800 feet. This is of interest because the Blue Gem Mine and the Bisbee Mine in Arizona are the only two mines (of which we are aware) that turquoise was found that deep in the earth. The Blue Gem mine was once developed in extensive underground workings. An adit several hundred feet long on the main structure connected to numerous shorter tunnels and several open stopes. Directly above the main adit was a glory hole some 100 feet long. The Blue Gem deposit was first noted by Duke Goff in 1934. It was subsequently leased from the Copper Canyon Mining Co. by the American Gem Co. of San Gabriel, CA., owned by Doc Wilson and his sons, Del and William. The company operated the property until 1941 when the outbreak of the war caused a shortage of experienced miners. When both Del and William Wilson were called into the Army, the mine was closed for the duration of the war. Consequently, the lease was allowed to lapse and work was abandoned. In 1950 the mine was leased by Lee Hand and Alvin Layton of Battle Mountain.

In the early days of the operation, production of turquoise at the Blue Gem Lease was enormous. Although there is no exact information, it is reported that the output amounted to nearly \$1 million in rough turquoise. The mine is still active, although it is currently in the center of a major copper deposit being developed by Duval Corp. Pyrite in Blue Gem is unusual to see but not unheard of. Very little large material ever came out of the Blue Gem Turquoise mine. The majority found was small 1-3 mm "bleeder" veins, which often came in sheets measuring 2 inches x 2 inches, as well as tiny nuggets which was perfect for Zuni inlay and fine needlepoint, petit-point and snake-eyes jewelry. Blue Gem turquoise was very popular in the late 1930's and 40's and was commonly used in the Fred Harvey "railroad and tourist jewelry" - the blue jewel - that is so collectable today. Blue Gem turquoise is extremely hard and stands up well to the test of time.

Blue Gem turquoise is a rare, valuable and historic American treasure. Quality Blue Gem Turquoise has been gifted with a wide range and variety of color, from a beautiful sky blue to an aqua blue-green, not

unlike parts of the Mediterranean Sea. Because Blue Gem turquoise is very hard, a high polish is associated with this gemstone, and unlike most blue turquoise, it won't easily change color. This jewel's blue turquoise stone has a unique character and many different looks all of which are striking, full of wonder and pleasing to the eye. Production of the mine started about 1934 and continued into the 1970's. Blue Gem Turquoise is still some of the finest turquoise ever found, and unlike most turquoise mines, (in which the majority mined is chalky and only usable if stabilized) most of the turquoise found there was of gem-quality. Today the Blue Gem mine can no longer be worked, as it sits in the middle of a huge mining operation. The emphasis is on precious metals; the extraction of turquoise is considered more of a hindrance in the mining process than an asset. Even the ever popular "Dump Diving" for turquoise is not tolerated due to the very real danger of becoming buried in a slide. Insurance factors, equipment hazards, high explosives and safety issues, along with a lack of interest from the mining company, keep Blue Gem turquoise unavailable to the world, at least for now. The original Battle Mountain blue Gem Mine no longer produces turquoise, although numerous other mines in the area now carry the same name. The only true old Blue Gem turquoise available today is through old collections.

Cerrillos Turquoise Mine

Cerillos Turquoise is not only an uncommon and unique form of native New Mexican turquoise, but also has a long history which is deeply entwined with both the ancient native peoples of the Southwest and the more recent American mining companies. Considered the oldest known source for turquoise in America, the Pueblo peoples continued to extract turquoise from the Cerillos mine until the 1870's when a silver mining boom raised interest in the area. The Tiffany Company in New York and its associates bought up the mine area and extracted \$2,000,000 worth of turquoise between 1892 and 1899, the per carat value of which has never again been attained.

Cerillos turquoise was created and mined under unusual circumstances, as it is the only turquoise that has been known to form at the base of a volcano. Thus, a variety of colors developed from the minerals in the various volcanic host stones. Cerillos turquoise thus offers a huge range of different colors, from tan and khaki-green to a rich, blue-green to a multitude of blues and even white. Cerrillos is a very hard stone and so takes a brilliant polish. Much of the host rock is riolite. In addition to producing distinctive colored stones, the Cerillos mines are considered the oldest mines of any kind in North America. Located ten miles south of Santa Fe, it was the site of the largest prehistoric mining activity on the continent because the huge turquoise deposit was partially exposed at the surface. Miners from the San Marcos Pueblo, who later moved to Santa Domingo Pueblo south of Santa Fe, most heavily worked the mine. Using only stone axes, mauls, antler picks, and chisels, Pueblo miners removed 100,000 tons of solid rock to create a pit mine 200 feet deep. They dug other vertical shafts into the ground to reach veins of turquoise. Miners carried tools and leather rock buckets on their backs as they climbed in and out of the shafts using notched logs as ladders.

