
THE COCHISE QUARTERLY is a journal of Arizona history and archaeology. It is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter by the Editorial Staff of the Cochise County Historical and Archaeological Society. It contains articles by qualified writers on historical and archaeological subjects and reviews of books on Arizona history and archaeology. Contributions are welcome. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editorial Staff, Box 818, Douglas, Arizona 85607.

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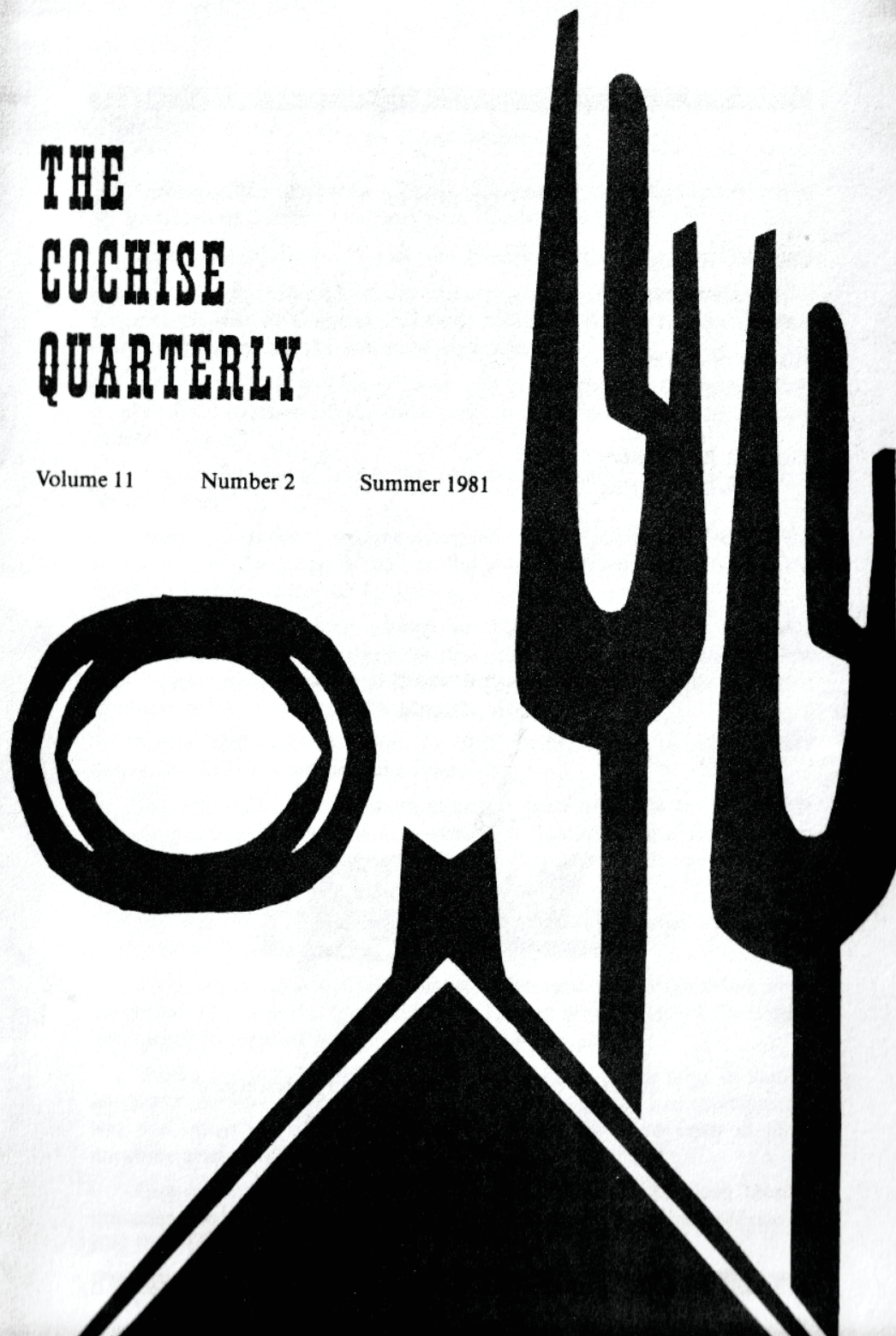
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THE LINE RIDER

By Diana Sanford

Lawrence Morin's career with the U.S. Border Patrol had something of an ignominious ending. That was back in early 1925.

As he tells the story — "I just went over the border to have a little fun."

One evening, after a long day of dusty patrols up and down the border fence either side of Douglas, Arizona, Morin went over to Agua Prieta, Sonora, for a few drinks and some entertainment.

After a "couple too many" and with his penchant for showmanship, he proceeded to entertain the other patrons in the cantina with a one-man shootout show.

"I just emptied a few bullet rounds in the air," he recalls with a sheepish grin.

Seems his audience did not appreciate the performance at all and the next thing he remembers is high-tailing it back towards Douglas with the Mexican authorities hot on his heels.

He made it back safely enough but didn't get off scot-free. He was fined five dollars for disturbing the peace and his supervisor, who was less than delighted about the whole affair, suggested tactfully that he tender his resignation "for conduct unbecoming a U.S. officer."

Morin had joined the force in 1923. In those days patrolmen were known as U.S. Immigration line riders.

The line riders, or mounted guards, who from 1904 to 1924 made horseback patrols along the U.S.—Mexico border, were a far cry from today's modern and well-equipped Border Patrol. Morin is one of the few surviving members of that early force.

He was initially stationed at Sasabe, a tiny border community southwest of Tucson.

Although the illegal alien problem at that time was insignificant when compared with today's, the small force of men who protected the border had plenty to contend with.

During the prohibition years (1919 to 1933) the bootlegging of tequila and other alcoholic beverages into the U.S. from Mexico was epidemic. So was the smuggling of Chinese aliens, who attempted to cross in large numbers after they were chased out of Mexico.

