

THE COCHISE COUNTY HISTORICAL JOURNAL

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THE TOWNS OF COCHISE COUNTY, AZ



DOUBLE ADOBE

CCHS

Cochise County
Historical Society

Founded in 1966

1001 D Avenue
P.O. Box 818
Douglas, AZ 85608
520-361-5226

www.cochisecountyhistory.org
cchs@cochisecountyhistory.org
cchsaz@earthlink.net

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the Past for
the Future*

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Cochise County Historical Journal



**From the Cochise County Historical Society
President & Board of Directors**

As President of the Cochise County Historical Society I would like to extend my appreciation to all the continuing as well as new members. It is folks like you who help keep the spirit and history of Cochise County alive.

Our Spring/Summer journal features another one of Cochise County's communities, Double Adobe. Memories of Double Adobe's past and current residents fill the pages in words and images. We would like to thank all those who took the time to research and write about the community they have called home.

We would also like to welcome a new board member, Bo Downey (aka Marshal Bo) of Willcox whose expertise will be a great addition to the historical society.

Thank you again for your support for the Cochise County Historical Society. If you have missed any past journals please contact Liz at the CCHS.

W.F. "Bill" Pakinkis
President, Cochise County Historical Society

Arizona--Grand Canyon state; Double Adobe--Loved Community

These articles were written for others to know how this community started, and to instill pride in its current residents. We apologize for any omitted or incorrect names. It is our intent to capture history. We encourage you to write your family history and “talk story” to your children and grandchildren.

Eleanor (Solms) Hill is influential in her diligence of writing stories before they are forgotten and lost. Aaron Cardona, who teaches an oral history class at Cochise College, gives us hope for the younger generation. Mary Price had her 85th birthday as we also celebrated the 100th birthday of the Double Adobe School. This celebration gathered young and old to share stories. Phillip and Julie Bond helped with the celebration, and David Bond contributed the story on their mother, Mary Ann (Eberling) Bond Fairchild. Joan (Arealos) Cardona and Sandy Arealos share in the excitement of learning old stories and sharing their own unique memories of helping grow and sell their vegetables. They were both 4-H leaders and are active in their church, Our Lady of LaSalette, which adds to our history. Besides being a long-time resident, Pat English has been involved in the community as a student, teacher, and school board member. His involvement in the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) Board was instrumental in writing its history and the importance Double Adobe played. Margaret (Downs) Bemis found old Double Adobe Farm Bureau minutes, giving insight into happenings at Double Adobe in the 1940s. Lou Ann (English) and Doug Ralston have been public school teachers and active members of the Valley Bible Church allowing them to make that contribution.

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Cochise County Historical Journal

History of Double Adobe

by Margaret (Downs) Bemis

The community of Double Adobe, Arizona, in the southern part of Sulphur Springs Valley, is nine miles north of the Mexican border and 38 miles east of the New Mexico/Arizona border.

From the base of the Pinaleno Mountains north of Willcox to the Mexican border lies the Sulphur Springs Valley. The lower or southern portion has a main channel called Whitewater Draw—once called White River. Rainwater from the Mule Mountains to the west and the Swisshelm and Chiricahua Mountains to the east runs down, cutting various paths into the land to Whitewater Draw. This runs south into Sonora, Mexico. Double Adobe lies east of Whitewater Draw.

Lynn R. Bailey's book, *We'll All Wear Silk Hats*, mentions that the men who made up the Erie Cattle Co. purchased sites with dependable sources of water. "A tree shaded spot on the Agua Prieta (Whitewater Draw) about 12 miles east of present-day Bisbee suburb of Lowell designated as Double Adobe on modern topographical maps, is located in Section 4, Township 23S, R26E. There the men built another temporary shelter, corral, and a tank to hold water for livestock..."

A 1920 tax assessor's land ownership map shows that Milton R. Chambers owned 160 acres. The legal description is NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 3, T23S, R26E, directly south of the present Double Adobe School. The rest of his land description is N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 4, T23S, R26E and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec.33, T22S, R26E. Enoch A. Shattuck also owned 160 acres south of Chambers.

The legal description of Shattuck's land is SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 4; S $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 3 and SW $\frac{1}{4}$, of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 3, all in T23S, R26E of the Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian of Arizona. Both men were an important part of the Erie Cattle Co.

Bailey's book continues, "Shattuck's house was in the southwest quarter of Section 3 of Township 23, an eighth of a mile south of his preemption. Milton Chambers' residence lay on the line between his and Enoch's preemptions, a half mile northwest of Enoch's house. The proximity between the residences of Chambers and Shattuck is historically significant. These two adobe houses forever named the site—Double Adobe."