The turquoise obtained from the workings at Cerillos was traded via the old trade route, first to workshops at Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, where artisans polished stones that were coveted by nobles of distant lands. Turquoise from these workshops has been found as far south as Oaxaca, Mexico. The kings and emperors of the Mixtec and Aztecs wore crowns and pendants of turquoise, as amulets of good fortune and long life. The material was also traded east to Pecos and on to the land of the mound builders. Indisputable proof of the movement of this turquoise exists through laboratory analysis of turquoise found in many different geographic locations. Vast numbers of pieces of Cerillos turquoise for personal and trade use have been unearthed in the prehistoric ruins of Pueblo Bonito in Chaco Canyon, as well as in Aztec ruins after the Spanish conquest.

The mine is currently owned by Douglas Magnus, Santa Fe painter and jeweler extraordinaire, who has made a lifelong project of preserving and protecting what little of this material still exists. I have spent many hours digging around in the dumps of the old Castilian claim and remember every piece I was lucky enough to find. In fact I once staked the claim next to the Castilian, the Spanish Gem, where I never found a single piece of turquoise. Rarely does this material come on the market, as it is coveted by those fortunate enough to possess it.

Cripple Creek Turquoise Mine

Cripple Creek Turquoise comes from the Cripple Creek mining area, located in Teller County Colorado, near the town of Cripple Creek. This is a very hard stone with colour range from light and dark blues with brown matrix, and more rarely a golden limonite matrix to blue-green. Hardness can be up to 6 mohs. The best use over all is for inlay and cabbing, although the medium quality is often a little pithy or porous, the result of which does not become visible until the end of the polishing process. This turquoise, like Carico Lake turquoise, is found as a by product of gold mining. This stone is found as both vein material and nodules.

This history of Cripple Creek Turquoise is quite interesting. One of the last great Colorado bonanza camps, the district was first discovered in 1891 by cowboy Bob Womack and turned out to be one of the richest gold mining camps in US history. The 500 mines in the area have yielded over 600 metric tons of gold, making it the third most productive gold district in the history of the United States. Cripple Creek is unusual in that it is one of only a few domestic Turquoise mines still active today, although production has been limited. There are currently two active turquoise mines in the area being operated by two different families. The area is also quite mineral rich; along with gold and turquoise, over 120 other mineral species have been found.

Fox Turquoise Mine

The origin of the Old Fox mine is near Lander County, Nevada. While indigenous people found large nuggets in this area in prehistoric times, the area was first discovered for contemporary mining purposes in the early 1900's. In the 1940's, Dowell Ward purchased & developed the old Cortez claims. Turquoise from this mine comes under several different names including Fox, White Horse, Green Tree and Smith, to differentiate the different deposits and colors and to create a larger perceived share of the turquoise market. Color range is from a soft sky blues, sometimes with a subtle water-marked matrix, to blue-green to green. While quite a bit of this material came out in nugget form, there is also large seam material, sometimes as thick as two inches. The colors in the seam material go to a deeper green, sometimes in conjunction with a very nice blue. The nugget material, while usually small, makes very nice cabs or can be used for inlay. The seam material, often not of ultra high quality, is better suited for carving and, with the better quality for cabbing. Hardness is 4.5.

Kingman Turquoise Mine

Kingman Turquoise originates in the Mineral Park Mining District near Kingman, Arizona. One of the largest domestic turquoise mines, it is found in a large open pit copper mine in the high desert country. The Kingman Mine district was first mined by Native Americans; it was part of the most extensive prehistoric workings in Arizona. However, modern production of turquoise dates back to the 1880's when James Haas rediscovered the area. Natural Kingman Turquoise ranges in color from light to very dark blue and sometimes tints of green. Matrix can range from white, light brown to black and frequently flecked with pyrite and occasionally quartz. The most famous stones from this mine are rounded bright blue

nuggets with black matrix. Few turquoise mines produced nuggets, especially of this quality. In its high-grade form it has always been considered among the top quality American turquoise. This high blue color has become a "color standard" in the industry, reflected by the name "Kingman Blue". However, much of the turquoise from Kingman occurs as seams, masses and veins, rather than in nugget form. Besides the nugget form, the most desirable Kingman turquoise is a deep blue with molybdenum pyrite; also, deep blue with pyrite as well as in a "bird's eye" pattern with "water web" matrix.

