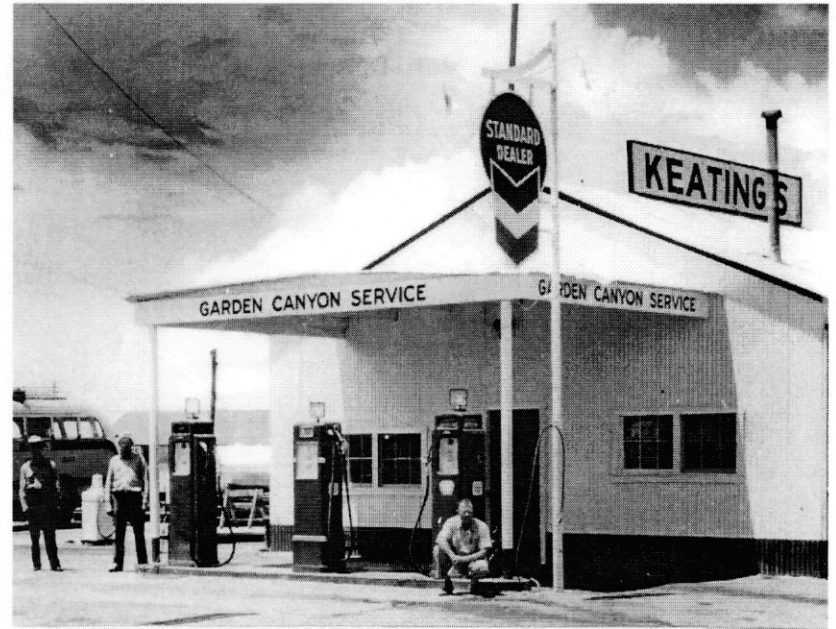


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SIERRA VISTA
50TH BIRTHDAY EDITION
By
ETHEL JACKSON PRICE

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the Past
for
The Future***

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see text this page

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Cover photo

courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum

Keating's 'Garden Canyon Service' was located on what is now open space just outside the post's Main Gate, on Fry Blvd. between Garden Canyon and Buffalo Soldier Trail -- it's where Madam (her job, not her name) would refill the tank of her luxurious Buick LaSalle before picking up another customer for his round-trip to the San Pedro and back, during which "business" was conducted in the back seat.

Editorial Letter

Dear Reader,

We have been remiss with the editorial letter in some recent issues, as you may have noticed.

We were grateful to Harry O'Neil for coming up with the idea of a monument for Sulphur Springs and the resulting article for a journal, and later for researching the history of Tres Alamos. Both journals have been popular.

Portal author, Jeanne Williams, CCHS member and former president, did an outstanding job on the history of the Portal School. It is pure luxury to have accomplished authors write articles for our journals.

The Spring/Summer issue for 2006 is written by Ethel Jackson Price, another published writer. This issue will be about Sierra Vista, which will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary as a city this year. We trust you will enjoy learning about Sierra Vista.

We are happy to tell you that Ervin Bond's book, "Cochise County, Past and Present" is again in stock at the CCHS office. The price is \$25 and includes handling and shipping. This includes an index.

Some CCHS members are at the Douglas/Williams House Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. The price of gasoline has discouraged some of the Directors who live a great distance from coming every Tuesday, but we do try to keep up with email and snail mail. We're so happy when we can help find information for people.

Any trips or tours this year are iffy, depending on the price of gasoline. We are hoping to put up markers or monuments at Courtland and Gleeson, but this is a long-range project. If you have personal information or pictures concerning either of these towns, please contact Mary Magoffin at P.O. Box 818, Douglas, AZ 85608-0818. Thanks. Have a nice summer!

The Editorial Board

Sierra Vista 50th Birthday Edition

By
Ethel Jackson Price

*Not a “dedication,” this is a special thank
you -- to He who made it all possible.*

Ethel Jackson Price

Acknowledgments

I once held a somewhat ‘heated’ discussion with an editor over what’s needed in order to qualify as ‘historic.’ Said editor opined that an event *must* be earlier than the mid-1940s, while I – just as strongly – reasoned that if a community didn’t exist at that time, modifications must be made. After much discussion, we found a mutually agreeable compromise and publication happened.

Luckily, there was no such difficulty this time.

For their trust in me, their enthusiasm in helping, and dedication to the ongoing preservation of history, I especially want to thank some very special people of the Cochise County Historical Society (headquartered in Douglas): they are my friends Mary Magoffin, John Magoffin, Mary Burnett, Liz Ames, Dan Pollak, and a whole list of others that were involved in whatever way with the production of this issue.

In the western part of Cochise County, separated from Douglas by a range of rugged mountains, lies Sierra Vista.

Here, help came from Nancy Krieski, curator of the Henry Hauser Museum in Sierra Vista, who took time out of some very busy days to help me obtain photos. There’s also Nola Walker, the woman who named the city, Ethel Berger, who is featured herein, Tom Shupert, who interviews subjects and films the oral histories that I’m currently transcribing, and – oh, the list goes on and on. And on. I couldn’t have done it without all of you!

Let’s just say that I want *everyone* to know how much all these people have meant to me...and to the preservation of history. Sierra Vista is truly a “Young City with a Past.”

Introduction

Questions are always asked. Why Does Sierra Vista exist? Where did the city get its name? What about Fry Townsite? How long have people lived here? Is it true the city was once called fill in the blank ? Was it *really* once part of Mexico? What about Geronimo and the Apaches and the San Pedro?

Some questions will be answered in these pages, others are on the short list for future issues. So, let’s start by agreeing that neither gold nor silver nor copper, not the mines and not smelters – not even cattle ranches – are the reason for the city’s existence. One or the other gave birth to several nearby communities, but Sierra Vista is different. Often called an ‘upstart’ city (that’s okay, even the State of Arizona is less than 100 years old), it’s important to recognize that the epithet refers only to its date of incorporation. Prior to that momentous event, an event that’s being celebrated with a 50th Birthday Party in the year 2006, there was a rich and colorful background of exploration, mining, agriculture, ranching, railroads, Indian wars, an earthquake, forest fires, and more.

One thing should be especially noted. It’s this: some confusion exists about the area’s history simply because early maps weren’t exactly exact. When early explorers drew maps,

they tended to fix on lines of demarcation based on landmarks. Titles to properties during the Spanish Land Grants might refer to a boulder or a tree or a river (or two rivers, i.e. "between the San Pedro and the Santa Cruz"). What, one asks, happened when an old tree crashed to the ground, felled by a summer monsoon? Or a river changed course (something that actually happened during the 1887 earthquake)? And what about mountain ranges that divide just as certainly as a river?

One could go on and on. However, it can all be summed up by saying that old (*really* old) maps put the location of Sierra Vista's current existence within the perimeters of an area called Pimeria Alta but, practically speaking, it's not. Not with the forbidding Huachuca Mountains in between, mountains so tall their trees seem to brush the sky.

Then, of course, the city itself is barely 7 miles west of the San Pedro, a river shown on the same *very* old maps as the border between Pimeria Alta and Apacheria. By drawing intersecting lines and taking the Huachucas into account, one finds that the city is clearly a part of Apacheria, a land once the home of people with names like Geronimo, Naiche, Lozen, and Cochise, for whom the county is actually named.

So, in these pages we'll find some Old History, some Semi-Old History, and some New History. Don't laugh, history happened thousands of years ago and it happened a minute ago. The term "New History" is not an oxymoron. In fact, Jim Kempert, editor of my first book, once told me, "History never sleeps." It doesn't.

So, history happens. Recording it for our kids, grandkids, great-(add however many greats you want) grandkids is what's important. It's what will give them roots. So if you have questions, anecdotes, other photos, etc., or if your group (including school classrooms ... we'd love getting young students involved in their community history!) needs a speaker, contact either the Cochise County Historical Society in Douglas or the Henry Hauser Museum in Sierra Vista.

Sincerely, Ethel Jackson Price

Part I

Honoring Ethel M. Berger

It was a cold Pennsylvania day in late October at the beginning of a decade that would come to be known as the 'Roaring '20s.' Whether the sky was gray or not, an air of anticipation filled the comfortable farmhouse. Why? Because the young farmer and his wife had, since early spring, looked forward to the arrival of their child. Would it be a boy or a girl? They'd considered names for each, "just in case."

Well, scheduled events of the day were about to change. The young farmer, Albert W. Hart, and his wife, Ethel M. Hart, suddenly found that it was 'time,' and the child they'd name after her mother was about to debut!