In visiting with some old timers, different locations have been mentioned as to where these sites were located. One was west of the present dump station on Central Highway and south of Double Adobe Road. Another location was south of Double Adobe Road, near the curve and a couple old cottonwood trees west of Whitewater Draw. A third is north of the corner of W. Double Adobe Road and Central Highway.

Florence Boss, a Double Adobe teacher in the mid-late 1920s wrote, "The name Double Adobe had been used for this locality a long time. The name came from the early days when the route from Tucson to Mexico ran through here and there was a remount stage station across the wash from the present school, which consisted of two adobe buildings connected by a breeze-way. Small evidences of this building were visible when I came here."

Another version of the name was found in a 1937 4-H Social Progress scrapbook. In a brief history of the club and its location and name, the following was written: "In this country much of the building material is made by Mexican labor from adobe soil. Ten years ago this

school was known as the 'Adobe'. Soon there was need for a second room and the building was named by the pioneers 'Double Adobe' to designate it from other similar structures. During the past years a third room has been added but we are still Double Adobe."

And still another version of the name "Double Adobe" is found in Will Barnes book, *Arizona Place Names*. "This now nearly-abandoned little community was named because of a two-room adobe building with 18-inch walls having several gun openings. The Double 'dobe Ranch was in existence when Tombstone was flourishing as a mining camp in the 1880s. The ruins of the building are still in existence."

There are many versions of the name Double Adobe. Take your pick.

Double Adobe School

by Margaret Bemis

Double Adobe School is the anchor for the roads that converge from Highway 191 to the east and Highway 80 to the west, on the corner of Double Adobe Road and Central Highway. West Double Adobe Road on some maps is called the Elfrida Cutoff. The road going north and south is named Central Highway because it goes up the middle of the lower Sulphur Springs Valley from Double Adobe to Elfrida, where it intersects with Highway 191.



Double Adobe School, 1937

Photo courtesy of Cochise County Co-op Extension

Settlers began moving into the lower Sulphur Spring Valley in the late 1880s, seeking ways to make a living. Farming, mining, and ranching brought new people. Homesteading boomed in the years 1910-21. Families wanted a better life for their children, knowing that education was a necessity. According to Ruth D. Elliott in the June-Sept. 1974 issue of the Cochise County Historical Society Quarterly, records show that during the 1908-09 school year District No. 45, known as

“Valley School,” held a five month session with E. Richards as teacher.

This same article says;

“John Stocks, now retired from the U.S. Postal Service, recalled the Valley School.” In 1907, John’s father homesteaded on 160 acres in the area. The Stocks family moved from their tent home in Lowell (near Bisbee) to a ranch where the children along side of their parents helped to build the new house. In February 1908, John’s mother developed pneumonia and died. Johnnie was the youngest of seven -- not yet of school age nor was he old enough to be left home alone. So, when school opened in the fall he made the daily three-quarter mile trek with his brothers and sisters. The school was on the William Campbell homestead, with class held in a one room frame out-building furnished only with rough benches. Young John usually spent the day in a nearby chicken pen, which proved to be an ideal play-pen with its four inch layer of sand, crushed bones and egg shells.

The McDonald ranch, about a mile north of the Campbell property, was the site for the 1909-10 school year. Range land was open and cattle drives were common sights. John well remembers one such drive during that school year. The onrushing cattle crossed the school playground. John and his brother Bill had no time to return to the ranch house, so they took refuge by the adobe walls of the school privy. Then, as a last resort, John was shoved inside and Bill scurried atop the tiny structure. The herd thundered by, bumping the walls now and again, but the adobe stood and the two young boys had a real thriller to tell.

The following year (1910-11) the Vigne Ranch housed the classroom, and it was here that Professor John Johnson decided that Johnnie was ready to begin his formal education. "Johnnie was handed a second grade reader and told to read and he did, thus becoming a second grader officially."

In her memoir, Bonnie Wilkerson Petsche, a 9-10 year old Double Adobe student in 1913-14, writes, "Before the first school was built, school was held in a dwelling place on the old Vinque [Vigne?] place south of the river. [Whitewater Draw] There was no bridge at that time, so the road crossed over through the river bed which was sometimes closed by the flood waters coming down from the near-by mountains."

She went on, "The teacher of this school was William Johnson who had a wooden leg and was not able to walk very well. As he had pupils of all ages in different rooms of the dwelling, he would put up a blackboard over the door opening with a peep hole in it so he could watch all the pupils in the different rooms without much walking."