The mine is currently owned & Operated by the Colbaugh family's company, Colbaugh Processing. While old natural Kingman turquoise is rare, they have recently gone back into older sections of the Kingman mine and are bringing out some new natural Kingman Turquoise. Although there are quantities of this fine natural deep blue turquoise available, the largest percentage of turquoise mined at Kingman is being treated or stabilized. There are several other names for the turquoise coming out of the Kingman mining district: Ithaca Peak, Old Man Mine, Kingman Duval, Courtland, The Wall and Turquoise Mountain, just to mention a few.

INSERT, TURQUOISE KINGS: TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN - CALLED AZTEC MOUNTAIN. 1912.

Number 8 Turquoise Mine

Located in the Lynn mining district (no. 19, pl. 1) in northern Eureka County, north of Carlin, Nevada, the Number 8 turquoise mine is on the west side of the Tuscarora Range in the NW 1/4 sec. 4, T. 35 N., R. 50 E., and was at one time a gold and copper mining operation. It was in a large general mining district encompassing ten 20-acre claims and was active from the 1930's through the early 1950's. Host rocks for the Number 8 deposit consist of intensely altered quartz monzonite, shale, and thinly bedded black chert, which are complexly folded, faulted, and much altered. Turquoise is concentrated along quartz veins in the intrusive rock and along faults in the sedimentary rocks.

The number 8 mine was presumably discovered about 1925 by a barber from Carlin whose name has been forgotten, because he made no attempt to mine the property. The mine was rediscovered by Earl Buffington and Lawrence Springer in 1929. They filed formal claim to the property and proceeded to mine turquoise in serious fashion, producing about 1,800 pounds of good stone the first year. In 1930 Ted Johnson bought Buffington's interest and during the next four years produced about 5,000 pounds of commercial stone. In 1935 Doc Wilson bought the number 8 mine from Johnson but did nothing with the property and the claim lapsed. Myron Clark relocated the claim and, after working it for awhile, sold it to Lee Hand. Hand operated the mine for a short time, but became dissatisfied with the quality of the stone, and sold it to the five Edgar brothers who now own it. The Edgars extended operations and produced a considerable amount of fair-to-good turquoise.

In 1950, as most of the visible turquoise had been taken from the workings, the Edgars hired a contractor with bulldozer equipment to remove overburden from another part of the claim. A deposit of copper had been found on the property, and the Edgars thought they might mine copper if they did not find more turquoise. The bulldozer, after digging a pit about eight feet deep and 80 feet long, uncovered a deposit of some of the finest spider-web turquoise ever found in Nevada. The deposit was mostly in nodules, some of gigantic size. One of the largest pieces of turquoise and matrix in the modern world, perhaps the largest nodule ever uncovered, was discovered at the Number 8 mine on June 23, 1954, by T. G. Edgar, J. M. Edgar, and Marvin Symes. This specimen was 33 inches long, 18.5 inches wide, and seven inches thick. Cleaned and polished it weighed 150 pounds. The nodule was of excellent texture, good color and hardness, and ranked with any turquoise of good commercial grade. Another nodule, of excellent quality, weighed more than nine pounds. It was sold to C. G. Wallace, of Zuni, New Mexico, for \$1,600. The

discovery proved to be a rather large-pocket and produced more than 1,600 pounds of the very highest grade turquoise before being worked out. Spurred by this find, the Edgars further explored the property, without finding any more spider-web turquoise of notable quantity. Other turquoise was discovered, however, of good commercial grade, sufficient to keep the mine in operation.

Of the ten claims in this 20-acre area, the Number 8, first claimed by the Blue Star Company in Lander County, is considered the finest example of the gold-webbed turquoise. The mine has produced one of the most prized spider web turquoise deposits in the world. In its prime, enormous nodules were found, including one that weighed 150 pounds. Number 8 turquoise is famous for its black, golden-red and brown spider web matrix background, which is set off by the soft blue to blue green turquoise. Only rarely does gem material appear: a very dark blue turquoise with black spider web matrix. The mine is now depleted and Number 8 turquoise is extremely rare and valuable.