Proud of their offspring, within a relatively short time it seemed appropriate to show her off – most likely by taking her to church. Dressed in their best, the young Ethel seated on her mother's lap, they ventured out into a welcoming community. It was the way of things, quite expected. Life went on.

Merely a little girl at the time, Ethel may not remember details of the "flapper" era ... but she lived through it, and on into and through the Great Depression. How did it affect her? That's another story – but the accepted version of life at the time is that farmers, able to grow their own food, may have had an advantage over city folk.

By the time she was 20, the United States had gone from the madcap Roaring '20s to the despair of the Depression, and was about to enter the devastating World War II! Ethel, a gorgeous young woman, would find her life changing again ... but having come from sturdy Pennsylvania stock, she'd do just fine.

Then came decision time. The cold Pennsylvania winters were proving to be too much. For health reasons, Ethel Hart needed to make some adjustments in her life and, after carefully evaluating her choices, she selected the warmth and dry climate of the Southwest. She chose Sierra Vista.

When Ethel arrived in Sierra Vista, the community had grown

eastward from Fort Huachuca's perimeters, reaching all the way to 7th Street! There were restaurants (plural), a men's store, a bookstore, the Coronado Hotel and adjacent shopping center, and even a typewriter repair shop. She would witness ground-

Ethel M. Hart
Photo courtesy
of Henry Hauser
Museum



breakings for the Oscar Yrun Community Center, where she actually turned the first shovelful of earth, a new City Hall, the Fire Department building, some churches, the Safety and K-Mart.

After working awhile for the city of Sierra Vista, Ethel chose to resign and run for a seat on the City Council. Elected to that position in 1969, it was just a few years till she became the Mayor Pro-Tem ... and then was elected Mayor – the first woman to be elected Mayor not only of Sierra Vista but of any city in Arizona.

One of her most pleasing projects was when, working with Coors, she helped organize a recycling program named Cash for Cans. A large wagon was provided and when enough aluminum cans were collected, they'd be taken to Douglas for processing. Cash for Cans served a triple purpose: It gave the city's youth a useful project, it helped keep the city clean, and it brought in funds that helped build the community center.

Ethel Hart Berger continued her hard work, being involved in city politics and projects throughout her life. For her devotion to the city, the Ethel Berger Center was named in her honor. In more recent years, she's found it a bit more difficult but stayed active with Rotary, with the Museum Committee and more. Most recently, she's found it necessary to slow down a little – after all, she celebrated her 85th birthday in October 2005 – but is still deeply involved in helping the City of Sierra Vista celebrate the half-century since its incorporation.

Ethel M. Berger
as a member of
the Sierra Vista
City Council
Photo courtesy
of Henry Hauser
Museum



Part II

The Really Early Days of the City

Sierra Vista is, when compared to other communities, an upstart. For instance, Tombstone will celebrate its 125th birthday next year and Douglas, further to the east, has already celebrated its 100th birthday. So yes, Sierra Vista is young – but its youth merely pertains to years since incorporation; it doesn't mean that no one lived here prior to that momentous event.

There were the Apaches, of course; this land was their home before it was ours. Then there were the Mexicans. There were the ranchers and cowboys and miners. There were the railroad people. And, predating even Fort Huachuca, there were soldiers. This land has been part of Mexico (which, at the time, went north to the Gila River), part of New Mexico (the county seat was in Mesilla, NM), and once – for a while – it was actually part of the Confederate States of America.



Long before Arizona was a state, medical care hereabouts was only provided by the Army for its soldiers; this was their ambulance. Photo courtesy of Fort Huachuca Historical Museum.

The community we know today as Sierra Vista actually began as a 'stringtown' along the eastern perimeter of Fort Huachuca. It began there *because* of Fort Huachuca. The businesses, such as they were, provided supplies and services that were unavailable on Post; the Post, in turn, supplied some services unavailable to the civilians, such as medical attention and an 'ambulance.'



Branding day -- that's Roy Wilcox holding the calf's head down; Walter Wilcox is in the background, looking for the next one. Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.

Life went on. Cowboys did their round-ups, bringing 'beeves,' as they were called, in for branding, later for sale. Despite Hollywood's interpretation, branding was not a glamorous event. There was the noise from bawling cattle, the smell of burned hair and horse kerplops, dust churned up by all of the activity, the air turning blue with graphic curse words shouted by sweaty, grimy, cowboys probably wearing the same clothes



On their way, the cattle might mosey past the building where Daisy Mae's Steakhouse is now located. Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.

they'd had on the day before. That was *after* the cattle were rounded up! Next, like as not, some – the ones to be sold – were herded along a trail right in front of the building on north Garden Canyon that would become a store and post office and eventually the Stronghold Steakhouse. It's now known as Daisy Mae's Steakhouse and is one of only two or three truly "historical" buildings in Sierra Vista.

That building has, along the way, been the home of a member of the Fry family, a post office, and once – so legend has it – was part of 'White City' (where Ladies of the Evening plied their trade).

Saying "Iowa" will often bring forth visions of wheat fields rippling in the breeze, or black & white dairy cattle grazing in green pastures. But coal mines? Icy winters out on the plains? No, one doesn't think of it.

The winter of 1901 was especially bitter, with 6-foot snowdrifts and ice that caused horses to lose their footing. One family decided they'd had enough. Oliver Fry gathered up his

wife, Elizabeth, and their four children, Tom, Cora, Erwin and Edna, and headed for a warmer climate in Barker, Texas, where they became farmers and added five more children. Because the Frys valued education, the kids who were old enough went to school for nearly half of each year. And Arizona was not yet a state.

On Valentine's Day 1912, that changed.

With all the hoopla, all the celebration that statehood brought, Oliver Fry heard about it. A certain restlessness set in, but not for him the gold fields or copper mines. He wanted to homestead and maybe operate a dairy. He and a friend came west, scouted out the area, and decided to settle right here in the area near Fort Huachuca. They each filed, Oliver selecting a property just about where the current Dollar Store is located, his friend choosing land where Ace Hardware is now. Back home in Texas, Oliver tied up some loose ends and purchased 24 Jersey cows for his dairy. Upon finding they were quarantined and that he couldn't bring them across the Arizona state line line, he sold them.

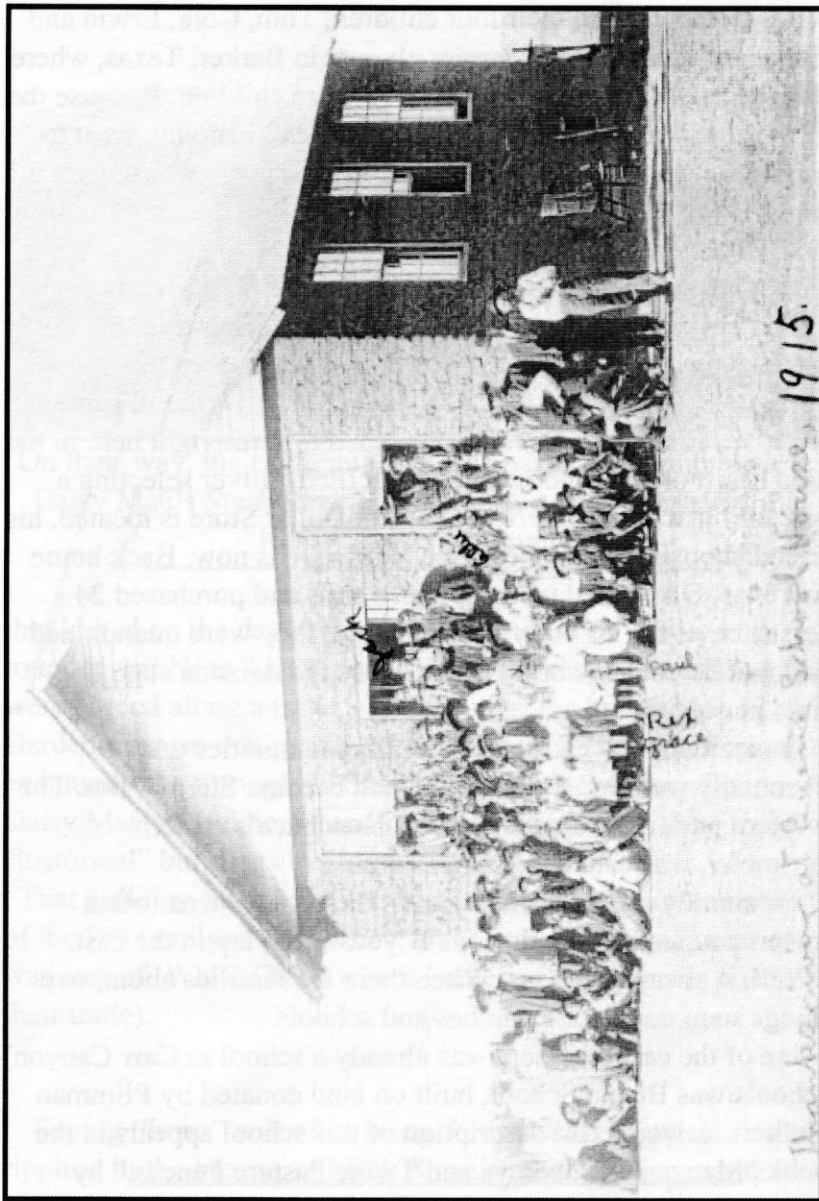
The area already had several small communities that eventually would merge into one and become Sierra Vista. The western part, right up against Fort Huachuca's eastern perimeter, was called Garden Canyon.