On the same 1920 land ownership map mentioned previously, the Vigne place was located in the SE¼ of Section 3, T23S, R26E. Ferdinand Vigne homesteaded 160 acres in 1908. In the 1909 school census, he is listed with one 17 year old son, Henry.

On Jan. 29, 1910 Charles P. Koch sold a 350 foot square parcel of land for \$10 from the Southwest corner of Section 34, township 22S, Range 26E to the Valley District No. 45, known as a School District of Cochise County, Arizona Territory, situated in Sulphur Springs Valley. This deed was recorded Feb. 12, 1912 -- two days before Arizona became a state. This is the site of the Double Adobe School.



Double Adobe School 1959

According to Elliott's article, during this time everyone took part in the making of adobe bricks, laying walls, and the carpentry work until a one-room structure (about 24 feet by 42 feet) was ready for the 1911-12 school year. According to John Stocks memoirs, there was a concrete foundation, plastered adobe walls, a tin roof added and good wooden floors. There was a storage shed about 10' x 12' on the northwest corner on the outside of the schoolhouse. Wood and coal were used for heating and there was no refrigeration. There were two wooden outhouses north of the school. The boys were on the east and the girls on the west. There was a hand pump southwest of the schoolhouse. There were no fences, no sand burrs and no tumbleweeds.

This first school was where the present-day auditorium is located. Eleanor (Solms) Hill and Mary (Rucastle) Price both attended school here and related it was a large one room schoolhouse with all grades taught by one teacher. There was a wood stove in the southeast corner. A door on the south side opened to a lean-to room used as a hall/cloakroom with a small kitchen along the east wall. There were two outside doors, one on the north side of the large room and one on the west side of the cloakroom. The building was also used as a Sunday school and community gathering place.

Average attendance at Double Adobe in 1908-09 was 11.59 students per day. The teacher was John Johnson from California State Normal, who held a 1st grade certificate. His salary was \$85 per month. There is a possibility that E. Richards (cited earlier in the Quarterly article as the teacher during the 1908-09 school year) was replaced by John Johnson. The number of census pupils in 1910 was 40. The average attendance in 1909-10 was 15.76 per day. John Johnson was the teacher and his salary had gone up \$5 to \$90 per month.

According to Elliott's article, County school records show that District No. 45 became Double Adobe School the year 1912-13. Other records show the school district was called Valley District, later Central District and finally Double Adobe. The name "Double Adobe" was generally used for years, and in the mid 1920s, County School Superintendent Helen E. Brown went along with the change.

To have two teachers, at least 25 school-age children had to be enrolled. Because of the number of children enrolled in the mid 1920s, the lean-to cloakroom was fixed up for the primary grades.

Florence Troy Boss' first year of teaching at Double Adobe was 1924. She stated the school board was made up of conscientious men: William P. Koch, Mr. Lorizen and Mr. Manus. Because of the dry weather, poor crops, and shut-downs in the mines, these men knew what their neighbors were going through. They didn't feel they could force the building of a new school. The old building, although inadequate, was kept in good repair.

After a heated campaign for school board in 1925, a new board was elected -- Earl Solms, Lon McBride and Harvey Deeds. They immediately set things in motion toward building a new room. This building was built to

the south of the adobe building/lean-to out of tufa stone (sometimes called gypsum block) from the quarry at Lee Station Ranch, NE of Douglas and was finished for the Fall 1927 opening of school. The primary grades (1-4) used the old adobe room while the “big room” (new addition) held the upper grades (5-8). In the 1927-28 school registers the upper grades were taught by Lula Crecelius Oliver and Mrs. Florence Troy Boss taught the primary grades.

Besides being a school board member, Solms was active in Kiwanis and interested his fellow members in a project to help Double Adobe School. They brought their trucks, shovels, and wheelbarrows to haul sand and gravel into the muddy playground. They also talked with the County Health Nurse who reported a high percentage of eye, ear and throat infections among the children. The Kiwanis set up a project with one of their members, Dr. Cruthirds, an eye, ear and throat specialist, who gave free help to any Double Adobe children that needed it. This project accounted for 27 corrections which included tonsillectomies, eye glasses and hearing tests.

There was a basement on the east side of the “big room,” which held coal for the stove in the adobe room. A temporary wooden stage was put up on the east end of the big room for community Christmas programs. It was stored in the basement. There was a door that opened to the playground off the south side of the big room. Eleanor Hill recalls the cement porch off this room had the smoothest cement where they played jacks.

The next addition south of the big room was built around 1936 by the Work Projects Administration (WPA). There is a WPA sign above the west door in a brass oval which reads “WPA Project G5-2516 1936.” It became the primary room. The west door opened into a

cloakroom with doors on the north and south to the classroom. Sometime after this addition was completed, the original adobe school (room) was torn down. The little cloakroom (lean-to) and small kitchen were kept to house janitorial supplies and storage. Steps led down from the big room to this ground level room.