Gun-running was also rife during those years as Mexican revolutionaries tried to smuggle weapons and ammunition back into Mexico to fuel their fight.

After a year at Sasabe, Morin was transferred to Douglas.



Lawrence Morin at his home in Southeastern Arizona

—Photo by Diana Sanford

It was a crisp, fall morning in 1924 when he set out on horseback across the desert to patrol the border fence. That day marked the end of an era for the Border Patrol station in Douglas. It was the end of mounted patrols. The following day Morin was told to dispense with his horse and was provided with a new Model-T Ford. Horses were never again used in Douglas.

In the 64 years that Lawrence Morin has lived in Cochise County, Arizona, he has evoked the image of a man who is typical of the Old West.

Today, at 86, he lives on his 160-acre ranch in Double Adobe, 20 miles northwest of Douglas.

However, this one-time mule-skinner, cowboy, bronc-buster, wild west performer, border patrolman, dairyman and rancher had his beginnings back east.

Morin was the youngest of four children born to French-Canadian parents.

As he puts it, "I wasn't born. I think I just happened along by myself."

He grew up in Rhode Island, in a home that was continuously torn apart by an alcoholic father. Morin recalls that from an early age he resented his mother for tolerating the situation, but adds, "She was too attached to the Catholic religion to get a divorce."

He sums up his childhood by saying, "People raised dogs better than I was raised."

He was 17 when he made his escape and ran away from home to join the Army.

In 1910 a troop train rattled westward across Cochise County. One of its occupants, a young army bugler from Rhode Island, was traveling with the Thirteenth Cavalry to the California coast bound for the Philippines.

From the train's windows he surveyed the mountains and wide valleys of Southeastern Arizona, dotted with mesquite, yucca, cacti and tumbleweeds. The area left an impression on him and he promised himself that he'd return there one day. Four years later he did.

He got his discharge from the army in 1913 at Fort Bliss, Texas, and then spent a year as a Texas Ranger.

"That was in the days," he says, "when they told you — 'If you don't bring him back, don't come back yourself 'cos you'll be out of a job'."

In 1914 he went over to New Mexico for the fall round-up and afterwards sold his saddle horse, bedroll and everything he had. He bought a train ticket and headed out west, bound for Bisbee.

In between working underground in the mines as a mule skinner, he worked on the Slaughter and Brophy ranches as a cowhand and bronc-buster.

In 1915 he participated in Bisbee's Fourth of July rodeo and came away with the first prize for bronco riding. The prize he won in that event is today one of his most treasured possessions. A hatband—fashioned out of Mexican silver coins studded with turquoise, malachite and azurite. He recently turned down an offer of more than \$1,000 for it.

The following year he went back to Texas, worked on ranches and returned to Bisbee in 1917 to marry Julia Hardt.

That same year his friend Buffalo Bill Cody died in Colorado. Morin says he was 10 years old when he met Cody in Providence, R.I., while the famed buffalo hunter was touring the country with his wild west show.

"For some reason he took a likin' to me," Morin recalls. A close friendship developed between them.

Morin's admiration for the man who was destined to endure as one of America's most colorful historical characters has not diminished to this day. Pictures of Buffalo Bill grace almost every wall in his home and Morin named his eldest son William Cody after him.

Morin has always been something of a showman. His career in the Border Patrol ended because of it. But later in his life he was able to unleash his flair for dramatics when he joined the Tombstone Vigilantes in the early '30s.

For more than 35 years he played the part of a gun-slinging outlaw as the group entertained all comers in the streets of the town that was "too tough to die." For authenticity he grew a beard and moustache and let his thick, wavy hair grow past his shoulders in the style in which he still wears it.

He maintains that the show the Vigilantes put on today is a very "watered down" version of what it used to be. He left the group six or seven years ago, he says, "Because it was getting to be that you couldn't do this and couldn't do that. Nowadays it's nothing better than a boy scout show," he adds.

In the '50s he played minor parts in two Universal Studio motion pictures. The first was Universal's "The Wild Frontier," which was shot on location at Rucker Canyon in the Chiricahuas and starred Joseph Cotten and Alice Winters. Afterwards he played a wild cowhand in the movie, "Red River Valley," which was filmed outside Tucson.

But life wasn't all fun and games. There was also the serious business of making a living for himself, his wife and a family of four sons and two daughters.

He tried dairy farming in the Bisbee Junction area and in 1935 bought the Hawkeye Ranch in Double Adobe.

Morin made a good living as a rancher until five years ago when he sold most of his stock to care for his ailing wife. A victim of cancer, she died in 1977 after 61 years of marriage.

The family had suffered its first tragedy in 1953 when William Cody was killed while working around a mine shaft in the Swisshelm Mountains north of Douglas.

Today Lawrence Morin lives alone on his ranch but keeps a few horses, cattle and poultry to occupy his time in between entertaining friends and family with lively tales of Cochise County's earlier days.

About The Author

Diana Sanford was born in Salisbury, Zimbabwe (formerly the British colony of Rhodesia). She lived in Africa until immigrating to the United States in 1972. She studied journalism at Canal Zone College in the Panama Canal Zone before moving to Douglas, Arizona, to work as a news reporter for the *Daily Dispatch* and correspondent for the *Arizona Republic*. She has also worked as a freelance writer and photographer.

HISTORY OF ELFRIDA

By Diana Sanford

Douglas Daily Dispatch Staff Writer

The town of Elfrida came into being in 1910 as a way station along the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad which ran between Douglas and the mining town of Courtland. Prior to that the area had been roughly divided into two communities known as Whitewater and Webb.

The town was named after the mother of a business man from Gleeson. G. I. Van Meter was a man of vision, and believing that the Sulphur Springs Valley had agricultural possibilities he acquired quite a large tract of land at the spot where Elfrida is now located. In return for giving the railroad the right of way to lay a track over his property, Van Meter stipulated that the depot be named Elfrida, after his mother.