An entirely different community known as Buena (often mispronounced, at the time, as B'yew-enna) lay to the east.

Well, it always happens. When there are families about, two things soon develop: Churches and schools.

One of the earliest (there was already a school in Carr Canyon) schools was Buena School, built on land donated by Plimman Hulbert. A wonderful description of this school appears in the book "Manzanita Cowboys and Twine Pasture Fences," by Norine Haverty Dickey.

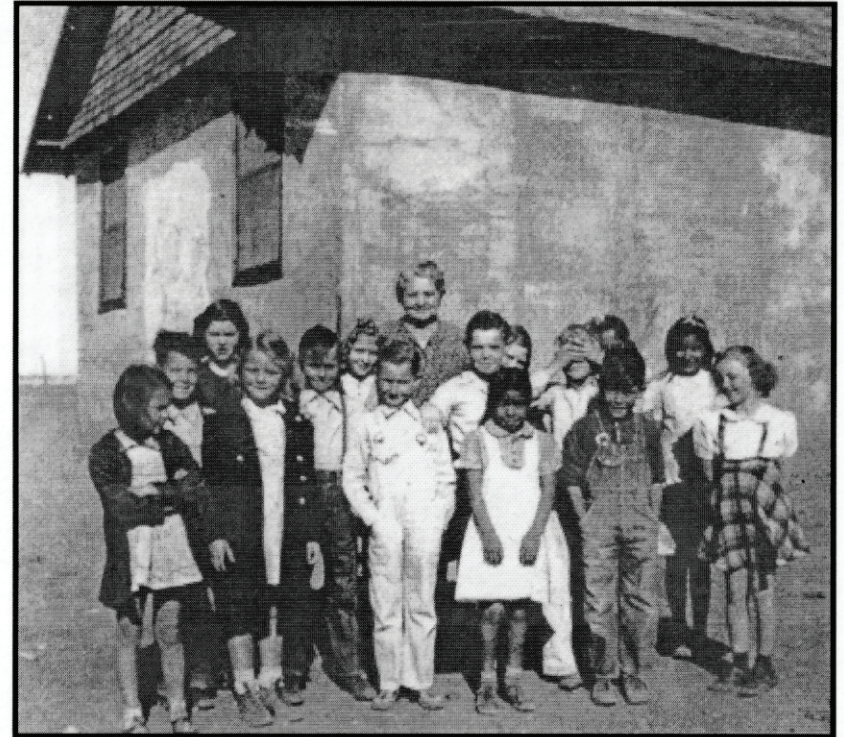
Classes began at Buena School with the fall semester in 1915, and the first class picture was taken at the Thanksgiving Day celebration that year.



The whole community, it seems, turned out to celebrate its brand-new adobe Buena School (not Buena High School) on Thanksgiving Day in 1915.

Photo courtesy of the late Paul Knoles.

Class size would grow as students were added. Students of today find it immensely fascinating to see their grandparents as young kids, and pore through old school pictures, trying to identify their ancestors. And those still living can look at old schoolmates as they were “back then.”



Class picture -- front row: 5th child is Juanita Villanueva, 6th is Pete Castro. The teacher, in back, is Mrs. Bledsoe who came in from Bisbee to teach. Photo courtesy of Pete Castro.

Today there is an ongoing effort to change borders of the Tombstone School District so students who live nearer another community can attend classes closer to home. It's like *déjà vu* because once upon a time, the community that would become Sierra Vista was located in the Tombstone School District. When parents tired of waking their kids before daylight to send



Students grow up. Here, in the front row, are: #1. Mike Bakarich, (2, 3, 4 unk), #5 Irwin Newman. Second row, #1 is Fred Thomas, (2, 3, 4 unk), #5 is Roy Newman. Third row: #1 Sara Bakarich, #2 Julia Castro, (3, 4, 5 unk), #6 Nieves Castro, #7 unk. Back row: #1 unk, #2 is Shirley Hadden, #3 is Manuel Castro, #4 is "Old Man Webb" (the teacher).

Photos on facing pages courtesy of Pete Castro

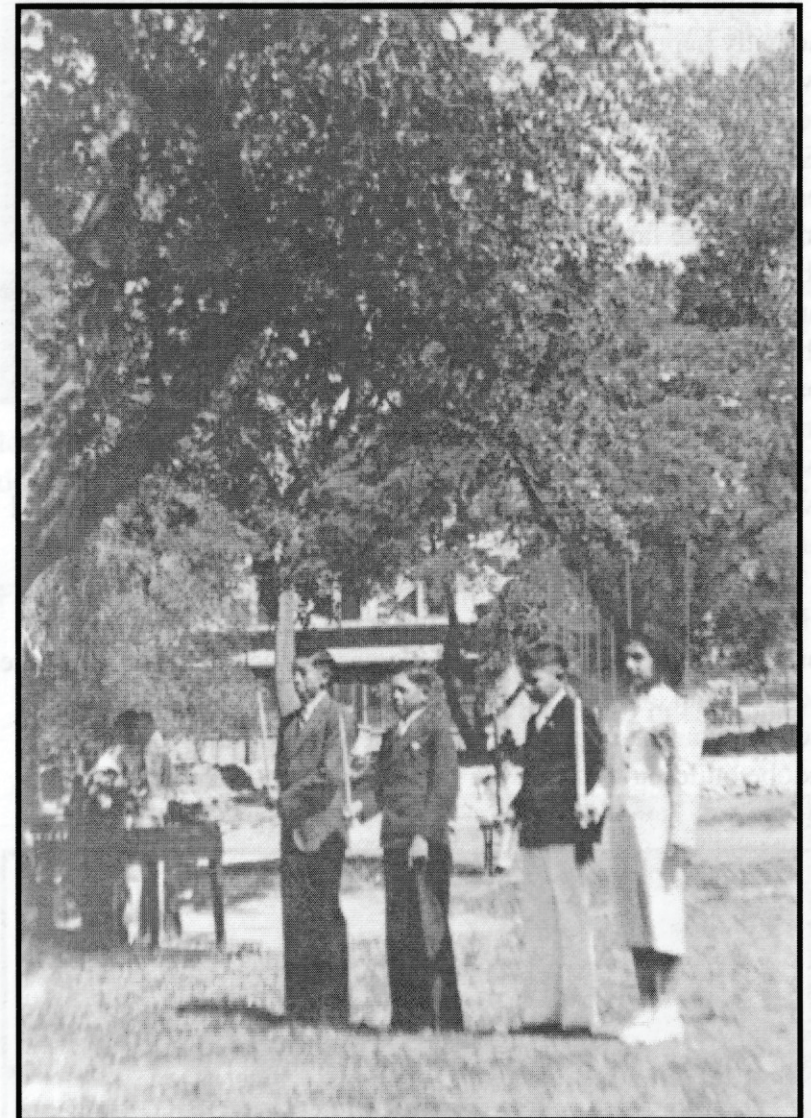


Another group of students are, front row left to right: Albert Laguna, Gwenn Bakarich, Socorro Castro, Juanita Collier, Rose Mary Moffet, Joe Garcia, Richard Moffet, last one unknown. Second row: Fidela Laguna, Fred Bakarich, Frank Garcia, Pete Castro, Hortensia Gonzales, last one unknown. Last row: Rose Mungia, Florence Valenzuela, Katherine Geary, Etoile Parker, Clifford Pool, Albert Castro, Lena Thomas.