Double Adobe School 2005

Around 1954, the cloakroom from the first building was torn out and replaced with a barrack from the airport. It was trucked in and placed on the north end of the school. Gus Kronzberg was the carpenter who built the auditorium, permanent stage, bathrooms, storage closets and kitchen. In the 1970s a new roof of shingles was put on by Arlie and Barry Jacoby.

In addition to school programs presented to the community, this auditorium served as a church, meeting room for 4-H, Double Adobe Homemakers Club, dances, cafeteria, library and parties just as the original adobe school had served 32 years earlier. To this day it is still used for Christmas and end-of-year school programs. The community uses it for meetings of various kinds. It was the site of the 100th anniversary of the building of Double Adobe School, held in August 2011. As Double Adobe teacher Mary McDonald so

aptly stated, "It is the heart of the community."

At present, the "big room" (first addition) houses the Nimon Hopkins Whitewater Draw Natural Resource Conservation Center. The south addition is now used for storage.

In 2000, the state set aside money for a new school. Land to the east of the old Double Adobe School site was acquired from Ruth Jane White and Arlie and Fay Jacoby. Some of the land was traded so there would be enough room for the school site. The first classes in the new Double Adobe School began September 2004.

Teachers

Because no school history would seem adequate without mentioning the teachers instrumental in educating the many children, here is the following list of years taught, teachers and grades taught. These came from census reports and old registers housed at the County School Superintendent's Office, memories of former students and Pam Sanders, head teacher at Double Adobe.

1907-08 E. Richards

1908-13 John Johnson

1913-14 Mr. P. E. Trotter

1914-17 Mrs. Fred (Mabel) Kenney

1917-24 No records found

1924-25 Mrs. Peary-Primary - Florence Troy Boss-Upper

1925-26 Mary Orr-Primary - Florence Troy Boss-Upper

1926-27 Freda Rundell-Primary - Florence Troy Boss-

Upper

1927-28 Florence Troy Boss-Primary - Lula
Crecelius Oliver-Upper

1928-29 Mrs. J. D. Oliver-Primary - J. D. Oliver-
Upper

1929-30 Unknown - James N. Rundell-Upper

1930-31 Lillian Reed-Primary - Freda Rundell-Upper

1931-32 Lillian Reed-Primary - A. C. Tanner-Upper

1932-34 Lillian Reed-Primary - J. N. Rundell-Upper

1934-37 Mrs. Lucy H. Thurman (1-4) - Viola Johnson
(5-8)

1937-38 E. Christine Criley (1-4) Unknown

1938-39 E. Christine Criley (1-4) - Esther M. Hicks (5-
8)

1939-40 Lois Tanner (1-4) - Esther M. Hicks (5-8)

1940-41 Lois Tanner (1-4) - Mrs. Lillian Reed (5-8)

1941-42 Veronica Conley (1-4)*until Feb. 13, 1942.*
After this the girls were taught by Gillis and Elsie M.



Mary Ann Bond - 1942

Photo courtesy of the Bond Family

Ragsdale while Mary Ann Bond taught the boys through the end of the shool year] - Mamie Riddle (5-8)

1942-43 Mary Ann Bond (1-4) - Mamie Riddle (5-8);

1943-44 Mary W. Johnson (1-4) - Mamie Riddle (5-8)
(*On Nov. 1, 1943 another teacher Lenice Kipp was hired to teach 3-4*)

1944-46 Mary W. Johnson (1-2) - Annie Ree Newton (3-4) - Vivian Pence (5-8) (*Because of an average daily attendance of 64, an increase of 12 over the preceding year, an additional teacher was hired.*)

1946-47 Lola Hopkins (1-3) - Lois Mitchell (4-6) -
Seventh and eighth graders were bused to town.