Orvil Jack | Blue Ridge Turquoise Mine

Orvill Jack discovered and developed the mine in the northern Nevada, known as Crescent Valley, that bears his name. This claim is actually made up of two mines: when the blue turquoise is mined, it is called the "Blue Ridge Turquoise Mine." When the yellow-green "fausite" is mined, it is referred to as "Orvil Jack Turquoise." The rare yellow-green color of the turquoise comes from the zinc content. Mr. Jack is now deceased, but his daughter Grace Jack Wintle continues to manage and work the mine, although it is now operated primarily as a gold mine. Only a very small amount of the yellow-green variety is now being produced, and is considered very collectible due to its rare color and scarcity.

Pilot Mountain Turquoise Mine

The Pilot Mountain turquoise mine is located in northern Nevada, in Mineral County, near the town of Tonapah. It is still producing and is worked by one family. Pilot Mountain turquoise stone is highly admired for its deep blue-green colors. In addition, it can show light blue to dark green colors on the same stone. This graduation in color is unusual and makes Pilot Mountain turquoise very collectible. The matrix is black to golden brown. Although sometimes a little porous, or pithy, the Pilot Mountain turquoise we have for sale is a hard stone and takes a good polish.

INSERT, TURQUOISE KINGS. PILOT MT HAD 10 MINES, X 20 MATRIX PATTERNS.DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY!

Royston Turquoise Mine

Royston is a district in Nevada consisting of three turquoise mines: Bunker Hill, Oscar Wehrend, and the main producer, The Royal Blue. Royston is known for its beautiful colors ranging from deep green to rich, light blues which are set off by a heavy brown matrix. The Royston mine is producing a little high grade turquoise today, operated by the Ottison family. They process most of their material into finished cabs and allow very little rough to come onto the market. This controlled output has raised the price of this material considerably in recent years.

Sleeping Beauty Turquoise Mine

The Sleeping Beauty Mine is located in Globe, Arizona, but is no longer an active mine. For many years it produced a wide range of turquoise that is now even more highly prized for its solid soft blue color, with little or no matrix. The color of sleeping beauty turquoise ranges from a deep royal blue to a light sky blue. Originally, the Sleeping Beauty Turquoise mine was worked for copper and gold but during the last five decades or so it produced gemstone quality turquoise in quantities to satisfy the commercial market. In general, the miners lease portions of the "dumps" and sort turquoise from there.

King's Manassa Turquoise

(Borrowed From Durango Silver) By Bill King. Intro by John Hatman. Manassa Turquoise was mined at Manassa in south central Colorado. Manassa Turquoise is known for its blue-green to green color with a golden or brown, non-webbed matrix. It runs primarily in veins hosted by a beautiful golden brown hard rock. It takes a skilled stone cutter to get the Turquoise out of this hard rock. This stone is a favorite of gold and silversmiths in the southwest, when they can get it! The mining at the Manassa Turquoise mine at this time, is at a stand still. Most of the Colorado Turquoise mines are not operational at this time.

The Manassa Turquoise mine was originally found by I.P. King and passed down to his son, and then to his grandson and current owner, Bill King. Bill has spent his entire life in the Turquoise business and has mined Manassa turquoise, Pilot Mountain Turquoise mine, and many others. Bill King is a wealth of information about turquoise and one of the last old time miners. He is a wonderful stone cutter and a wonderful miner as well. These days Bill cuts his Manassa Turquoise and has it made into Native American Indian Jewelry. This is the story about the Manassa Turquoise Mine as told to John Hartman, from Bill King which has been the owner of the mine to date, 2010. I have been close friends with Bill and his family for over 30 years and have great respect for him. Bill is in his mid 70's now and has spent his entire life in the Turquoise business. The Manassa Turquoise Mine was one of the first deposits of Turquoise found by the Native American Indians over 1000 years ago. It shares this title with the Cerrillos Hills Turquoise deposits just southeast approximately 125 miles as the Crow flies. In 1894, I.P. King came west from North Carolina seeking Gold. While in the Manassa area, he stumbled upon the Turquoise which is now called Kings Manassa Turquoise. I.P. filed on the Manassa Turquoise Mine in 1895 with the U.S. Government and called the claim the Lick Skillet Mine.