The same Buena School in 1924 -- and one of the teachers was the same Etoile Parker who was a student in the last row of the immediately preceding photo. The other teacher was Margaret Brimberr, and adult visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wilcox, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Perez.
Photo courtesy of Mary Estes.

them off on what they considered an overly long bus ride to school, they rebelled. The result was more than a mere fracas; it was a bitterly fought war involving both money and politics. Tempers ignited. There was name-calling, there were bitter threats, and there was pounding on the table and more. Indeed, the battle would grow to involve not only the established District and proposed new District, but also the entire state of Arizona ... and Washington, D.C.! Indeed, one VIP in Tombstone was quoted as having said that Sierra Vista would get their own district "... over my dead body." Well, when it was all over, the dust settled and the arena cleared, Sierra Vista was the winner. The brash new city had persevered, defeating their more experienced opponents. Tombstone lost part of their school district – with the funding that accompanied it – and the gentleman who uttered the above-quoted remark was still standing. Fuming, perhaps, but still standing.



More students, during a special celebration. Left to right, they are: David Kim, Nate Sepulveda, Raymond Urias, and Eve Sepulveda.

Photo courtesy of Sal Sepulveda.

A major hurdle to face what would become the S.V. District actually happened prior to the city's incorporation. That hurdle was a ripple effect caused by the 1947 deactivation, 1951 reactivation, 1953 re-deactivation, and 1954 re-activating of Fort Huachuca. Soldiers, some with families, having a regular paycheck, spent a large number of dollars in town. Deactivation meant these families left the area, taking their paychecks with them. That meant a devastatingly deep hit to civilian income and when one doesn't make money, one can't spend it on down the road. Businesses closed. People lost their homes. Without a paycheck, even more families migrated to find work. That meant fewer students, so classrooms downsized and teachers were let go, forcing them and *their* families to leave the area which often meant the loss of still more students ... and around and around it went.

Things began looking up with the second reactivation of Fort Huachuca on Feb. 1, 1954 ... just a tad more than two years prior to incorporation. Several elementary schools, some middle schools and a high school would be built. The "new" high school would be outgrown, and a newer one built. The little adobe building that was the first Buena School? The one



Admittedly, Buena School needed some fixing. Here it is in January after they'd installed indoor toilets and water fountains.

Photo courtesy of Pete Castro.



The same adobe building that once was Buena School, it's said, eventually became the district's first headquarters ... before moving into this more modern building. Photo, dated April 1968, courtesy of Lynn Dottle

located just about where today's Target store is? It was torn down a few years ago, its individual bricks sold as a fundraiser.

Factoids

1. The "First Buena School" is not the same as the "First Buena High School." They are two different locations, two different buildings, but have one thing in common. Both were built on land donated for the cause. The first



This is Nola Edmonson Walker, the lady who named Sierra Vista -- the city she loves and where she still lives today.

Photo courtesy of Nola Walker.

Buena School was built on land donated by Plimman Hulbert, the first Buena High School on land donated by Joe Cracchiola.

2. Of course, the name 'Fry,' in honor of an early family, was considered! However, Sierra Vista didn't – as one respected historian proclaimed in print, causing the rumor to get spread – get its name because citizens thought people would laugh if 'Fry' were associated with the hot weather in southern Arizona. In truth, names were suggested and a ballot distributed. Marie Pfister was City Clerk but office space was limited so her 'office' was the trunk of her car! A good friend, Nola Walker, helped out by storing ballots in the back of a closet at home.

When incorporation was approved, Nola – knowing that the majority of votes were for the name subsequently adopted – didn't count them, but simply reported that the name "Sierra Vista" had the most votes. It was accepted, recorded ... and the ballots destroyed. The new city was officially Sierra Vista.

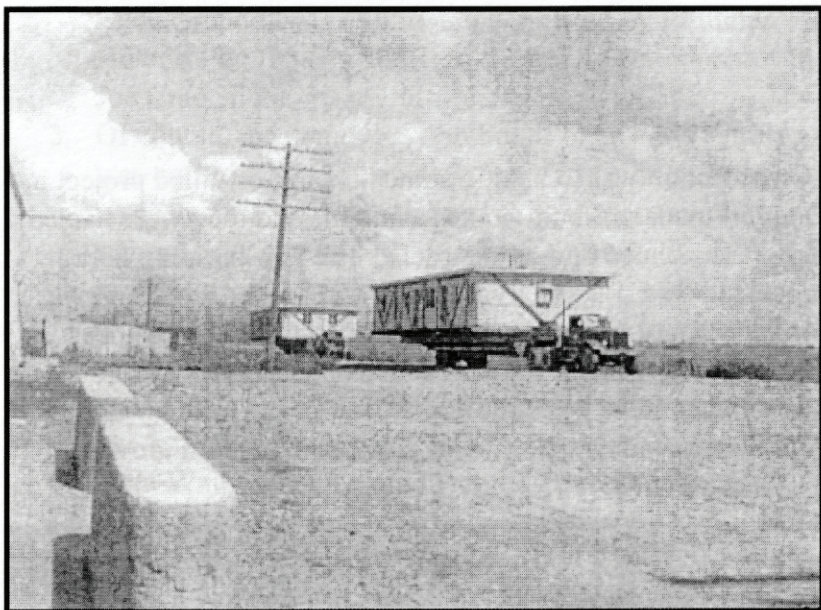
Small Town, Growing

When Fort Huachuca began gearing up, it was still pre-incorporation. The community just outside the Main Gate was still called Fry and wasn't prepared for a huge influx of military personnel, their dependents, human infrastructure – remember teachers? – and the families of civilians who would be employed on the Post. The term, Post, by the way is the correct one for an Army installation. For other branches of the military, the term Base is used. Some lucky townsfolk lived in their own adobe homes but truly adequate housing didn't exist. Apartments weren't built until *after* incorporation. What to do?

One solution was to haul in some housing. A failed project in Douglas made pre-built homes available and they were hauled to Fort Huachuca on flatbed trucks! The first building permit processed by the first City Clerk, Marie Pfister Storment, was for the Stanley Apartments, a complex built at the southeast corner of Garden Canyon and Wilcox. Additional living quarters would be built in Sierra Vista for the military families. And the community grew. And grew. And kept on growing.



In the early days, there were no apartments. Homes were owned and adobe was a popular construction material. This one, shown here in later days, was where Rose Leonard grew up, living with her mother and two grandparents. It was located at the entrance to Thunderbird Trailer Park, just about where Western Tire is now. Photo courtesy of Nola Walker.



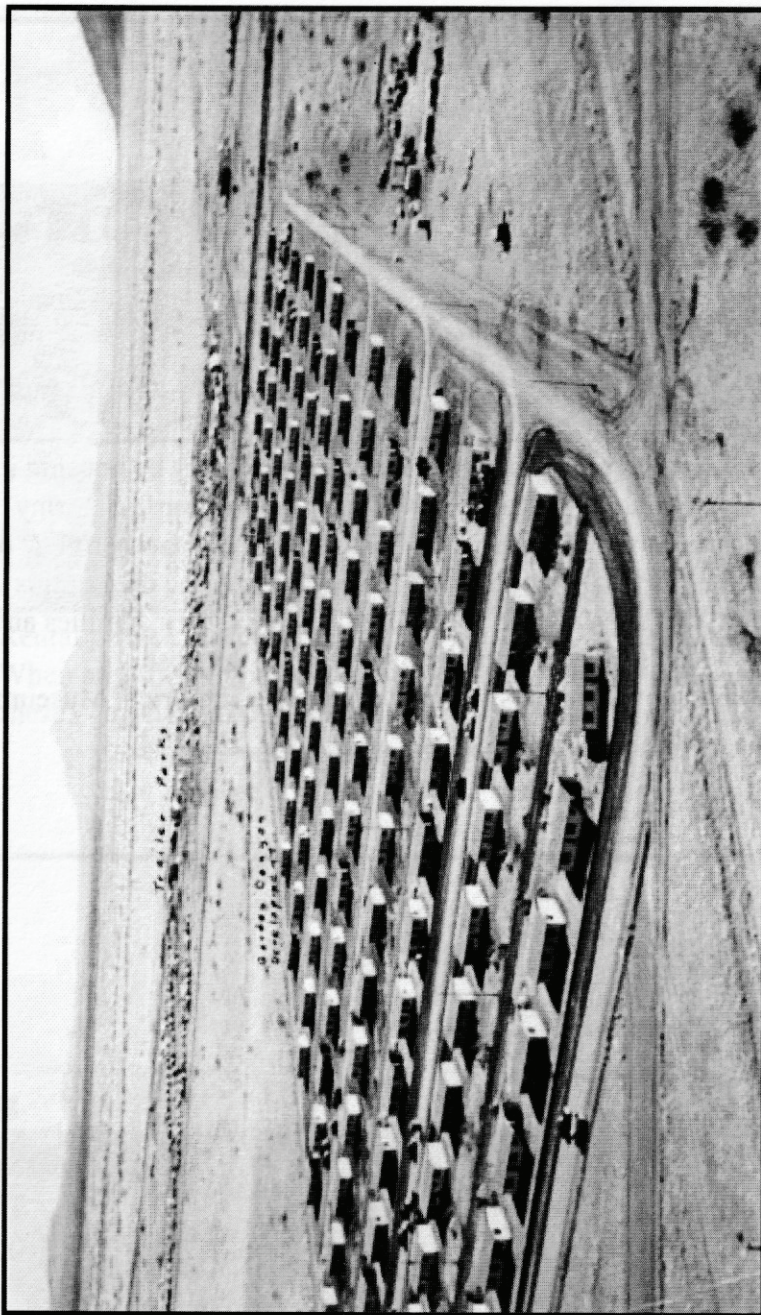
Rental properties like apartments didn't exist in Sierra Vista. When an influx of personnel was expected, the Army moved these -- on flatbed trucks -- to their location. They originally came from a failed project in Douglas.