C. C. and Lois (Tanner) Mitchell, 1940's

Photo courtesy of Claude Mitchell

1947-48 Beatrice Frost (1-2) - Agnes I. Downs (3-4) -
Lessie Crenshaw (5-6)

1948-49 - Beatrice Frost (1-2) - Grace Calvert (3-4) -
Lessie Crenshaw (5-6)

1949-51 Ruth D. Elliott (1-3) - Grace Calvert (4-6);

1951-53 Ruth D. Elliott (1-3) - Martha K. Holman (4-
6)



Mrs. Grace Cunningham, (janitor) Teachers Mrs. Bea Frost grade 1-2, Mrs. Lessie Crenshaw (5-6) and Mrs. Grace Calvert (3-4) 1949

Photo courtesy of Margaret Bemis

1953-54 Ruth D. Elliott (1-3) - Jeanette Neel (4-6)
January, 1954 Double Adobe 1st-6th grades;



Jan. 1954 Double Adobe 1st - 6th grades

Photo courtesy of Margaret Bemis

Bottom row-(l-r) Eddie Bond, Joan Kridel, Diana Marcione,
Susie Hicks, Betty Prats, Jolly Smith, Ora Atencion, Stanley

Price, Beth Scott, Janet Hill, Charlotte Bond. 2nd row-Bill Stricklin, Paul Rodriguez, Bob Hise, Roque Atencion, Jackie Sue Chandler, Horace Hill, Tommy Price. 3rd row-Claude Mitchell, Margaret Ellen Downs, Kenny McBride, David Bond, Charlie Rodriguez, Charles Price, Sherry Hill, Robert Price, Anthony Choate. Top row-Kay Randolph, Bill Prats, Cecelia Yorba, Jack Dawson, Jim Plumley, Edward Frey, David Kridel, Margaret Plumley. Teachers- Mrs. Ruth Elliott and Mrs. Jeanette Neel.

1954-56 Elma H. Riley (1-3) - Lola W. Hopkins (4-6)

1956-58 Elma H. Riley (1-2) - Martha A. Lay (3-4) - Nora B. Russell (5-6)

1958-59 Elma Riley (1-2) - Frederick S. Fleck (3-4) - Nora B. Russell (5-6)

1959-61 Elma Riley (1-2) - James J. Marble (3-4) - Nora Russell (5-6)

1961-66 Eleanor Hill (September, 1961), then Georgia Fairbanks (1-2) - James J. Marble (3-4) - Nora B. Russell (5-6)

1966-67 Sandra Judd (1-2) - James J. Marble (3-4) - Nora B. Russell (5-6)

1967-68 Henrietta Bednor (1-2) - Stan Wenc (3-4) - Nora B. Russell (5-6)

1968-69 Belva Marble (1-2) - Henrietta Bednor (3-4) - Henry J. Marble (5-6)

1969-70 Henrietta Bednor (1-2) - Belva Marble (3-4) - Henry J. Marble (5-6)

1970-72 Irma Woods (1-2) - Mrs. Jane M. Olson (3-4) - Gordan F. Knabe (5-6)

1971-72 Helen M. Guzman (K) was added to the above teachers.

1972-73 Karen Bond (K) - Helen Lasater (1-2) -



James J. Marble, 1960's



Nora B. Russell, 1960's

Photos courtesy of Sandy Arevalos

Edith M. White (3-4, Head Teach.) - Kit Hutchinson (5-6)

1973-76 Kit Hutchinson (K-2) - Edith White (3-4, Head Teacher) - Margaret Franzen (5-6)

1976-77 Kit Hutchinson (K-2) - Lee Brower (3-4) - Margaret Franzen (5-6)

1977-79 Terri Haskett (K-2) - Stan Wenc (3-4) - Mary Bergman (5-6, Head)

1979-80 Pam Sanders (K-2) - Stan Wenc (3-4) - Lee Atonna (5-6, Head Teach.)

1980-81 Pam Sanders (K-2) - Lou Ann Ralston (3-4) - Lee Atonna (5-6, Spec.Ed., Head Teacher)

1981-82 Lee Atonna (K, Spec. Ed., Head Teacher) - Pamela Sanders (1-2) - Lou Ann Ralston (3-4) - Ken Cantrell (5-6)

1982-83 Lee Atonna (K, Spec. Ed. Head) - Marilyn Eason (1-2) - Pamela Sanders (3-4) - Lou Ann Ralston (5-6)

1983-96 Patricia Leiendecker (K, Spec. Ed.) - Carol

Anderson (1-2) - Pamela Sanders (3-4, Head Teacher)
- Lou Ann Ralston (5-6)

1996-99 Patricia Leiendecker (K, Spec. Ed.) - Carol
Anderson (1-2) - Pamela Sanders (3-4, Head Teacher)
- Cynthia Fleetham (5-6)

1999-04 Patricia Leiendecker (K, Spec. Ed.) - Mary
McDonald (1-2) - Pamela Sanders (3-4, Head Teacher)
- Cynthia Fleetham (5-6)

2004-09 Patricia Leiendecker (K, Spec. Ed.); Mary
McDonald (1-2) - Pamela Sanders (3-4, Head Teacher);
- Ruthe Thursby (5-6)

2009-10 Anne Cloud (Half day K) - Curtis Brown
(Spec. Ed.) - Mary McDonald (1-2) - Pamela Sanders
(3-4, Head) - Ruthe Thursby (5-6)

2010-11 Anne Cloud (Half day K) - Mary McDonald
(Spec. Ed.) - Laura Randolph (1-2) - Pam Sanders (3-
4, Head) - Ruthe Thursby (5-6)

2011-12 Anne Cloud (Half day K) - Mary McDonald
(Spec. Ed.) - Laura Randolph (1-2) - Pam Sanders (3-
4, Head) - Sasha Brazeal (5-6).