Even before the railroad reached what is now Elfrida, there were a handful of settlers in the area. Thomas B. Patterson, who was later to found the Valley Mercantile store, arrived with his family in 1907 as an 11-year-old boy. The family journeyed from Del Rio, Texas, in a covered wagon drawn by a four-horse team. The trip, Patterson recalls, took two months. Attached to the back of the wagon was a four-foot chicken coop and three young mules and some saddle horses were driven along with the wagon.

"The valley was a garden of Eden with native grass three and a half feet high," Patterson remembers. The family established a 160-acre homestead and life on their desolate and uncleared land began.

The first schoolhouse was established in 1906 and was called "Soldier's Hole" because in the vicinity there was an old well where the U.S. Cavalry used to stop and water their horses during the Indian wars.

Whitewater became an official dot on the map when a post office was opened up in 1908.

Families were now arriving to settle in the area at an increasing rate. Among them were Robert Tyler and his family of eight children and James and Emily Mortenson with their six.

Tyler put down stakes in 1908 about 5 miles northeast of present day Elfrida. He was to found the community of Webb which was named after his father-in-law. The arrival of these "nesters" did not much please the cattlemen of the area and Tyler was not able at first to convince the cattlemen that he had as much legal right to be there as they did.

He found his fences cut and suffered unaccountable losses in stock until the cattlemen stopped harassing him after he testified against some homesteaders who had stolen some cattle off the open range.

The Tylers had no money and desperately needed to build a house to live in so two of the sons went off to seek work. They found employment at a brick kiln that supplied bricks to Pearce, Gleeson and Courtland. It was backbreaking work but every weekend the boys would return home with their pay—a cartload of bricks. When they had earned enough brick to build the family home they quit their job and stayed home to help their father build it.

Tyler knew that his children needed educating but since there was no community, there was no school. After he had written to many of his friends giving glowing accounts of the area, many of them began to arrive to take up claims.

Tyler established a general store and stocked it with supplies that he hauled from Douglas. While the railroad was being built from Douglas to Courtland, Tyler talked them into making a slight swing to take in Webb. By 1909 the townsite was established and the post office was opened on November 19. The Webb school was built by Tyler and other homesteaders that same year. The original building was a wood frame structure but was replaced in 1917 by a concrete building which still stands today.

The schoolhouse became an active social center. People came from Douglas, Willcox, Tombstone, Courtland, and Gleeson to attend the dances that were held there.

The only other social center in the area was the Mormon church east of Elfrida where many dances and get togethers were held. Like many others, whether they were Mormons or not, Ida Mortenson and her family attended the regular theatrical performances that were staged at the church.

Ida was 11 years old when the Mortensons arrived in the Sulphur Springs Valley in November 1908. They came from Colonial Pacacho in Mexico. Although it wasn't until around 1912 that most of the Mormons fled Mexico during an insurrection, James Mortenson had seen the handwriting on the wall and decided to pack up and get out.

They were able to carry very little with them so the family had to start all over again from scratch on a 160-acre homestead located about a mile east of present-day Elfrida.

There were only about six families living in the area when they got there, Ida recalls, and her father set about immediately to plow and clear the land to plant vegetables.

James Mortenson put in one of the first irrigating wells in the valley. The first well was an open one and the water was pulled up out of it with the aid of a horse and a 20-gallon drum.

"People will probably laugh at that now," Ida says. It wasn't until several years later that her father was able to buy a windmill.

There was a good market for James Mortenson's vegetables and soon he was supplying the booming mining towns of Gleeson and Courtland. Later he started to deliver produce to Douglas.

In those days there was nothing but an old wagon trail between Elfrida and Douglas and the trip to Douglas with a team and wagon load of vegetables would take Mortenson around eight hours. Longer in the wet weather when the road was muddy.

But in 1911, prosperity came in the form of a \$500 Ford touring car which would cut the travel time between Elfrida and Douglas to as little as one hour in dry weather.

"My father would take out the back seat of the car and load it up with vegetables," Ida remembers. Then in 1913 her father acquired a real luxury—a pick-up truck.

By 1910 a good many other Mormons had arrived in the area and James Mortenson, with help from other homesteaders, built the first Mormon church which, in addition to serving the spiritual needs of the community, was to compete with the Webb schoolhouse for being the most popular center of social activity.

Life was not easy for the early homesteaders, and the children shared in the family's burdens. Ida Mortenson attended the Whitewater School from the time of the family's arrival. Classes were held all day but there were many chores to be done by the younger Mortensons before and after school. Emily Mortenson was dogged by ill health so Ida, the eldest daughter, had to assume many of her mother's duties. She would cook breakfast every morning before walking a mile to school while her two brothers milked the cows and fed the pigs. By the time she was 13 or 14, she had to forego school every Monday in order to do the family's laundry.

Elfrida saw the opening of its first general store in 1914. The building, which still stands today, was the first masonry structure to be erected in the area and was located right across from the railroad depot. Richard A. Leitch was the storekeeper and his wife, Marie, became the town's first postmaster in 1915.

The automobile began to replace the horse and wagon at this time but when they first started appearing people would run out onto the roads to watch them drive by while the old-timers would scratch their heads and vow that nobody would ever find them riding around in one of "those things."

By 1920 the area was thriving as more and more families poured in to homestead in the valley but with the coming of a drought, many families were forced to leave. The Chiricahua Cattle Company purchased thousands of acres in the valley from departing homesteaders. It was also at this time that the mining operations at Gleeson and Courtland began to decline and by 1930 the mines had closed down altogether. The railroad, which had been built to carry ore from the mines to the smelter in Douglas, ceased operations and the track was removed in 1933.