Photo courtesy of Nola Walker.

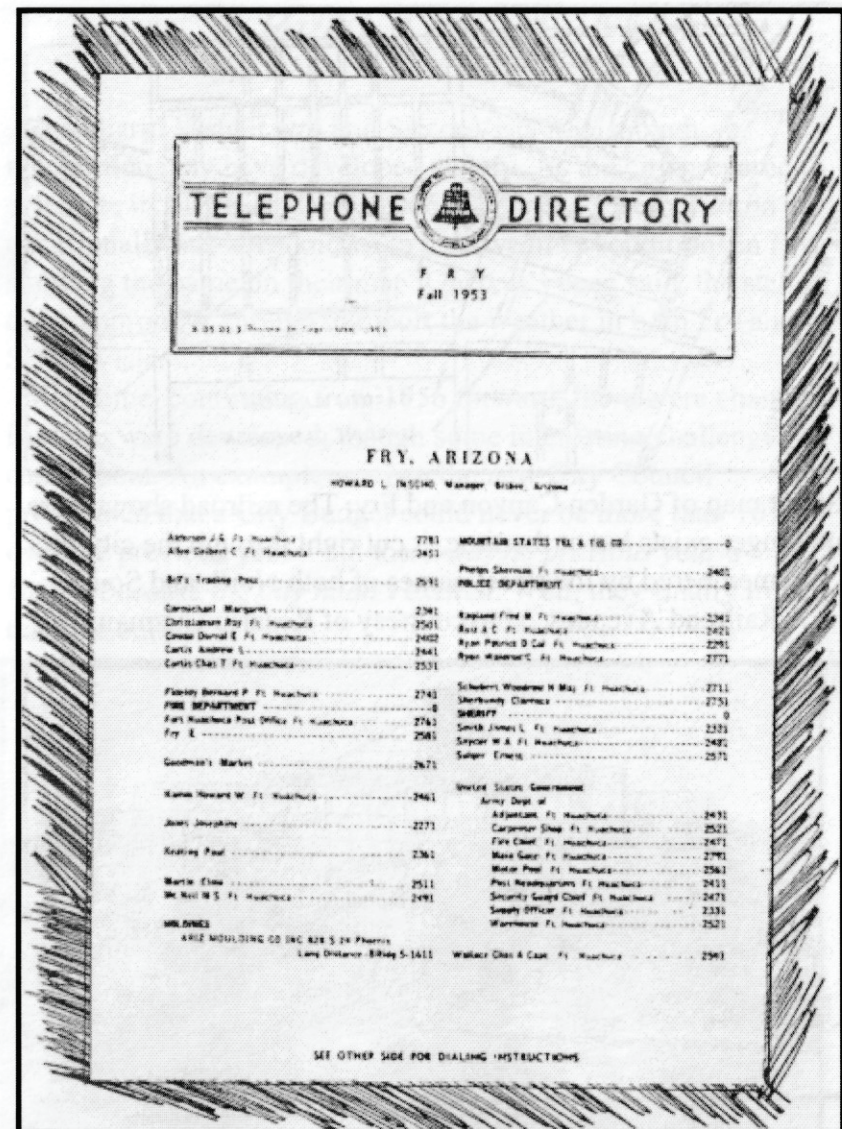


After incorporation, things changed somewhat. The housing in the photo at the bottom of page 22 was built for U.S. Army personnel but located in Sierra Vista. Above, is another view of some quarters provided as recently as 1959, the date of this photo. The housing was for Army personnel, their families and some civilians who worked on the post.

Both photos are courtesy of Fort Huachuca Historical Museum.

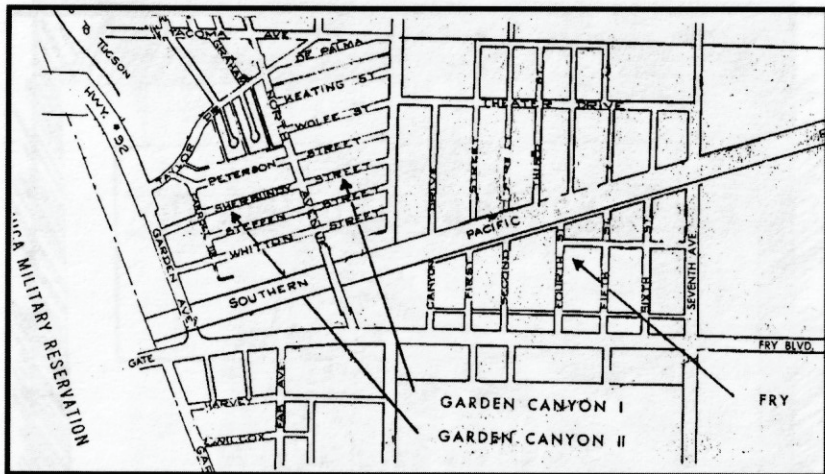


Garden Canyon Development in Fry, AZ on Jan. 19, 1955.
Photo courtesy of Fort Huachua Historical Museum.

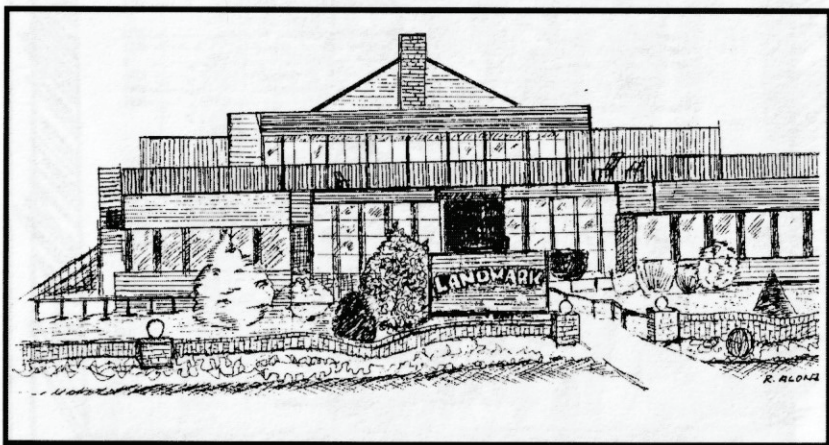


Dated "Fall 1953," this one page is the entire telephone directory for Fry, AZ, now Sierra Vista! Numbers were only 4 digits long and of the 42 listings, 17 are "on post" (one has 9 extensions). There's a long-distance number in Phoenix (the first 'Yellow Page?') and dialing 'O' took care of the Sheriff, the Police and fire departments, and the Telephone Company.

Courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.



Street map of Garden Canyon and Fry. The railroad shown here no longer exists but at the time, it cut right through the city. It's remembered by the street names of both North and South Railroad Avenues. Map courtesy of Rosario Guzman.