Transportation

In the early years, the children walked to school. In a 1980 letter by Maxine Nading Lane, who attended Double Adobe in the 1930s, she said, "We had no school bus and I walked a mile and a quarter to school. Lots of kids walked a greater distance." Florence Boss (teacher in 1924-28) wrote, "Hilda Saari (mother of Ali) was hired to bring in children in her vicinity. She had a small pickup truck with canvas side curtains and seats running along the two sides."

Other bus drivers over the years have included Mr. Nading, Oscar Bell, Mr. Shaw, C.C. Mitchell, Georgia Scott, Elona Panzer, Mary McDonald, Steve Schaffer, Tom Foss, Beth Stevens, Delynn Eggers, Fina Salcido, Ruth Villegas and Jennifer Arellano.

Consolidation of Local Schools

At the March 7, 1941 Double Adobe Farm Bureau meeting, it was suggested to consolidate the Double Adobe, Frontier and McNeal Schools, and transport the children from the Frontier and Double Adobe Schools to McNeal.

Consolidation proponents claimed fewer teachers were required to teach in a consolidated school allowing more salary to be paid. The school trustees could choose their teachers from a much larger field instead of being confined to those who were more willing or obligated for various reasons to work for the salary that the individual districts paid. Mention was made of hiring a teacher who specialized in music and art rather than expecting each teacher to teach every subject well. The saving in transportation costs was also stressed.

Opponents of consolidation stressed the distance to be traveled by the small children and objected to giving up their schools. Some thought it would depreciate the value of their property to close the two room schools. After more than an hour's discussion, the matter was put to a vote, which was overwhelmingly against the idea.

In 1922, children who lived from the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) plant north attending Double Adobe did go to McNeal Elementary for one year. Nothing was found to explain this.



1937 Double Adobe students;

Bottom row- Charlie Miller, Carolyn Sipes; **2nd row-**Unknown, Betty Porter, Theresa Murphy, Lavern Harsha, Jimmy Kimbrough, Louise Sanders, Johnnie Harsha, Georgia Gojkovich, Bea Bethel, Clifford Nading; **3rd row-**Tony Peccolo, Pete Gjurgevich, Mona Harsha, Elaine Solms, Mae McCormick, Bonnie Harsha, George Gjurgevich, Albert Boeckmann, Joyce Rohrer, Elmer Harris; **4th row-**Hollis Harris, Freddie Bell, Alex Gojkovich, Mary Rucastle, Eleanor Solms, Juanita Harsha, Mickey Gojkovich, Donald McBride, Billy Kimbrough; **5th row-**Katherine Hill, Roseanna Boeckmann, Anna Gjurgevich, Eugene Hill, Irene Garten, Josephine Rucastle, Betty Rohrer; **6th row-**Mrs. Thurman (5-8 gr. Teacher, principal), Miss Vermont, 4-H & Home Demonstration agent, Miss E. Christine Criley, (1-4 gr. Teacher).

Photo courtesy of Roseanna Boeckmann



Dec., 1947 3rd & 4th grades;

Top row - (l-r) June Johnson, Louise Lee, Bertha Cravey, Elbe Watkins, Beverly Whitmire, Joan Robertson, Peggy Robertson; **Middle Row** - Johnny Lane, Dane Randolph, Herbert Shearmire, James Franklin, Alfred Gonzales; **Seated** - Benny Ridriguez, Dennis Medlock, Benny Scott, Ralph Rodriguez, Doss Waters.

Photo courtesy of Margaret Bemis



February, 1959 1st-2nd grades;

Top row-(l-r) Joan Arevalos, John Hoffman, Billy Rodriguez, Diane McDaniel, Tim Price, Anne Fleck; **Middle row**-Jim Irwin, Brock Boyle, Jo Farley, Albert Irwin, Donald Arevalos, Dennis Ragsdale; **Bottom row**-Ricky Rodriguez, Joe Rodriguez, Henry Williams, Bobby Sweet, Jeff Hoffman.