The depression years were years of extreme hardship for the valley homesteaders but with tenacity and courage most of those who remained, hung on. For many of them the only income they received came intermittently from federal jobs that put many men to work building roads, bridges, and national forest trails. Leonard Nelson, who married Ida Mortenson in 1924, like many others who worked in the Bisbee mine, found himself working only three days a week and considered himself fortunate.

In 1938 the Webb post office was closed and the district was consolidated with Elfrida. With the closing of the Webb school the following year went the last remnant of a separate community that bore that name. Today, Webb exists only as a voting district of Elfrida, but through the Webb Mothers' Club which was founded at the school in 1912, the name endures.

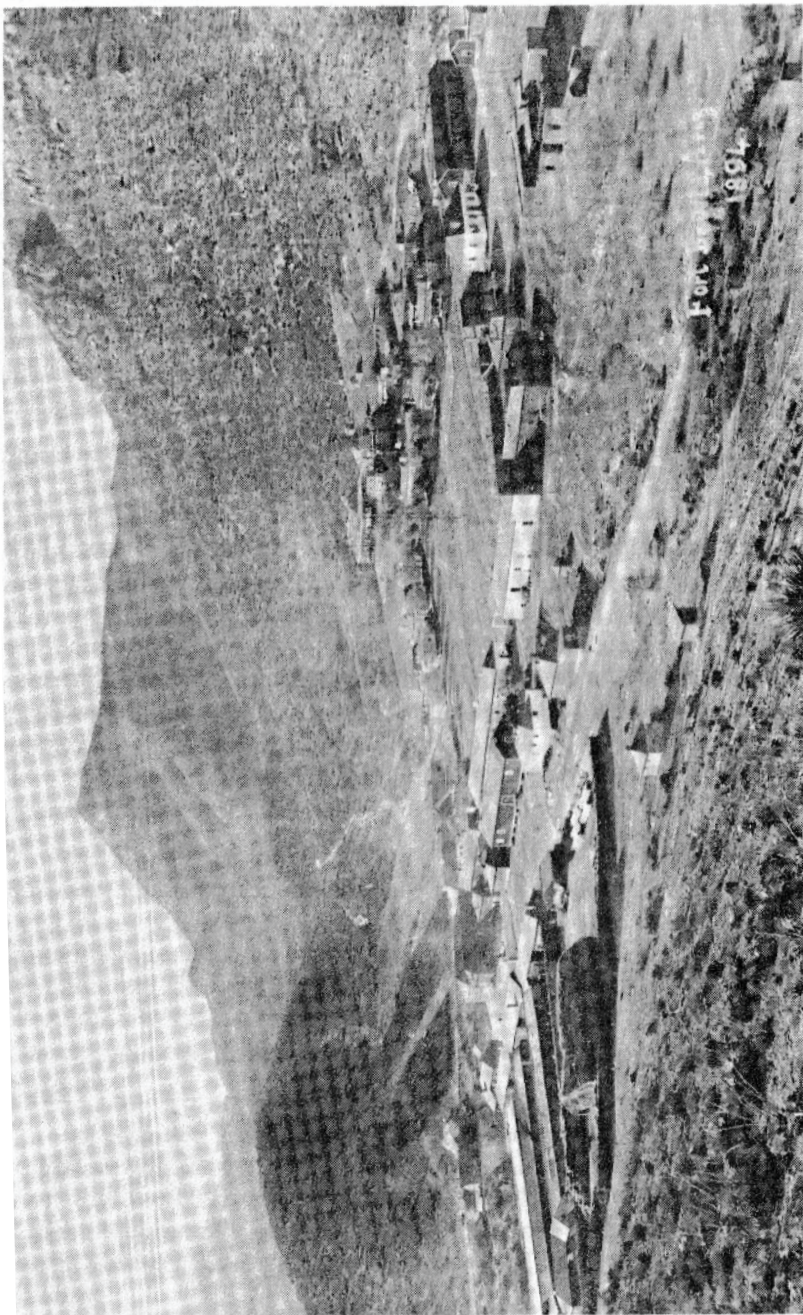
For a time, the old Webb schoolhouse relived its heyday when in 1943, voters in the Pearce Union High School district voted to move the school

from Pearce to Elfrida, where most of the students lived. The schoolhouse was used and then abandoned again in 1949 when the Valley Union High School opened its doors for the first time.

The high school was dedicated on August 6, 1949, and Elfrida hosted the biggest celebration that the town had ever seen, before or since. The day of the dedication was named Valley Guest Day and organizers promised that it would be the largest rural celebration ever to be held in Cochise County. The day before dedication, a full page ad appeared in the *Douglas Dispatch* inviting everyone to the celebration.

More than 2,000 people attended the ceremony including Arizona Governor Dan E. Garvey, who was the main speaker. Festivities included a barbeque dinner of mammoth proportions, a tour of valley farms and industries, eight hours of entertainment and dancing into the night. The goings on were broadcast live over radio stations in Bisbee and Douglas.

The main expansion in Elfrida has taken place since World War II and the influx of newcomers has more than doubled in the last five years. The town today is a bustling headquarters to a large agricultural community, boasting five churches, schools, cafes, hotels, an art gallery and many business establishments. And this town, bearing a good woman's name, has lived a large chunk of history made by men and women too busy living, raising families, working and brawling to stop and think about anything beyond the accomplishment of living one day at a time. These same men and women, many of whom, before their coming to Elfrida, had suffered humiliation and persecution, forged a heritage of freedom from oppression and an independence to worship when and how they pleased.