I.P. mined Turquoise from the Lick Skillet mine but there was a small market for it and had business arrangement or partnership with a doctor in the area. The doctor would send his patients over to the Mine to have them work off their bill if they could not pay it. They did take a fair amount of Turquoise out and must have taken it to Santa Fe as that was a major Trade hub in those days. I.P. just disappeared one day in 1909 leaving his wife (Emma) and nine children behind. Bill believes it is possible that I.P. and Monroe (his son in law) may have gotten into a fight at the mine and Monroe may have killed him. Bill believes his grandfather's body is down in the bottom of the mine to date.

Charles King was the second son of I.P. and inherited the Manassa Turquoise Mine. It is not known if Charles did much in the Turquoise business and as it was hard times in his days it was probable that he did not. Pete King, born 1907, was one of the sons of Charles King and was Bill King's father. Pete was very interested in Turquoise and apparently there was a market for it in his times. By the early 1930's, Pete built the first Turquoise cutting shop in Manassa Colorado to cut Lick Skillet / Manassa Turquoise. He built his own cutting machines, sanders and polishing machines by hand and created a full production Turquoise Gemstone cutting business.

Bill King was born in 1933 in Manassa Colorado. He spent all of his childhood years and went to school there as well. Bill remembers his father Pete was a Turquoise cutter and it was his main occupation while Bill was growing up as a child. Bill would spend a lot of time in the cutting shop milling around and watching his father cut beautiful Turquoise Gemstones from the Lick Skillet Mine. He admired and respected Turquoise as it was his father's. In the late 30's, Pete hit the biggest pocket of high quality Turquoise that was ever found at the Lick Skillet / Manassa Mine. The Turquoise Jewelry business was going strong by then and he was doing very well mining and cutting Manassa Turquoise. In 1943, Pete was drafted into the U. S. Military and went off to world war two. When he finally came home his two brothers had worked the mine clean and had sold off Pete's Turquoise Cash. Pete took the mining claim at Manassa back and worked hard but could not find another cash of Turquoise at the Lick skillet Mine. He left Manassa for Tonapah, Nevada and mined the Easter Blue Mine in the Royston Hills. After a couple of years he came back to Manassa after breaking his leg and losing most of his money in Nevada and was laid up for quite a period. He moved to Albuquerque in the 1960's and founded Pete King's Jewelry Company.

Bill went to work cutting Turquoise on his own after getting married. He set up several small cutting shops around Manassa in chicken coups, garages and where ever he could find a place to cut. He would take the cut Turquoise Stones down to Santa Fe, Albuquerque and the Rio Grande Valley to sell. In 1957, Bill and Mary King move down to Los Lunas New Mexico, which is close to Albuquerque. Bill was in his prime by that time cutting Manassa Turquoise, Morenci, Blue Gem and others based on the demand of the Turquoise Jewelry marketplace. Bill was not only ambitious cutting Turquoise, he also built his homestead in Los Lunas for himself and Mary. The King's started their family in Los Lunas.

When Morenci Turquoise became popular in the late 1960's there was a big demand for it in Turquoise Jewelry. Morenci Turquoise ran in thin veins and was hard to cut as it would easily break due to its thinness. Bill got the idea of backing the Turquoise and got his first backing material from the Western Auto Store. It worked great and provided a way to use utilize the beautiful thin Morenci Turquoise that was in demand by the public. He brought his backed Turquoise to Gallup New Mexico and showed it to Tobe Turpin. Tobe tried it and told Bill he would buy all Bill could cut as he believed it was the answer to being able to use the most beautiful Morenci Turquoise in Turquoise Indian Jewelry. Bill made a deal with Bill Brown who was the main distributor of Morenci Turquoise to save all of the thin Morenci high grade Turquoise for him. A new era in Turquoise capping began as the backed stones were much more durable, less breakage, and the thin Turquoise could now be used in Indian Jewelry. Bills business took off big do to his breakthrough and he flourished in the Turquoise industry. Bill told me that prior to backing Turquoise he barely got by cutting Turquoise and when he started backing – he finally started making money and his stones actually made the American Turquoise Industry much more viable as the Turquoise that went into the Indian Jewelry had now become very stable and there was no longer the cracking and breakage of the Turquoise Stones that there had been prior to backing the material. Backing Turquoise proved to be the biggest breakthrough in the history of the Indian Jewelry business and Bill King was responsible for this great innovation.

