

# The Wells Gazette

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THE COCHISE COUNTY BUNCH

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## 2005 Wells Family Reunion . . . FUN!



The Bisbee Convention Center turned out to be the perfect venue for the reunion, held over the 4th of July weekend. The old timers remember it as the Phelps Dodge Mercantile which has now been renovated into charming stores and restaurants. The banquet and meeting facilities were downstairs but the elevators made access easy for the more elderly family members. Six of the ten family lines of Hilary & Sarah Wells were represented.

For those folks who hadn't visited southern Arizona before, exploring the town offered a quaint Old West experience. A hundred years ago Bisbee was considered the fanciest town between St. Louis and San Francisco. The great quarry-cut stone buildings and mansions have been restored and the downtown is thriving, though the uses have changed from jails and saloons to retail shops and restaurants. Some of the braver souls tried the 1000-stair climbing tour through the town and canyon, but only first thing in the morning when it was cool. Even the weather cooperated to a certain extent—we got only a brief flurry of thunderstorm and spatters of rain but it was enough to cool the temperature off Saturday. Several families made the short jaunt over to Tombstone too which was also having quite a celebration with 'staged' gun fights and stagecoach rides.

And the food for our banquet was California-cuisine quality! We can say that because the caterers had an award-winning restaurant in San Diego before fleeing the multitudes for the quiet ambiance of Bisbee. The food at our dinner was so good that many of us ate several other meals at their restaurant. Sunday, after a full day spent visiting the family cemetery northeast of Douglas, then a Mexican food picnic at the famous old Slaughter Ranch, and the rest of day spent exploring the Hopkins homestead, one of the youngest attendees, Liam Farrell, was worn out. During the late evening drive back to Bisbee the four year old twin lamented, "I know this is an adventure but it's lasting too long." Well, our next reunion is planned for 2007, plenty of time to rest up.

Please let us hear your ideas for planning the next reunion. We'd like any and all suggestions in regard to which holiday,

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is an abbreviated form of the newsletter because I wanted to get the news out regarding the Memorial Service for Ray Wells. I volunteered to publish the newsletter because I enjoy writing about the family's history. But I need help with printing, mailing, dues notification, and keeping the address list current which now numbers almost 200 families. AND with email, it doesn't matter where you live. We also need at least one or more volunteers from each family line to help with the web site. This is a perfect opportunity to get the younger, computer-savvy kids involved. Please call or email me. Thank you!