Fort Bowie January 1894. Taken from northwest on Overlook Ridge. Looking southwest. Present ranger station located at lower left at haystack.
—Courtesy Arizona Historical Society

THE FORT BOWIE STORY

By Wilton E. Hoy

Apache Pass forms the rough-hewn two-and-one-half-mile corridor that divides the Chiricahua and Dos Cabezas mountain massifs in Cochise County of southeast Arizona. The pass also partitions the great sinks of the Sulphur Springs and San Simon valleys to the west and east. Here too, the Sonoran Desert to the west merges with the eastern Chihuahuan Desert. On a vertical plan, several biotic communities intermingle. Canopies of walnut, ash, and willow line the sandy drainages. On drier land desert grasslands mix with mesquite, agave, yucca, bear grass and cactus. On higher slopes the chaparral community of mountain mahogany and manzanita blend into scatterings of the pinyon-pine-juniper woodland. Several perennial fracture springs such as Apache Spring and many ephemeral seeps trickle over stony slopes of granite, limestone and shale. Fort Bowie rests at 5,000 feet altitude on a gently north sloping shelf in the northernmost Chiricahua Mountain foothills. The wildlife inventory comprises 51 mammals, 153 birds and 38 reptiles-amphibians. Thus the natural history of Apache Pass, when converted into its ethnobiotic resources, becomes "Apache country".

The story of Apache Pass before the creation of Fort Bowie in 1862 is the fragmentary tale of the Chiricahua Apaches whose dialogue of the Pass is all but forgotten, and of Spaniards, Mexicans and Anglo-Americans, those who wrote however little. Sometime during the 16th Century Athapaskan-speaking Indians had wandered down from the northlands, settling here and there into scattered ethnic groups, becoming the southwest's Navahos and Apaches. Of prime concern here is the Central Band of Chiricahua Apaches, claimants to the southeast Arizona of today where Apache Pass became a popular sanctuary.

By the late 17th century pockets of Spanish settlement were in collision with the Chiricahuas. Chronicler Nicolas de Lafora wrote in 1776 of the *Puerto del Dado*—Pass of Chance or today's Apache Pass and its *Agua Verde*, presumably Apache Spring.

While Apache Pass received few Mexican visitors between 1821 and 1853, the Anglo Americans seeking a southern route to California beginning in the 1850s coveted, and in 1853 acquired this strip of land from Mexico in the Gadsden Purchase. In 1851 U.S. Boundary Commissioner John Bartlett and his Mexican counterpart, Pedro Garcia Conde, threaded the pass on a joint survey. Here in a ravine Bartlett's men found "a spring and fine pool of water—the most reliable campground we have yet met with."

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Three years later Topographical Engineer Lieutenant John Parke led a survey through the Pass on a survey for a southern railroad route. Parke noted Bartlett's spring, reporting that they were saluted there by cordial Apaches with "cries of *muchos amigos*." By the early 1850s occasional wagon trains of anonymous freighters, miners and emigrants plodded through the pass, always an ordeal because of difficult terrain and the unpredictable Apaches.

Congress, under pressure to finance an overland mail route between the east and an impatient California, in 1857 awarded a contract to John Butterfield and Associates to carry mail and passengers on a semi-weekly basis over a 2800-mile route between the rail terminus at Tipton, Missouri, and San Francisco, each trip to be made within 25 days. In the pass, near Apache Spring, the Butterfield people built a stone station and further secured its safety with a promise from Cochise, Chief of the central Chiricahuas, to permit the stages to pass unmolested through his territory. Although the uneasy peace worked for a while, the inexorable encroachment of the Anglo-American into Apacheria raised tensions to the incendiary point. Two fights in Apache Pass made necessary a fort.

The first of these occurred in early February, 1861, when a 56-man detachment under Second Lieutenant George Bascom entered Apache Pass, with the mission of rescuing a young boy and some stock presumed incorrectly to have been stolen by Cochise. The historic confrontation between Cochise and Bascom, known historically as the "Bascom Affair," ignited the 12-year Cochise War.

The following year, in mid-July, Brigadier General James H. Carleton, commander of the union California Volunteers, dispatched a 126-man detachment eastward from Tucson via Apache Pass. Unknown to the volunteers combined warriors of Cochise and his ally, Mangas Coloradas, prepared an ambush near the spring. Howitzer fire scattered the warriors from their stone breastworks, allowing the Californians to drink and move on, to put Apache Pass behind them.

Carleton, aware that the always flowing Apache Spring would be needed militarily in the future, on July 27 proclaimed from the abandoned stage station in the defile that it was "indispensably necessary to establish a post in what is known as Apache Pass." The fort would be built and occupied initially by 100 men of the 5th California Volunteer Infantry and a cavalry attachment that would soon arrive. The fort would be named Fort Bowie after the 5th's regimental commander, Col. George Washington Bowie and would be commanded by Major Theodore A. Coult, the post surgeon to be David Wooster.

Fort Bowie's mission was threefold: (1) to secure Apache Spring for the exclusive use of non-Apaches; (2) when necessary, to escort travelers through the pass and (3) "to cause the Apache Indian to be attacked

wherever and whenever he may find him near his post." Supplies, ammunition, stores, including a small beef herd, were to be, for the moment, furnished by passing detachments of the Volunteers.

The day after Carleton's pronouncement the construction of Fort Bowie began atop "a small redoubt on the most commanding position above Apache Springs." The original post consisted of 13 tents, including a hospital, and a 14-foot-square guard house. Four strategic positions around the post were composed of a stone wall four to four and one-half feet high, irregularly and hastily completed with little design other than to protect its defenders. The rag-tag little fort, scarcely resembling a permanent military installation, was completed in two and one half weeks. It was not then (nor, for that matter, was it ever) considered to be a good duty post. It did succeed in accomplishing its mission, however. Robert Utley aptly described the living conditions of its men: "The post was isolated, the inhabitations rude, the food bad, and sickness prevalent. If Indians were seldom seen they were nevertheless present, and a nerve-racking vigilance was always necessary. Post garrisons and commanders came and went with great frequency, and most units enroute from Tucson to Santa Fe, had to take their tour of duty at Fort Bowie."