May, 1967 6th grade promotion;

Top row (l-r) Dwaine Austin, Dickie Rogers, Frank Rodriguez, Wayne Shupe; **Bottom row**-Frank Downs, Alan Boyle, Ray Sweet, Vernon Lee.

Ranching in the Double Adobe area

Prior to 1914, the valley bottom was a grassy meadow without a channel in its entire length. This grassy meadow attracted cattlemen, most notably the Erie Cattle Co. Much has been written about this group of cattlemen; most specifically in the book *We'll All Wear Silk Hats*. The Erie Cattle Co. sold out to Ryan Brothers Cattle Co.

There were other large ranches in the county. Because this is a history of Double Adobe, we will only discuss the Brophy Ranch. The Erie Cattle Co. was certainly an important part of Double Adobe history and has been researched in depth.

Brophy Ranch By Pat English

The Brophy Ranch was about 12,000 acres running north from Double Adobe on both sides of Whitewater Draw. The ranch headquarters was two miles north of the Double Adobe School and one-half mile west of Central Highway. A 1920 land ownership map shows Michael J. Brophy as the owner of Section 16, T22S, R26E.

In the Great Register, 1882-84, James Edward Brophy, 30, from Ireland is listed as a merchant. His declaration of intent to become a citizen is dated Dec. 15, 1879, San Francisco, Calif. Michael J. Brophy, age 24, from Ireland, listed his occupation as miner; residence, Bisbee. He declared his intent to become a citizen in 1882 in New York. He appears again in the 1896 Great

Register, age 36, Ireland, merchant, resident of Bisbee, naturalized July 25, 1890, San Diego, Calif. W. H. Brophy appears in the 1896 Great Register, age 32, Ireland, merchant, resident of Bisbee, naturalized May 17, 1888, Cochise County.

It appears that James Edward Brophy (one record had Edmund incorrectly as his middle name), was born about 1852-54; with Michael J. Brophy born about 1860-62 and William H. Brophy born around 1864. Deeds filed in the recorder's office document the brothers moving into Cochise County in the 1880s.

Many different deeds were filed in Tombstone, Bisbee and Lowell by the three Brophy brothers. Probate records of William H. Brophy contain numerous real estate and mining share holdings owned at the time of his death.

The above named Section 16, T22S, R26E in the Double Adobe area was sold to James E. Brophy by his brother and sister in law, Michael J. & Sabina M. Brophy on April 25, 1929. James E. Brophy died Dec. 4, 1941. He did not marry, but left to his nephew and namesake, James E. Brophy II, his Cochise County holdings. These included land, cash, storage tanks at Moore Yard, Lowell, trucks, cattle, mules, horses, accounts receivable and merchandise at Brophy Carriage Co., Brand Cert. #B-622 (issued 3/11/41), and various notes and stock certificates. It is quite a testimony of the intelligence and hard work of these pioneer Brophy brothers.

After 20 years of operating the ranch and garage and carriage company, James E. Brophy II and Lulu Marguerite Brophy sold this same section-ranch to Lloyd W. Jr. and Esther B. Golder on Nov. 24, 1961.

The following family history comes from Steve Brophy, great nephew of James E. Brophy and grandson of James E. Brophy II:

James E. Brophy was born in Ireland. He and his siblings were orphaned at an early age. As the oldest, James left for Australia, while his brothers and sisters remained in Ireland. All of his sisters became nuns. In Australia, James connected with the Foys, family friends from Ireland, and worked in their stores.

Later he left Australia for South America. There he cut a shipment of hardwood, floated it down the river, loaded it on a ship and went with it to San Francisco where he sold it for his grub stake.

Hearing about the silver mining activity in Arizona, James went to Tombstone. When he arrived there in 1879, he met Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday. He did not care much for either of them as they controlled gambling and other flesh enterprises. When he left Tombstone, James became a cowboy with the Chiricahua Cattle Co. (CCC) in the Sulphur Springs Valley.

While working at the CCC, his good friend, Bill Daniels, was robbed and killed by Geronimo and his band of renegade Apaches near a canyon by High Lonesome Road. Losing his best friend infuriated Brophy, so



House built by Brophy

Photo courtesy of Pat English 2012

he rode back to CCC Ranch headquarters to find cavalry soldiers and insist they go with him to capture Geronimo. He and the cavalry rode after them, but did not catch them.

About 1915, James Brophy homesteaded property in the Double Adobe area in the southern part of the Sulphur Springs Valley, eight miles north of the Mexican border. There he built a house, corrals and barns, raising beef cattle and mules.