Artist's rendition of a glorious building that dated back to WWII. It was located on the south side of Fry Boulevard near the Main Gate. Built mostly of wood, it was a USO Club, an NCO Club and later, the Landmark. After it burned to the ground, it was rebuilt as a desert-pink courtyard with shops and offices. The restaurant, owned by Pamela Anderson, is still called The Landmark.

A Real Town!

Yes, Sierra Vista it was and Sierra Vista it is, though recognition may have developed slowly. As the city prepared to celebrate its 50th Birthday in 2006, Channel 13 from Tucson occasionally has been known to give weather conditions in Fry, showing the name on their map. Once, it's been said, the station did compromise enough to report the weather in both Fry and Sierra Vista.

Meantime, continuing from 1956 forward, there were changes. Budgets were developed, though some interesting challenges came about. An example is when the new City Council proclaimed that a City Budget could never be more than 10% over the previous year – but there *was no previous year's budget because the city hadn't existed*. Well, they finally ironed that one out.



Although Marie Pfister was City Clerk and her 'office' had been the trunk of her car, this was officially Sierra Vista's first City Hall. Located in what's now the 'historical' part of the city, it was home to the Police Department, the city offices and everything else! Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.



This is the Arizona Bank -- the city's first *full-service* bank. Still, it kept 'banker's hours,' staying open only when everyone else was at work. It morphed into the Security Pacific Bank before being bought out by the Bank of America.

Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.



A Ford Pickup, shown here in a high-desert snowstorm, was the city's first government vehicle, bought secondhand and 'on time.' Photo courtesy Henry Hauser Museum.

Businesspersons, citizens, whoever – they all did banking in a rather old-fashioned way “because that’s how it’s always been done.” It meant, basically, that banks were open only during the hours when nearly everyone else was at work. It was a time when most women were housewives and men still handled all the family finances. Therefore, time had to be scheduled to go to the bank during working hours. Some men, those who worked nearby, would take their savings account book or checkbook to the bank, drop it off, and have it balanced *by the bank* before picking it up at the end of the banking day or the next day. Even Marie Pfister, a self-supporting businesswoman before she was City Clerk, took time out of her working day to make a trip to the only bank around ... the one out on Fort Huachuca.

It was grand news when a new, full-service bank, The Arizona Bank, moved into the civilian community. But even they kept what were called ‘banker’s hours.’ Yes, even the big chain bank closed up tight each weekday at 4 p.m. and didn’t open at all on weekends. There were no such things as ATMs or charge cards – both were yet to be invented. So how did businesses operate over the weekend? Well, an example might be how Paul Wolfe, then owner of the Bent Elbow Bar, handled it. Paul simply took himself to the bank each Friday afternoon and withdrew a substantial sum of cash. It was to his advantage. Because the bank was closed, customers flocked to Paul’s place. After all, he could cash their paycheck ... and while they were there, why not have a drink or two? Or three?, or whatever?

How did he manage to stay safe? Well, since Paul had earned a reputation for his excellent marksmanship, he was “The Man,” and he stayed there – in the back room – every weekend night after closing. Did he sleep? Maybe. Maybe not. No one knows for sure and it wasn’t worth one’s life – or being incapacitated for the rest of it – to find out. Why? Because everyone knew Paul Wolfe was there, somewhere in the dark shadows, with a loaded weapon either to hand or on his person.

And, they say, he wasn't afraid of using it. No, no one *dared* to try robbing the bar!

Thus, the Wolfe Security System worked just fine. Then, promptly at 10 a.m. on Monday – when the bank reopened for business – Paul would return, process his deposits, schmooze a little, and possibly, though not always, head home for a nap.

A Gallery

Any community is, in reality, a sum total of all the people who've lived there. Not the mountains. Not the glorious weather. All that was here long before the people and will be here long after. Changed, maybe, as when the 1887 earthquake reconfigured some of the landscape, but in whatever form, it will still be here. The *people* are what make a community, wherever it happens to be. The *people* are what have made this the city of Sierra Vista. A few of the faces and names that should be remembered are represented in the following pictures:



This is Lillian Rice in 1919. She would later become Mrs. Erwin Fry. With her is her son, Jim. Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.



He didn't seem to want being photographed, but here Erwin Fry and his wife, Lillian Rice Fry, are shown during a visit to Phoenix (the state capitol). Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.

Nola Edmondson, later Walker, shown here in uniform in 1944 was quite a modern lady. Most young women didn't, in those days, join the military. In the photo below, Nola is a checker/cashier at the Food Giant in Sierra Vista. The store is no longer there. Both photos courtesy of Nola Walker.



Wedding Day!

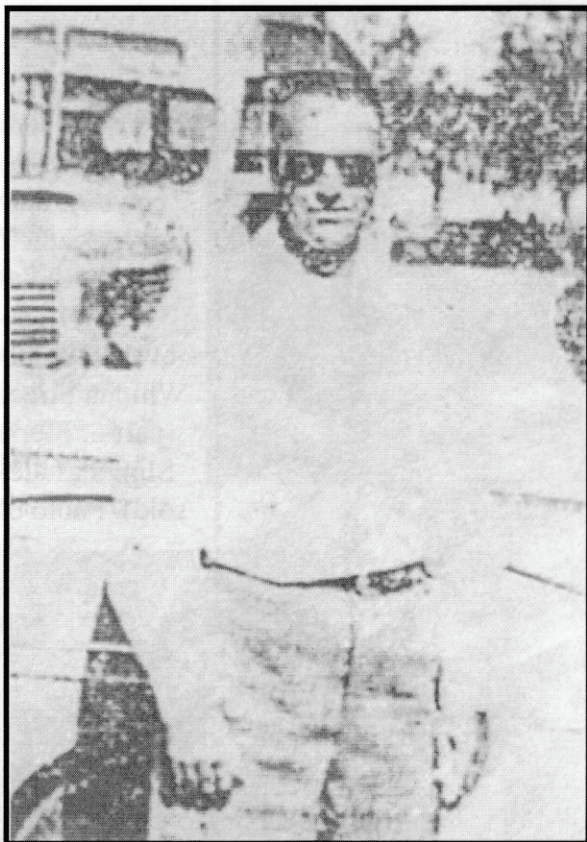
Here's the late Slim Mayo, a cowboy, and his brand-new bride, Katherine. Their union would produce one daughter,

Kathy. The small family eventually bought a home on Whitten Street in the historical part of Sierra Vista (part of Slim's estate, it was recently sold). Photo courtesy of Kathy Mayo.

Lois Richards, in her office at the first newspaper in Sierra Vista.

Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.





Clarence Sherbundy, the city's first Chief of Police.

Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.



Frank Moson, whose holdings included the Y-Lighting Ranch and for whom Moson Road is named.

Photo courtesy of Mary Estes



Norine Haverty, who contributed greatly to the history of the first Buena School, and who wrote *Manzanita Cowboys & Twine Pasture Fences* (it's available in the public library).

Photo courtesy of Mary Estes (her daughter).

Henry 'Hank' Hauser, former Texas A&M football star, Army retiree, avid golfer (he designed part of the Mountain View Golf Course), former Mayor of Sierra Vista (when he spearheaded annexation of Fort Huachuca to Sierra Vista), and the gentleman for whom the city's museum is named. Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.



Mary E. Alinen, Deputy Animal Control Officer. Before there was such a department, animals were often abandoned to starve. Ms. Alinen did her best to prevent that.

Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.



Sierra Vista, a Growing City

Sierra Vista continued to grow and develop. Fry Boulevard became just that. The one constant is change – often with the loss of history. On the south side of the street, the original Landmark restaurant burned down and was replaced. H & R Block recently moved into quarters that once was the 'Modern Drugstore,' actually part of the Rexall chain. The building would go on to house a variety of occupants ranging from a bookstore to a clothing store, to today's H & R Block.

We had a Circle K – amazingly, it's still there.

On down the street, the same thing would occur over and over. And new residents or visitors have no knowledge of what once was. For instances, as recently as this year, early 2006, a newspaper reported a certain property (southeast corner of the intersection formed by Fry Boulevard and 7th Street, behind the



As the city grew, so Fry Blvd. lengthened. Looking west on the south side of the street, the Circle K shown here still exists but the Modern Drugstore (actually part of the Rexall chain) is gone. In its place, we most recently have H & R Block.

Photo courtesy of Fort Huachuca Historical Museum.

Pizza Hut Bistro) as having been a Basha's grocery store before it was vacated and remained empty for several months before renovations began. Well, it wasn't built as a Basha's. Indeed, before that it was a K-Mart before K-Mart wanted to expand and built across the street.