By early September, 1862, Carleton directed Major David Fergusson, commanding the 5th in Tucson, to deliver to Fort Bowie 100 bed sacks, 1,500 pounds of pemmican and "a good share of dried apples." Also in this directive he prophesied: "Fort Bowie will doubtless be occupied by troops, for many years, as it is one of the most important points for a military post in the territory. Of course, during the present (Civil War) troubles no expenses can be incurred in building this post except in the payment of a few extra duty men . . ."

The squalid conditions at Fort Bowie improved little within the next year, possibly because the men were transferred within a few months and doubtless also due to inadequate manpower and supplies. In October, 1863, the post commander, Captain Thomas Tidball, wrote of its condition to Carleton: "The quarters, if it is not an abuse of language to call them such, have been constructed without system, regard to health, defense or convenience. Those occupied by the men are mere hovels, mostly excavations in the side hill, damp, illy-ventilated, and covered with decomposed granite taken from the excavated, through which the rain passes very much as it would through a sieve." Major Coult wanted to abandon the post during the winter months, complaining, if with some exaggeration, that his men were frequently ill, would be forced to suffer through the winter sheltered only with stoveless tents and, besides, snowfall in Apache Pass was often several feet deep. Carleton's reply was emphatic: "Under no circumstances is the garrison of Fort Bowie to be withdrawn."

In 1865 the post commander proposed to build a respectable new fort, hopefully with limestone rock that lay in abundance nearby. He requested of Carleton an additional company for the task plus two masons and a carpenter, but the post's 40 men, already hard pressed with escort and guard duty, hauling of wood and water and other routine chores, were not to be reinforced and the huts remained in "truly a most wretched appearance." Fort Bowie was, during these spartan years, understaffed, undernourished and undersupplied. The protection of the spring and of travelers in the pass was performed well. Forays against Apaches in the region were seldom effective, however, except for occasional recovery of stolen cattle.

In order to maintain any semblance of morale, the troops were rotated every few months. Coult was transferred to Tucson after only two months at Bowie. Succeeding Captain Hugh Hinds, who followed Coult, was First Lieutenant Benjamin Harrover, promoted to Captain after his arrival at the post. He appears to have been inept and his command was short lived. Arizona District Commander, Brigadier General Joseph R. West, ordered his replacement by the highly-regarded Captain Thomas Tidball as "the most fit officer . . . to command Fort Bowie, as I judge the present officer has given decided evidence of his inability to command himself, to say nothing of his troops." Lieutenant Colonel Clarence Bennett who arrived in 1865 was the highest ranking officer to command the fort, as well as among the most able and aggressive. Bennett led many field scouts against Cochise besides beginning construction of a new post, although neither effort was very effective.

The only commander to be killed while at Fort Bowie was the youthful First Lieutenant John Carroll. In 1867 Carroll, upon hearing gunfire near the post herd, raced alone on one of the post's two horses to investigate. Upon failure to appear a search led to the dead, mutilated bodies of both Carroll and a passing mailman, presumably slain by Apaches.

Among the critical problems of the lonely little post was the uncertainty of arrival of adequate supplies which were received largely from the depot at Fort Yuma on the Colorado River. By the spring of 1864 shortages had become severe enough to consider abandonment of the post, but timely arrival of a supply train made such a measure unnecessary. By 1866 subsistence stores could be ordered from the new depot at Tucson and deliveries remained on a higher, if not altogether satisfactory, level.

Another, if less serious inconvenience was the mail service, or lack of it. Carleton's repeated requests for regular civilian mail service were denied, so a semi-monthly program was organized by the Army with troops providing escort service until a regular mail service was established in 1866. Lone mail carriers were frequent targets for Cochise's warriors.

In the spring of 1866 Fort Bowie's two companies of volunteers, some 130 men, were ordered back to California and mustered out of service.

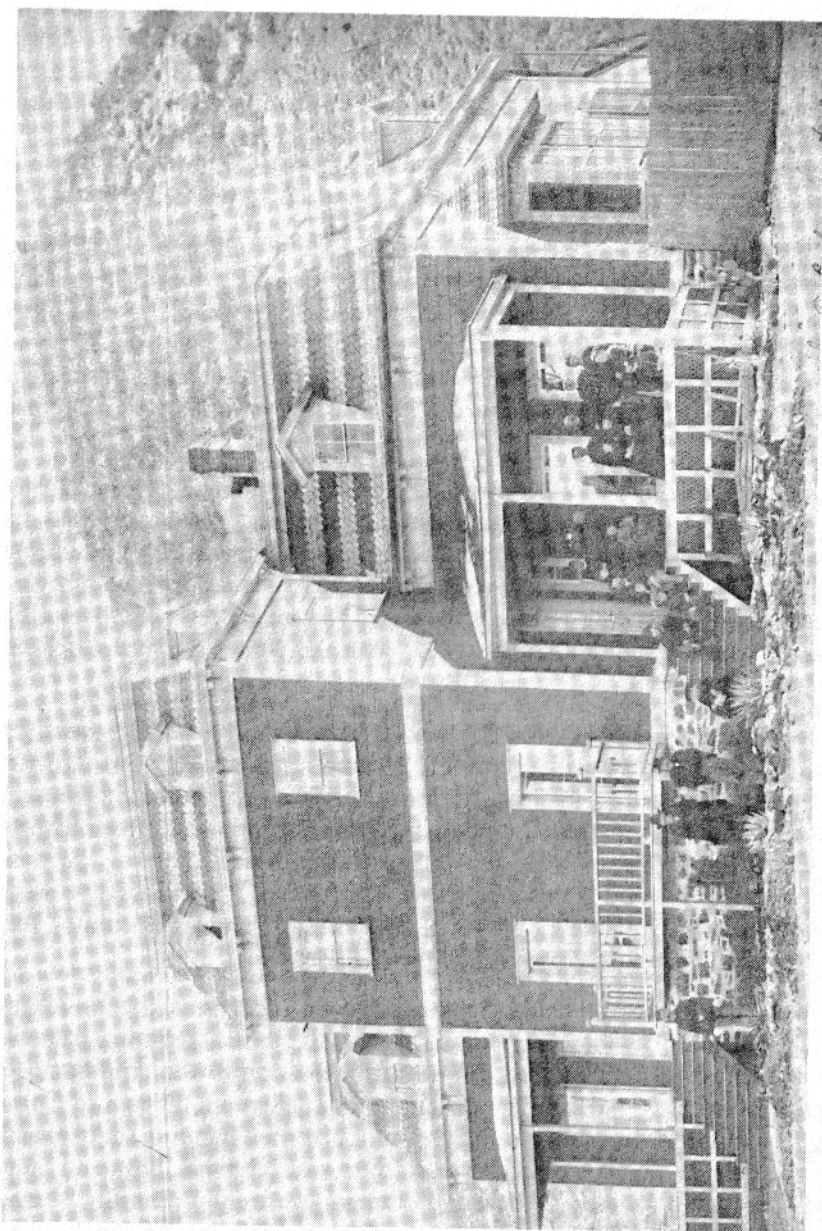
Their replacement was the 48-man Company E, 14th U.S. Infantry commanded by Capt. W. H. Brown who, according to John Spring, "possessed very few soldierly qualifications and a very indifferent school education; he knew next to nothing of the army regulations, but . . . knew well how to obtain as much work out of men as their physical development would permit." Considerable development of Fort Bowie would follow in the next few years, a new post would be built, and a peace made with Cochise. However, as one writer noted: "The wooden crosses in Fort Bowie's cemetery were to multiply with the common inscription: 'killed by Apaches'."