In 1970, after the first year of backing Turquoise and thirteen years in Los Lunas, Bill had saved up enough money to move back to Manassa as his passion was mining and he was now able to get back to what he really loved. Bill and Mary bought a piece of property from Mary's grandfather (Smith) and build a home for his family. Bill told me that when he moved back to Manassa and set up shop, all of the other stonecutters in Manassa started backing Turquoise and a new Turquoise boom began in Manassa to meet the biggest boom in the history of Turquoise Jewelry – The 1970's Turquoise Jewelry Boom.

Bill started a casting shop and began making Turquoise Jewelry in 1973. At this time he was mining Turquoise, cutting stones and producing Turquoise Jewelry for the market. Bill bought one of three claims from his Grandma King and the Gibson family got two others. Bills father had a claim between Bills and the

Gibson which Bill ended up buying from his dad. Bill mined those two claims for quite a while but did not hit any large deposits, he figured out that the largest deposits were on the claims owned by the Gibsons. Cliff and Rick Gibson knew Bill wanted their claims and approached Bill to purchase them.

Bill has cut Turquoise from the Manassa Mine most of his life. Burt King, Pete's brother, was also interested in Turquoise and worked with Pete at some point. He later moved to Albuquerque and opened a stone cutting / Turquoise Jewelry manufacturing company which grew and did very well from the 1950's on - It was called "Burt Kings." Tim King continued Burt's legacy and ran his Turquoise Indian Jewelry shop in Albuquerque called "Little Burt Kings" and did a brisk business until the late 1990's. ay of life and how his family made a living.

Castle Dome - AKA Pinto Valley Mine

(Borrowed From Durango Silver) The Castle Dome Turquoise mine was first opened by Anglo miners in the 1940's as a WWII project for copper. The mine had been previously worked by Anasazi Native Americans. The mine was the 2nd largest producer of Turquoise in Arizona. Castle Dome produced blue and green Turquoise. Most of the material from the mine was of mid grade or low grade quality that need to be treated. The mine is now closed. Most of Arizona's Turquoise mines are actually large open pit copper mines that the Turquoise deposits are leased from. Due to this fact, many are no longer producing due to the cost of insurance that the copper companies have to pay in order to let the mineral miners work in the mine. The company or person with the lease is called in to mine the turquoise when they hit a pocket of it as they are copper mining. TURQUOISE KINGS INSERT: It is called a Hat Mine because so little turquoise came out, you could fit it in a hat!

Many other mines are included in the Bell Collection, in both Corinthian slabs, and precut cabochons from Old Bell. Including Lickskillet, Morenci, Seven Dwarfs, Mona Lisa and more.

Valuation Estimations and Comparisons: Limited Examples

Because of the rarity of the Collection, no distinction will be made between natural and stabilized cabochons.

Pricing Comparisons and Valuation Estimates. *Borrowed From Trade Roots.*



Black Web Kingman 13 cts

This stone was part of a vintage 1970's collection that I received from the widow of a turquoise partner I had been associated with since 1976. He was a prolific dealer and collector. This 13 ct. stone has well marked black webbing and measures 28 x 20 mm

\$100 per piece choose quantity:



Bisbee 33.19 cts.

33.19 cts. This little group of Bisbee cabs are representative of the mine. Priced as a lot at \$9/ct. but willing to break up at \$12/ct

\$300.00 lot each choose quantity:



Bisbee Turquoise

29 x 12mm, 11.5 carats.

\$172.00 each choose quantity:



Bisbee Turquoise

From the Phelps-Dodge copper pit in Bisbee, not far from the Mexican border in southern Arizona. 30 x 11mm, 8.5 carats.SOLD

\$125.00 each



Blue Diamond 37.35 cts.

37.35 cts. Meant to sell as a lot at \$6.69/ct but willing to break them up at \$8/ct,

\$250 lot perchoose quantity:



Blue Gem

This mine has been long exhausted, and never was a large producer. Colors range from a dark blue green to a bright blue with some water mark webbing.

20.5 x 20.5, 22 carats.

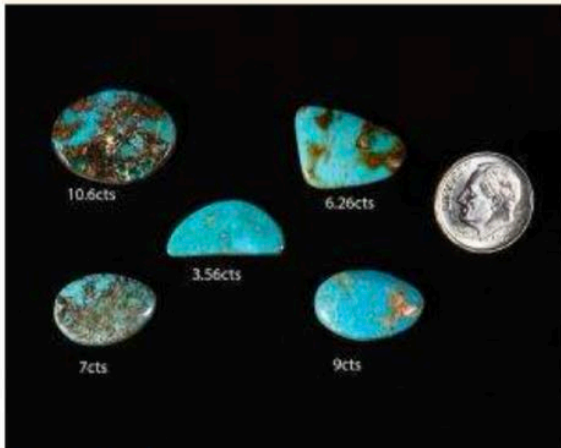
\$220.00 eachchoose quantity:



Blue Gem

27 x 18, 21.5 carats.