Even McDonald's has changed. What newer residents and visitors often don't know is that McDonald's is the *new one* and was actually built next door to the old one. The eastside wall of the old one was just a very few feet from today's front door and was quite historical. It wasn't the country's first McDonald's – that happened in California – but our own McDonald's was the first one in the United States to have the modern convenience of a fast-food drive-up window!

And who remembers what was, not too many years ago, on the corner where we now have a modern and very busy



Looking east from just outside the Main Gate, on the south side (to the reader's right) we see the building where we now have the Sorry Gulch Saloon; that patch of grass where the photographer probably stood is where the Keating's Garden Canyon Service station was located.

Photo courtesy of Fort Huachuca Historical Museum.



They're not common, but the high desert gets snowstorms -- and Gate Guards still have to check Ids and offer friendly directions! Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.

Walgreen's? That little, A-frame building that sold alcohol and tobacco is a part of history that's now gone.

There was once a Village Inn Pancake House in a building located in the northeast corner of today's Safeway parking lot. It was torn down and replaced with a hair salon and a wireless service. The Rustic Rail, formerly Uncle Sam's and before that Sambo's, is gone, replaced with an auto sales lot. Sears – the one in the mall – was once in the large building now being used by a furniture store, at the northwest corner of Fry and Moorman. The same parking area was used by a Singer's store that sold not only the machines, but also some wonderful fabrics. Even Office Smart was, more recently, in the same shopping area before relocating. And yes, Denny's was once a Hobo Joe's.

There's more, and this is just a small sampling of Sierra Vista's total history. When you read this, go look at the places mentioned here. Imagine what the building or space or facility,

etc., once was like. Remember what the city was like when it was merely a village, a “map-dot.” Remember that it everything was once state-of-the-art but now it’s history. It’s what our great- (add as many greats as you like) grandchildren will study.

Now let’s see a gallery of community images that will tell us more. We begin with a snowstorm, some golfers, a treasure hunter, some good ol’ boy buddies and the City Council in action.



That’s a young Henry “Hank” Hauser on the left, enjoying lunch with two of his golfing buddies.

Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.



A well-known fixture on the north side of Fry Blvd. where movie stars such as Angie Dickinson and Gregory Peck stayed while filming *Captain Newman, MD* at nearby Libby Army Air Field. Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.



Left to right, it’s buddies Slim Mayo, Mike Radanavich, Fred Telles, ‘Boog’ Alexander, Lewis Ramsey and Buck Buchanan.

Photo courtesy of Slim’s only daughter, Kathy Mayo.



Robert Jones, in overalls, tells two friends about the long, gold bars he found hidden in a cave somewhere in Huachuca Canyon on Fort Huachuca, a treasure he likens to that of the Superstition Mountains...a treasure that had, by the time he returned, disappeared.

Photo courtesy of Fort Huachuca Historical Museum.

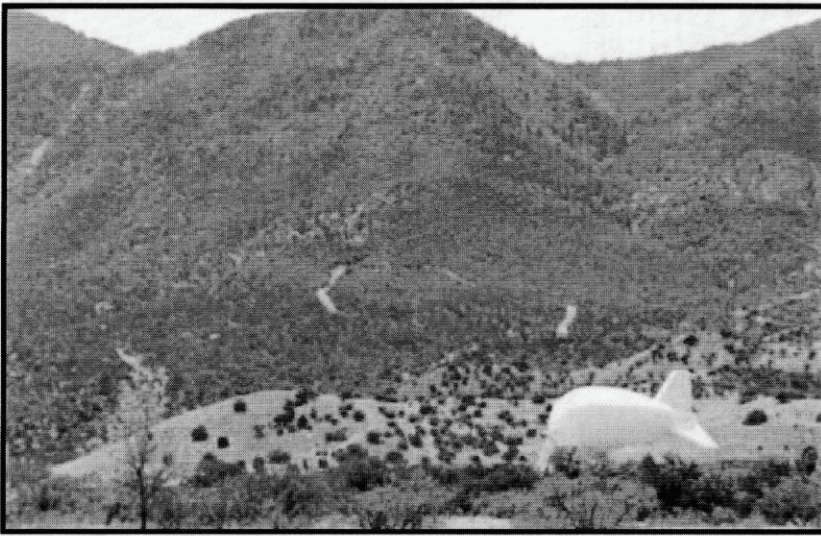


Sierra Vista's City Council at work. The visitor (standing, on the left) is unidentified. Council members are, standing, Jay Raschke and Chuck Balzarini and, seated, Mikki Waddell and Mayor John Brown. Photo courtesy of Henry Hauser Museum.

Part III: Recent History



The San Pedro came uncomfortably close to the San Pedro House at the time this photo was taken from a bridge where the river crosses Hwy. 90. Photo by Ron Price.



Outside the city perimeter, in open space on Fort Huachuca, sits this guardian. First thing many do every morning is to look out the window to see if 'the blimp is up' because it's somewhat of an indication as to what kind of day it's going to be.

Photo by Ron Price.



Entertainment? Sure! This is the annual Balloon Festival before the streets were reconfigured and a portion of Charleston Drive was renamed Martin Luther King Parkway. Photo by Ron Price.



The West End Fair was a forerunner of the current 50th Birthday Block Party. The Landmark Plaza helped host the fair. Here, Cleta Boyes, left, and her daughter, Carletta Skaggs, display some of their wares. Photo by Ron

Formerly Sambo's, then Uncle Sam's, this is the Rustic Rail, the restaurant portion of a hospitality complex (that included the Village Inn) on Fry at Moorman. Deconstruction of the Rustic Rail/Village Inn has begun, but the three palm trees have been saved. Photos by Ron Price.

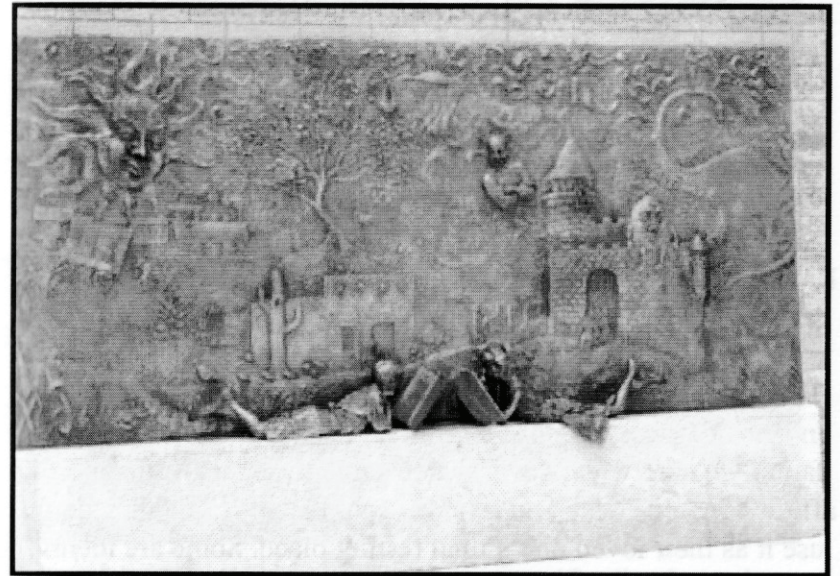


Legend has it that long ago, an Apache maiden was killed near the intersection of Fry Boulevard and Avenida Escuela, thereby, some believe, jinxing the spot. A steakhouse called either the Ponderosa or the Bonanza was built, but didn't last. When it closed, the building became a nightclub, then an Italian restaurant. Later it was a Mexican restaurant called Tres Amigos, followed by the family-style Our Place. The next one featured real tablecloths and white-jacketed servers. After that, Chuy's came down from Tucson, ... twice. Neither lasted. Then, when Nick and Dawn Zervas came to town, they didn't just remodel, they had the old building demolished and a new one built in its place.

Dawn's, shown during construction, is still here, although modified. Photo by Ron Price.



There's not only the gallery operated by Huachuca Art Association, there is public art around Sierra Vista. A wonderfully-sculpted piece in honor of the area's Apache background is found at the northeast corner of Wilcox and Fab avenues. Photo by Ron Price.



Not far away is this unique work, designed for the Public Library and placed on its outside wall near the entrance. Somewhat controversial when first revealed to the public, the piece has since become a much-loved example of what the library is all about. Photo by Ron Price.

