

The Wells Gazette

Tucson Edition Vol. 2005, Issue 1

THE COCHISE COUNTY BUNCH

March 7, 2005

2005

Calendar of Events

May 21, 2005. Wells Cemetery clean-up project. 9:00-11:00 A.M. Doughnuts, and hot & cold drinks provided. RSVP to Paul Eckel at 520-749-8814 or via e-mail to pauleckel@cox.net.

REUNION

July 2, 2005, Saturday
Wells Family Reunion in Bisbee, AZ at the Copper Queen Hotel
11 AM Sign in, new portraits and visiting
1 PM Kickoff Lunch
2 PM Wells Family History Road Rally thru Sulphur Springs Valley
6 PM Dinner followed by a trivia contest, a dance and Road Rally Awards.

July 3, 2005, Sunday
7 AM Hike thru Bisbee Sites
10 AM Meet at Wells Cemetery for prayer and non-denominational Wells Family worship service
12 Noon Picnic at Slaughter Ranch
3 PM Wells Family Business Meeting at Copper Queen Hotel
5 PM Wells Family History Genealogical workshop-forms will be provided to bring the family up to date.
6 PM Family Style Dinner
7 PM Computer slide show of yesterday's events, Wells family history sites and ancestor photos.
@ Dark Bisbee Fireworks Show

July 4, 2005 - Monday
8 AM Breakfast at the park, flap-jacks, eggs & bacon.
10 AM Competitive games for the youngsters
12 Noon Adios Luncheon. Sandwich bar, make your own and go!

**Confirm Reunion
Reservations
with Lonnie Wells
at
714-544-8200.**

Wells Family Reunion, July 2-4, 2005 at Copper Queen Hotel, Bisbee, Arizona.

Bisbee, 90 miles southeast of Tucson, and 20 miles from the Wells Cemetery, is the picturesque county seat of historic Cochise County. Founded in 1880, this Old West mining camp proved to be one of the richest mineral sites in the world, producing nearly three million ounces of gold and more than eight billion pounds of copper, not to mention the silver, lead and zinc that came from these rich Mule Mountains. The picturesque town has been charmingly restored, with most of its notorious 47 saloons on Brewery Gulch now antique stores, cafes, shops and art galleries.

Over July 4th, the town is planning many festivities that will make entertaining venues for all age groups attending our reunion: parade, fireworks, coaster races, rock climbing competition, walking tours, dances and picnics. We're working to coordinate our plans with the chamber of commerce, for instance, to have the fireworks display on Sunday, July 3rd, in case some of our attendees need to drive home on Monday.

We're also planning a picnic at the famous old Slaughter Ranch, which is only about ten minutes from the family cemetery. It's the last survivor of Arizona's great 19th-century cattle ranches. Several of our grandparents had close ties to John Slaughter, the Texas Ranger and later sheriff who was credited with cleaning up Tombstone. The restored house contains period furniture, photo exhibits of Slaughter's colorful career and stories about the area's long history. Longhorn cattle, a breed brought in by Slaughter, graze in the fields. A large pond, fed by several natural springs and surrounded by grass and towering cottonwoods, offers a cool setting for a picnic. A trail near the pond climbs the hill to ruins of a U.S. Army post.

Attendance for the family reunions has steadily fallen off over the years. People have voiced a primary concern over getting the younger families to attend and the issues involved in accomplishing that. When my 6 sisters and I were growing up, we greatly looked forward to the reunions because we knew there would be fun things to do with all our cousins. Most of the parents were happy because they could visit with each other without worrying about baby-sitting. We played under the big old cottonwoods and willows that surrounded Uncle Jeff's irrigation tank and some of the kids even came prepared with poles to fish in it. Other times we played various ball games, work up or badminton. From what comments we've gotten from parents now, this issue of entertaining all age groups of kids is still the biggest drawback in their decision to attend.

A second major concern for families with kids through high school age is that with the longer school year now, schools are in session during both Memorial and Labor Day Holidays. It's been a consensus that holidays are the best time for most people to get off work so the July 4th Holiday has been suggested as probably the best date.

The third most raised issue is the heat factor during Arizona summers. Heat during late spring through early summer is atrocious, as most of you know from attending past reunions during Memorial Day weekends. But once the summer monsoons start, the heat abates appreciably, especially in SE Arizona. According to local weathermen, the average date of the arrival of the monsoon in Tucson is July 4th and a week or two earlier in SE Arizona. Bisbee is at 6,000 feet above sea level and is 10 degrees cooler than Douglas and the valley. Bill Wells kept a journal recording rainfall from 1987 thru 1994. For that 7+ years, measurable rain always started by the end of June.