In 1868 the fort was moved eastward about one-half mile to a sloping, if more spacious shelf. While the fort began to grow around the parade field, the quality of Bowie's military commanders also improved. In 1869 Captain Reuben Bernard arrived as post commander. He had been involved as a sergeant in the Bascom Affair eight years earlier and had risen through the ranks now to become among the most effective antagonists Cochise would meet.

Another able fighter, the far-sighted Lieutenant Colonel George Crook was assigned in 1871 to command the Department of Arizona. As he prepared to take to the field against Cochise, he was thwarted by successive presidential peace emissaries, Vincent Colyer, who had traveled west to implement President Grant's peace policy, and Brigadier General Oliver Otis Howard, who arrived in October, 1872, with the white friend of Cochise, Tom Jeffords, and arranged an effective peace agreement.

Reservation life began for the Chiricahuas with Jeffords as agent. In June, 1874, however, Cochise died. The Indian Bureau, having little faith in Indian promises to halt raiding into Mexico and less in Jeffords' ultimate control over them, sent San Carlos Agent John Clum down to fire Jeffords and escort the Chiricahuas up to the San Carlos Reservation, at the confluence of the Gila and San Carlos rivers. Only 325 of the Chiricahuas were moved successfully, while a number of recalcitrants, under Geronimo, Juh and Noglee, fled into Mexico to live the old wild life.

While the removed Chiricahuas festered on their hot barren reservation, Fort Bowie, maintaining combat readiness and its scouting patrols, took advantage of any fighting lull to turn attention to the domesticated progress of the new garrison. By December of 1868 about 68 men of Company D, 32nd Infantry, had cleared the land, acquired building timbers and with the help of civilian carpenters, masons and laborers, began to construct the first adobe structures around the parade ground. The fort's construction was considered adequate for the time by 1870. It then consisted of three sets of officers' quarters, two of company quarters for 300 men, an adjutant's office, bakery, post library, storehouses, post hospital, a guard-house and post trader establishment. The blacksmith shop, carpenter shop,



Commanding Officer's Quarters, 1886. C.O. Eugene Beaumont (with white hair) on porch, 2nd from right, standing.

— Courtesy Arizona Historical Society

saddler's shop and corrals were built across the road at the north side of the garrison. Sinks, kitchens and dining rooms were placed near each set of quarters. Because the sloping parade ground was unsuitable for drill, these were normally held on flatter ground some distance away. By the 1870s a few villages had come into existence on the San Pedro and Gila rivers and at Camp Grant, each some 55 miles away, while the towns of Tucson and Silver City, New Mexico, both about 100 miles distant, provided the post's nearest major settlements. Several mines, mostly of gold, were worked by both soldiers and civilians. John Anderson, the post's first trader, mined the slopes of Bowie Peak and attempted to process the ore with a steam-operated 10-stamp mill about one-fourth of a mile below Apache Spring. By the early '70s inadequate water and hostile Indians had forced the mill to be left in rusty ruins.

The general health of the Fort Bowie soldiers suffered at times, largely from two sources: contagious diseases contracted away from the fort, upon the men's return, sometimes spread to its personnel; and a lack of fresh vegetables causing dietary problems. Efforts were made to alleviate the latter with post gardens at Camp Goodwin on the Gila River, on the San Pedro River, at the San Simon Cienega and with a tiny plot one-fourth mile from the post. None of these efforts were very successful.

Few of Fort Bowie's personnel were more harried than the post surgeon who, besides running a hospital and accompanying troops into the field, had to treat soldiers for a variety of illnesses and injuries, besides sometimes ailing Apaches, emigrants and other civilian passersby who turned from the pass into the fort for medical attention.

Isolated Fort Bowie of the period could provide little recreation for its men. The tumbled terrain made any kind of sports difficult and an inadequate and ill-lit library had little to offer, thus much of the soldier's leisure was devoted to gambling and drinking when their paltry salaries provided the means.