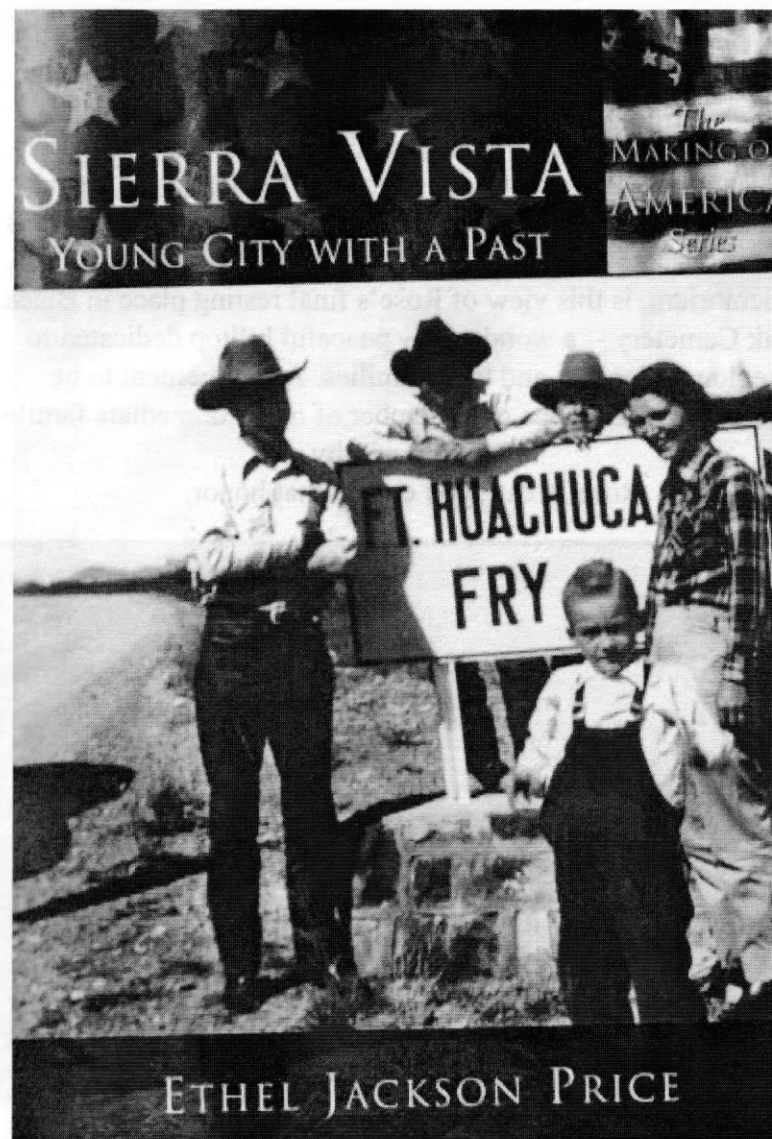


Was it a ghost? Nola Walker saw it but didn't believe it until she picked up her processed film and the apparition appeared in at least three photos. It happened during the cemetery's annual "cleansing" by members of St. Andrew's Church and the consensus is that weather conditions were all wrong for it to have been a dust devil. "Yet," Nola says, "there it was, an apparition coming straight up from one of the graves. I didn't believe it myself until I saw the pictures." She goes on to describe it as looking "sort of like a thin cloud."

Kathy Mayo adds, "You can tell it comes right up from that one grave, but why? The property has been up for sale, so maybe it was trying to tell everyone to back off."

The cemetery, located north of Fry Blvd. between 6th and 7th in Fry Townsite, was originally established by Oliver Fry as a family cemetery. However, when some residents just couldn't afford a plot, he -- and later on his son, Erwin -- said they could use it as their loved one's final resting place. Some are identified, some are not (especially the unwanted offspring of certain 'ladies of the night').

A committee has been formed to prevent the cemetery from being sold and, perhaps, add the site to a future walking tour of the city. For information, contact: Cemetery Preservation Committee, P.O. Box 1088, Sierra Vista, AZ. 85636.



Although at least two other books specifically about the history of Sierra Vista exist, this was the cover of the first one to be published by a large company and distributed throughout the United States. GIs and their families, after being assigned to Fort Huachuca and living in Sierra Vista (an example is Tracy Thompson and his wife, Beverly), have

carried *Sierra Vista, Young City with a Past*, to distant parts of the world where fellow travelers looked at it over their shoulders, learning about this city and its people.

The cover featured the Pyeatt family. Left to right, they are: Buster Pyeatt and his two sons, Jim and Ronnie (the little boy in front is Teddy Hale, a family friend). The lady on the right is Rose Pyeatt.

In memoriam, is this view of Rose's final resting place in Black Oak Cemetery -- a wonderfully peaceful hilltop dedicated to regional pioneers and their families. A requirement to be interred here is that one or a member of one's immediate family was born nearby.

Rose Pyeatt, you earned that honor.



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Notes



Cochise County, Arizona

Cochise County Historical Society
Membership Information

Family	\$20
Individual	\$25
Life	\$500

Dues are paid effective in
January of each year and
include one copy of each
Journal published.

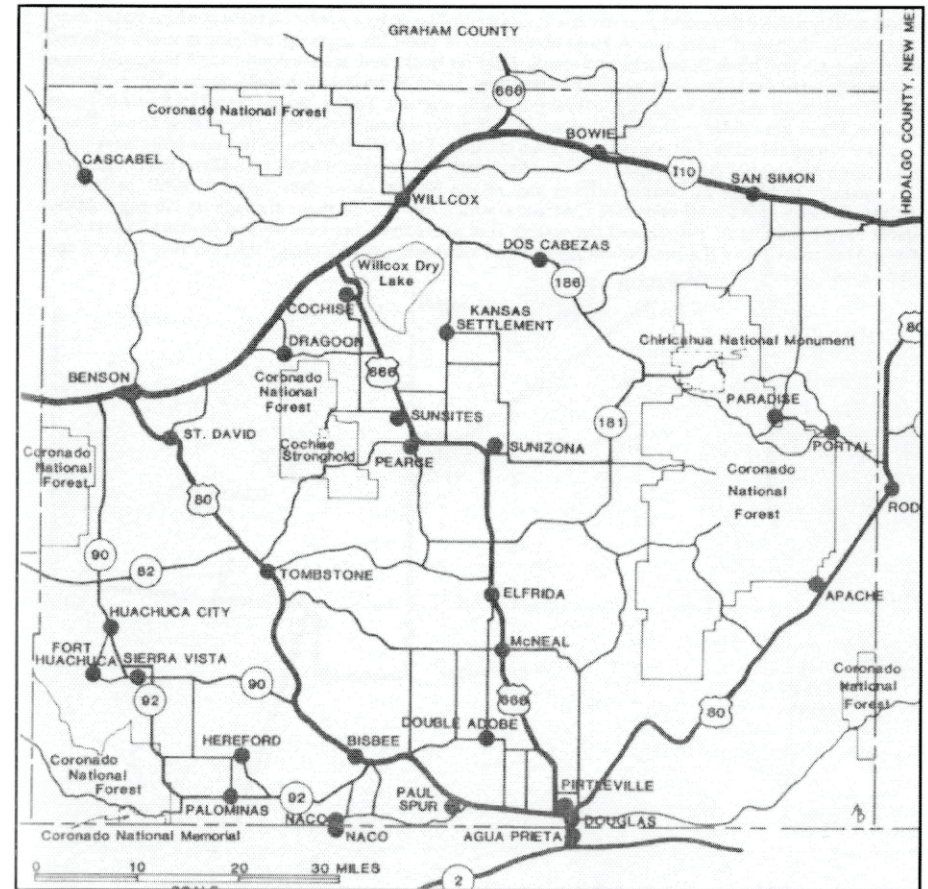
Notes

carried Sierra Vista, you can see a Park, in front of it of the world where folks are and it is over their small data, learning about this city and its people.

This cover featured the Pycraft family. Left to right, they are Daniel Pycraft and his two sons, Jim and Reggie (the little boy in front is Teddy Hale, a family friend). The lady on the right is Rose Pycraft.

In memoriam: in this view of Rose's final resting place at Black Oak Cemetery—a wonderfully peaceful hilltop dedicated to regional pioneers and their families. A requirement to be interred here is that one or a member of one's immediate family was born nearby.

Rose Pycraft, you earned that home.



Cochise County, Arizona

Cochise County Historical Society Membership Information

Individual/family	\$20
Business	\$25
Lifetime	\$500

Mail to:
P. O. Box 818
Douglas, AZ 85608

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