So, based on the preceding points, We've reached the following decision:

2005's Wells Family Reunion will be held over the July 4th weekend. As to the issues of getting kids interested in attending, we've formed a committee to address: listing the families committed to attending; the ages of their children; and planning activities for that weekend. Already we've had some great ideas to get all ages involved, such as a Road Rally throughout the valley that would include previous sites of old family homesteads, ghost towns, jails, mines and other sites that played a part in Wells family's colorful history in the Sulphur Springs Valley.

Please note the proposed schedule of daily activities at the Re-union just to the left of this article.



Dayna, Lauren, and Kelly Bishop, triplets at age 8 with their Grandmother, Audrey Terry

This photo was taken on Grandparents Day November 26, 2003. The Wells family has a long history of multiple births going far back in our genealogy. One ancestor gave birth to 24 children including three sets of twins. Bernice and Bill [R G] Wells had 2 sets of twins and one set of triplets. All these births were years before modern birth control pills which has greatly raised the odds of multiple births. Michelle, who was a triplet and Bryce Rickel had twin boys. Julia [R G Wells] and Jeremy Farrell had twin boys, now 4 ½ years old, as did Julie [R G Wells] and Boyd Thompson, who had a boy and girl twins, also now 4 ½ years old.

Volunteers Urgently Needed!

We are asking for volunteers, especially Arizonans, to help with planning and coordinating the Reunion. We need committee chairs for just about every facet of the event, i.e., the Road Rally, Food, Slide show, 4th of July games, etc.

Please try to attend! If you plan to attend, please let Lonnie Wells know. We want to confirm who will be attending, especially the ages of any children. This will help us to plan activities, food and other supplies that will be needed to make this a memorable and, hopefully exciting experience for everyone!

NOTE

We've received verbal commitments for 40 plus attendees already!

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation and assistance!

CONTACT via e-mail at WELLSGAZETTE@AOL.COM OR CALL Sheila Cottrell at 520-615-4155. Confirm reunion reservations with Lonnie Wells at 714-544-8200.



Hopkins Homestead, 2005, Left to Right, Jim Sutherland, Mar and Glen Chaudoin, Linda and Mike Sutherland

The Hopkins Homestead in McNeal, AZ, is one of the last of the early 1900's homesteads still occupied by members of the Wells family. Things are popping there! Last summer when this photo was taken the work party planted 3 big cottonwoods and started a rose arbor. Since then, they've erected a huge barn for the soon to start construction on a bunkhouse and main building.

Epitaphs:

Albert Jefferson Wells

June 16, 1926—September 7, 2004

Albert Wells, a former Douglas resident, passed away at his home in Tempe, Arizona. He was the only son of Jefferson A. and Frances Solomon Wells and grandson of family patriarch Hilary Wells. He attended local schools graduating from Douglas High School in 1944. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served on the U.S.S. Altamaha in the South Pacific during WWII.



He graduated from the University of Arizona with degrees in Chemistry and Psychology. He worked for a time in San Diego at the ship yards then attended the Institute of Foreign Trade in Glendale, Arizona. He later worked for Caterpillar Equipment in Peoria, Illinois and then for Dutch Boy Paints in Dallas, Texas. He also lived in Hawaii for 2 years prior to returning to Arizona where he worked for Motorola for 25 years, retiring in 1996.

Surviving is his wife, Dorothy Wells, of Tempe, AZ; son, Daniel Wells of Houston, TX; sisters, Vivian M. Howe of Tempe, AZ and Mabel M. Callaway of Douglas, AZ.

James Wallace Reynolds III

May 27, 1960 -Sep 7, 2003

He is survived by his mother, Diana C. Huckaby of Los Angeles, CA; brothers, Michael Reynolds of L.A., and Shawn Reynolds of Riverside, CA and a sister, Cynthia Reynolds, of Riverside, CA. He leaves his grandfather, James Wallace



Reynolds of Oracle, AZ; Aunts, Betty Logan of Wilcox, AZ and Charlotte Leonard of Palm Springs, CA; an uncle, Bill Reynolds of ID; a niece and two nephews and numerous cousins. He is interred in the Wells Family Cemetery near Douglas, Arizona.

Announcement

Betty (Orion Wells) and John Logan, of Wilcox, AZ, will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary May 7th. Congratulations!

Crossing the Pecos



WELLS FAMILY BOARD

President: Lonnie Wells
Vice President: Bret Wells
Sec/Treasurer: Mary Ann Wells

Board Members:
 Daniel Bushman
 Rex Cason
 Sheila Cottrell
 Carolyn Courtney
 Rod Sheets
 Les Stimac
 Mike Sutherland
 Lee Tolzin
 Ken Wright

In 1897, Reubin Garrett Wells, 16, and Luther McLendon, a few years older, left San Angelo, TX, for a trek through west Texas, New Mexico and southeast Arizona, hunting for a new place to homestead. The Wells family had already moved once for his mother Sarah's health. They left Bédias, TX, in Grimes County, where his parents had lived 16-17 years and moved to San Angelo, TX, in Tom Green County, where they'd lived for 11-12 years. Grandmother's health improved there, but not enough. The doctors said she needed to live in a drier climate.