\$215.00 each choose quantity:



Candelaria 37.02 cts.

A good representation from this claim, ranging from clear true blue to a blue-green with matrix. This 37.02 ct parcel runs \$175.00 or \$4.72 per ct. Individual stones can be selected at \$6 per ct. Email or call for details

\$175 parcel per choose quantity:



Damale 105.73 cts.

105.73 cts of Damale. This lot of Damale cabs are an excellent representation of the mine. They are meant to be as a lot at \$9.45/ct. but I will break them up \$12/ct. Just email or call me and we can do it.

\$1000 lot each choose quantity:



Damale Turquoise

The prior owner of this claim, Clyde Wright, was a real gentleman and a good miner. The current owner has produced very little rock, but it is of superior quality. The mine produces both turquoise and varacite. It is often difficult to tell the difference. However, both are of gem grade and very rare. 20 x 13 mm, 7.5 carats.

\$125 per piece choose quantity:



Fox Turquoise Mine

This 33.5 ct. stone measuring 31x16 mm was part of a vintage 1980's collection that I received from a retiring cutter who had been cutting for forty years and putting his best material aside for decades. This stone is a soft green with a much darker green watermark spiderweb

\$195.00 per piece



Fox Turquoise Mine

This 26 ct. stone measuring 26 x 21 mm was part of a vintage 1980's collection that I received a retiring cutter who had been cutting for forty years and putting his best material aside for decades. The color is almost emerald green with a gold matrix.

\$150.00 per piece



Fox Turquoise Mine

This 22.76 ct. stone measuring 28 x 20mm was part of a vintage 1980's collection that I received a retiring cutter who had been cutting for forty years and putting his best material aside for decades. The color is a soft blue in the center with a light emerald green around the edges and gold matrix.

\$165.00 per piece



Fox Turquoise Mine

a beautiful 16.5 ct.cab with green watermark floating on a sea of blue with gold matrix. Measures 22 x 16 mm

\$110.00 per piece



Kingman 4.15 cts

This stone was part of a vintage 1970's collection that I received from the widow of a turquoise partner I had been associated with since 1976. He was a prolific dealer and collector. This 4.15 stone measures 8 x 11mm and has the classic Turquoise Mountain look with gold matrix

\$35.00 perchoose quantity:



Kingman Turquoise Mountain 11.24 cts

This 11.14 ct. stone measures 19x 17.5 mm and was part of a vintage 1970's collection that I received from the widow of a turquoise partner I had been associated with since 1976. He was a prolific dealer and collector. The color is a soft blue with darker water mark matrix. Classic 1970's Kingman.

\$75.00 per piece



Fox Turquoise Mine

This 3.43 ct. stone measuring 14.5 x 8 mm was part of a vintage 1980's collection that I received from a retiring cutter who had been cutting for forty years and putting his best material aside for decades. He brought me a 50,000 ct. collection just before the COVID lockdown began. An aqua green with a light tan matrix.

\$30.00 per piece



Kingman 10.44 cts.

This 10.44 ct stone measures 16 x 12 cts and was part of a vintage 1970's collection that I received from the widow of a turquoise partner I had been associated with since 1976. He was a prolific dealer and collector.

\$75.00 per piece



Fox Turquoise Mine

This 9.10 ct. stone measuring 19 x 12.6 mm was part of a vintage 1980's collection that I received from a retiring cutter who had been cutting for forty years and putting his best material aside for decades. He brought me a 50,000 ct. collection just before the COVID lockdown began.

\$50.00 per piece



Fox Turquoise Mine

This 5.18 ct. stone measuring 15 x 12.6 mm was part of a vintage 1980's collection that I received from a retiring cutter who had been cutting for forty years and putting his best material aside for decades. He brought me a 50,000 ct. collection just before the COVID lockdowns began. A beautiful dark green with underlying pools of blue and extensive gold matrix.

\$40.00 per piece



Fox Turquoise Mine

This 12.15 ct cab from the Fox Turquoise Mine measures 19 x 15 mm. An amazing color scheme with a background of soft green with a darker green water web overlay.