The trading posts managed by Anderson and Sidney Delong naturally served as social centers. Delong, the fort's ranking civilian and a respected trader, ran an impressive establishment. Here officers met for drinks in their club room and shot billiards, while the enlisted man drank his beer in the bar and talked of his world. Drunkenness, fights, and off-post trips to the local "hog ranches" were among the recreations. The 4th Cavalry band provided music in 1885-1886. Sometimes improvised talent brought relief from the army regimen. The *Arizona Citizen* reported in 1871 that "The 'boys in blue' at Camp Bowie, are a jovial set, judging from a programme of songs, dances and laughable farces received which were performed January 18. They style the entertainment, 'Bowie Varieties,' and it was very likely quite enjoyable."

By 1886 Fort Bowie consisted of 29 buildings, although the men's quarters sometimes were inadequate still requiring the occasional use of tents on the parade ground. The most sumptuous building was the commanding officer's constructed in 1884-85 at the southeast corner of the post behind officer's row, a two-story milled frame house with 13 rooms, six fireplaces and a sewing room with a skylight. The tower and two verandas were adorned with shingles in alternating colors.

A steam-operated ice machine was installed in 1887 on the slope just east of the post. Two years earlier a water system had been added to the post, replacing the cumbersome waterwagons. A steam pump at Bear Spring pumped ample water around the ridge to a small reservoir that fed a water ram which relayed it up to the southeast corner of the post. Gravity then brought it to the various buildings.

Virtually every soldier, Indian scout and civilian employee actively engaged in the Chiricahua Indian wars was stationed, at one time or other, at Fort Bowie. Regiments stationed at the fort at various times were the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 10th Cavalries, and the 1st, 8th and 12th Infantries. Post strength during the Indian wars varied from a low of 95 to a high of 278.

In 1885 when 137 Chiricahuas escaped from San Carlos to the Sierra Madre, Crook moved to Fort Bowie to be near both the Southern Pacific Railroad and his principal theater of operations. Lieutenant General Phillip Sheridan traveled to the fort and conferred with Crook. Fort Bowie would remain as the base of operations for three major campaigns and numerous supporting expeditions against the hostile Chiricahuas in Mexico and southern Arizona.

In March 1886, after a successful surrender conference between Crook and Geronimo, everyone was enroute to Fort Bowie when Geronimo, Natchez and others bought some whiskey and most were suddenly reported racing back to the Sierra. Crook was transferred and his replacement was Brigadier General Nelson A. Miles, an ambitious, veteran Indian fighter. Although Miles soon moved his headquarters to Willcox, Fort Bowie remained the center of military operations against the Chiricahuas. Miles quickly organized his operations. He strengthened the border patrol in an attempt to make more hazardous the infiltration of hostile raiders into this country. He also expanded the heliograph system which consisted of adjustable mounted mirrors that flashed messages called "heliograms" in Morse Code with a telegraph type key. Some 51 field stations were set up largely in southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico, the Southwest, with its many mountain tops, clear air and abundant sunshine being an ideal region for such an operation. A heliograph station consisted of a signal corpsman, a sergeant and three privates. The hub station was located first atop Helen's Dome and shortly after on Bowie Peak, in the shadows of which lay Fort Bowie itself. There was a heliograph at the post adjutant's

office and one at Bowie station. Direct connections were also made with four other stations. Messages could be read at 30 or more miles. In 1886 the Bowie Peak station sent 802 heliograms and relayed 1,644 others, sending and receiving more than any other station. On one occasion during the 1886 campaign a message of 27 words was flashed via eight relay stations and an answer returned in two hours, twenty minutes.

Miles at Fort Huachuca selected Captain Henry W. Lawton and Acting Assistant Surgeon Leonard Wood as field commanders and instructed them to handpick a force to track down and fight the hostiles in Sonora. After a summer's nightmare in Old Mexico the Geronimo band agreed to a peace conference. Once surrendered they were sent on the long trip back to Fort Bowie, arriving September 7th, and the following day taken to Bowie Station and entrained for Florida where the bulk of their fellows had already been sent. With this dramatic surrender and exodus the long campaigns against Indians of the southwest were virtually at an end.

After 24 years of warfare with the Chiricahua Apaches, Fort Bowie continued to serve the region, if at a slower pace, for another eight years. Abandonment was postponed for two principal reasons. The almost phantom Apache Kid and a few Chiricahua hostiles attached to him, continued to generate mischief about the area. Secondly, the fort continued to prove of economic benefit to the region. Territorial Governor Louis C. Hughes was adamant in his insistence the post remain active.

By late 1894, civilian protests notwithstanding, the time for Bowie's abandonment had plainly come. On October 17, Troops B and I, 2nd Cavalry, including 118 men, 110 horses, mules and pack outfits and nine women and children rode out of Fort Bowie and boarded the train for Fort Logan, Colorado. The Interior Department took over the old post for later auction to local cattlemen. The *Sulphur Valley News* lamented the fort's demise: "Fort Bowie was occupied and maintained by successful Republican administrations, but it has been abandoned by the Democrats. The Lord knows how many more of our people are to fill bloody graves." It really knew better.

On August 30, 1964, realizing the national significance of the Apache Pass story, Congress authorized the Fort Bowie National Historic Site. In 1967 stabilization of the post's doddering adobe walls was begun and continues today. With the acquisition of Fort Bowie by the National Park Service the Apache Pass complex lies quietly today in a setting of historic relics and natural wildness. Reluctant to disturb this with access roads and their inevitable contaminations, the service has protected this environment by providing a one-and-one-half-mile foot trail from the Apache Pass road to the fort. Here the visitor, trail guide in hand, may stroll past a variety of historic sites, including the cool water of Apache Spring, up to the ruins of the fort and a small museum, staffed by a ranger. Here the visitor may tune out the 20th Century and in imagination slip into a frontier post of the 19th Century. It is a refreshing experience for many.

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Wilton E. Hoy, the first and still resident ranger at the Fort Bowie National Historic Site, is engaged in continued research on the old post and its remaining relics and sites, and is well known to visitors there.

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