On their trip, the boys encountered flood-high rivers and renegade Indians. Many were sneaking off reservations, especially the Mescalero Apaches who were fleeing south of the border into the high Sierra Madre Mountains. In New Mexico, the boy's horses got into locoweed and acted drunk, delaying them several days. They earned money at ranches, breaking horses as they went and "worked a spell in El Paso." They traveled one entire month without seeing a single human being. Their food ran out and they had to learn how to survive on native foods. They circled back home through the Big Bend country after being gone for 2 years. Once their grandmother heard their tales and descriptions of the lands they'd seen, she chose Sulphur Spring Valley because of its "rich, horse-belly-high grasslands and mountain pine forests."

The painting, by Sheila Wells Cottrell, is in the Pearce Western Collection at Navarro College in Corsicana, TX.

Announcement

Glen Wells will be undergoing a very expensive "deep brain stimulus" surgery [\$200,000] for Parkinsons [disease]. He and his wife June are very interested in speaking with anyone in the family who has had Parkinsons or experience with it. They would

like to compare medicines and treatments, and are especially interested regarding this particular type of surgery. They can be reached at (559) 859-2813.



The Wells Family Newsletter - Miscellaneous Items

Graveyard Maintenance—Saturday, May 21, 2005 from 9 AM to 11 AM. Refreshments provided. RSVP to Paul Eckel at 520-749-8814/ pauleckel@cox.net

Wells Family Dues—Family Dues are \$35 per year. These are tax deductions to you and life blood to the family organization. We use them to produce and mail the newsletter as well as arrange the reunions and associated activities. Please forward your dues payments to Mary

Ann Wells, 260 Houston Way, Pismo Beach, CA 93449. Contributions payable to the "Wells Family Organization"

Reunion Ideas—If you have any ideas on how we might improve future re-unions please send them to Sheila Cottrell via e-mail at WELLSGAZETTE@aol.com, snail-mail at; 5363-12 North Sabino Canyon Rd., Tucson, AZ 85750, or telephone at (520) 615-4155

Family Meeting 2005—At the

reunion we will have a family meeting to elect officers, share ideas, report income and expenditures, develop family goals, etc. Planned for Jul 3, 2005 at 3 PM. Minutes to be reported to the family organization members.

Genealogy info requested—Obviously, we would appreciate any breakthrough research going back on the family line. Just as important, we need information coming forward from what is contained in the "Wells Book". Help us! Forms are available.



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Alberta's Kitchen: Enchiladas

2 cans Chili con Carne (no beans)
2 8 oz. cans of tomato sauce
5 cups of sharp cheddar cheese,
grated
4 Tbsp. shredded green chiles
chopped green onions
1 lb. browned hamburger
20 corn tortillas

Combine chili, tomato sauce and green chiles in a sauce pan and heat. Place 3 T. cheese and hamburger on each tortilla, roll and place seam down in a baking dish. Pour chili combination over all and sprinkle last of cheese and green onions on top. Bake 20 min at 300 degrees. Serve with refried beans and salad.

Newsletter Feedback

Publication Schedule: It is currently planned to publish the newsletter on a quarterly basis. If dues are not paid, this will affect the schedule.

Old Photos or news articles: Please share with us these sorts of things. For example, if you have an old photo of an ancestor and can write a short bio or story that happened to them, we'd love to publish it for all to see. We promise to promptly scan and return all pictures and original information sent to us!

Current News of Family Members: When someone in the family has a special achievement, milestone or any noteworthy event, please communicate it to us for inclusion in the newsletter.

Slide Show at the Reunion: If you have any particularly good pictures of our Ancestors, we'd like to scan them into digital form for showing during the slide show at the reunion. We will exercise extreme care and promptly return them to you if you would be good enough to share them with the Family. We are especially looking for pictures of old ranches, school houses, family members functioning in official positions in the community, news articles with photos, prize stock, ore wagons owned by family, etc., etc., etc.

Family Database: We need to improve our roster of family members which should include first and last names, mailing addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. We

believe that e-mail is a very effective, non-intrusive way to communicate with one another. We'd like to build a family web site where can post calendar items, photos, and event schedules. We know that many are not technically oriented and we will not abandon those who prefer to be reached via the U.S. Mail. However, we still need to put together an accurate and current family roster. Please update your personal information as well as info from your address books on other family members. If we get an address twice, no problem, the computer will catch that. When the database is as current as possible, we will share it with all the family members.