\$95.00 per piece



Fox Turquoise Mine


This 5 ct cab from the Fox Turquoise Mine measures 13 mm round. An amazing aqua blue green with a .gold matrix

\$40.00 per piece




Pricing Comparisons and Valuation Estimates. Borrowed From Sunwest Silver.






34 Carats Military Green Royston Cabochon
\$102.00
[ADD TO CART](#)
[Add to Wishlist](#) [Add to Compare](#)



23 Carats Royston Ribbon Turquoise Cabochon
\$68.00
[Add to Wishlist](#) [Add to Compare](#)




23 Carats Royston Ribbon Turquoise Cabochon
\$68.00
[Add to Wishlist](#) [Add to Compare](#)


Royston Turquoise Cabochons

The Royston Turquoise mine in Tonopah, Nevada USA is one of the last American Turquoise mines in production. Browse our selection of hand cut Royston Turquoise cabochons. Genuine Nevada Turquoise cabochons hand cut by Dillon and John Hartman

Current Top Sellers




Large Blue Gem Turquoise Gemstone
\$340.00
[ADD TO CART](#)
[Add to Wishlist](#) [Add to Compare](#)



Damele Variscite Cabochon Necklace Set
\$225.00
[Add to Wishlist](#) [Add to Compare](#)

Current Top Sellers






22 carats Lime Green turquoise Cabochon Pair
\$66.00
[ADD TO CART](#)
[Add to Wishlist](#) [Add to Compare](#)

Turquoise Cabochons from Other Mines

We have a large collection of natural Turquoise from all over the world. Here is a collection of Turquoise cabochons from a lot of small mines in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada.





1 2 3

 <p>12.2 Carats Unique Kingman Polychrome Cabochon \$60.00 Add to Wishlist Add to Compare</p>	 <p>16.5 carats natural Oval Kingman Turquoise cabochon \$82.00 Add to Wishlist Add to Compare</p>	 <p>12.2 Carats Unique Kingman Polychrome Cabochon \$60.00 Add to Wishlist Add to Compare</p>
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Kingman Turquoise Cabochons

Browse our collection of hand cut Kingman Turquoise cabs including Turquoise Mountain Turquoise cabochons, Kingman Turquoise Cabs, and Ithaca Peak Turquoise.

Current Top Sellers

 <p>99.5 carats Natural Morenci Turquoise Cabochon Lot \$497.00 ADD TO CART Add to Wishlist Add to Compare</p>	 <p>38.5 carats Morenci Turquoise Nugget Cut Cabochon Pair \$115.50 ADD TO CART Add to Wishlist Add to Compare</p>	 <p>13 carats Spiderweb Morenci Turquoise Cabochon \$195.00 ADD TO CART Add to Wishlist Add to Compare</p>	 <p>13 carats Spiderweb Morenci Turquoise Cabochon \$195.00 ADD TO CART Add to Wishlist Add to Compare</p>
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Morenci Turquoise Cabochons

Lookin' for that good old blue Arizona Turquoise? Take a look at our genuine Morenci Turquoise from Arizona, USA. Morenci is one of the most famous American Turquoise mines for a reason.

Current Top Sellers

Pricing Comparisons and Valuation Estimates. *Borrowed From Durango Silver.*

<p>12.25 Carats Bisbee Turquoise Cabochon (Stabilized) \$72.00 ADD TO CART Add to Wishlist Add to Compare</p>	<p>8.5 carats Smoky Bisbee Turquoise Cab \$42.00 ADD TO CART Add to Wishlist Add to Compare</p>	<p>12 carats Bisbee Turquoise Cabochon \$78.00 ADD TO CART Add to Wishlist Add to Compare</p>	<p>8 carats Bisbee Turquoise Cab \$50.00 ADD TO CART Add to Wishlist Add to Compare</p>
<p>15 carats Bisbee Turquoise Cabochon \$86.00 ADD TO CART Add to Wishlist Add to Compare</p>	<p>8 carats Bisbee Turquoise Cab \$50.00 ADD TO CART Add to Wishlist Add to Compare</p>	<p>.....●</p>	

Bisbee Turquoise Cabochons

Authentic Bisbee Turquoise from Bisbee, Arizona USA is some of the highest quality Turquoise that has ever come out of the ground. Its true blue colors are un-rivaled. Bisbee Turquoise is some of the most collectible Turquoise in the world.