Old Brophy Barn

Photo courtesy of Pat English 2012

The mules were leased to the mines to pull ore cars underground, as mining companies did not want to own the animals. At the ranch they also raised feed for livestock and stored the harvested feed in underground vertical silos. Brophy also owned a feed store, ranch supply and carriage company in Lowell (Bisbee).

Jim Brophy's first brand was a B on the cattle's left jaw and under the horses' manes. James called it the "belly BW" brand because the B was branded facing down (on its belly). Later it became known, more po-



Two Pit Silos at the Brophy Ranch - 1930's

Photo courtesy of the Cochise County Extension Office

lately, as the “lazy BW” brand. Cattle needed hay for supplemental feeding, so the ranch expanded into a farming operation to raise hay and silage crops for the several hundred head of cattle kept in their feed lots.

Sipriano (Pancho) Rodriguez, himself an immigrant from Mexico and later a naturalized citizen and Double Adobe resident, worked for Brophy for many years, both in Bisbee and on the ranch. Isabel and Lillian Rucastle, sisters of Mary (Rucastle) Price helped with the cooking during round ups.

Fred Bell, whose family lived on the ranch in the 1930s while his father was foreman, gave this description of the headquarters house, built in 1909. “It consisted of a kitchen, three bedrooms, a bath (tub and wash basin only) and had a screened breezeway that separated the kitchen and one bedroom from the rest of the house. The breezeway was 12 ft. by 40 ft. with a long table that would seat 20 people. This is where the cowboys and hired hands had their meals. The house had a screened porch on three sides.”

The Oct. 11, 1940 *Douglas Daily Dispatch* ran a short article, "Two Cochise County Areas Designated Quail Refuge." It said Douglas sportsmen received word that K. C. Kartchner, state game warden, designated two areas of Cochise County as quail refuge, one area on the Armstrong Ranch near the Mexico Border with 5,480 acres. The other is 4,520 acres on the Brophy Ranch in the Sulphur Springs Valley. Nothing else was mentioned about the length the ranch was designated a quail refuge.

In the 1950s, Ben Taylor ran the ranch for several years. In 1958, John English was hired to run the farming and ranching operation for the next four years. As previously noted, Lloyd and Esther Golder bought the ranch in 1961. Earnest White leased the ranch for several years after the Golders sold it. Don Kimble leased the ranch in 1989 and has been running cattle on it until the present day.

Farming in Double Adobe

by Aaron Cardona

This June 1939 article gives a detailed description of farming in the Double Adobe area:

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics, under the USDA, gives a very clear picture of farming in the area through the Water Facilities Area Plan for the Whitewater Draw Watershed of 1939. Double Adobe sits smack dab in the center of the Whitewater Draw Watershed. The area receives an annual rainfall of around 13 inches. The climate is characterized by low humidity, high temperatures during the summer months and rather high wind velocities, all of which contribute to a high rate of evaporation. Throughout the entire watershed, there is 2,000 acres of cultivated land, which nearly all is irrigated. Practically all the land that is not used for farming is utilized for stock raising.

In general, Double Adobe is in a favorable position as far as farm products are concerned, having a ready-market for most of its produce in and near the mining towns. Farm land is valued from \$25 to \$75 in market value and the most important crops in the valley are: alfalfa, beans, corn, grain, hay, grain sorghums and truck crops. In the past, smoke from the copper smelter at Douglas has caused some damage to crops in the town. Though it is limited to a certain number of crops, the smelter has been paying rather liberal damages which are often a welcome source of cash income to needy farmers.

Although farming in the area started off as dry farming, the report discourages it, as rainfall in

the Whitewater Draw is insufficient to support agriculture. In 1913, there was a relatively small amount of irrigation from underground water, which has increased to an average of 5,000 acre-feet at the time of the report's release in 1939. Due to the financial problems of small family farms, it also encourages land to be lent, leased or sold to capable farmers or enterprises.

Many people moved to the Double Adobe area to farm, but farming was expensive (wells, equipment, transportation), as well as labor intensive. Gardens were planted to help feed the family, but outside work was required to meet all the obligations of raising a family. Thus, many found work in the Bisbee mines and Douglas smelter; at the airbase outside Douglas (now the Bisbee-Douglas International Airport and Department of Corrections, Arizona State Prison Complex), ranching, REA power plant, and various other jobs.

The Farming Families of Double Adobe

These farm stories tell about some of the more successful farmers in the Double Adobe area.

Onion Miller

**By Eleanor Solms Hill and information from Charles Miller
(grandson of W.G. Miller)**

Perhaps the best description of Onion Miller comes from Jim Burnett's book *High Lonesome: Tales of Bisbee and Southern Arizona*.

"I doubt if three people remember Miller's first name (W.G.), but lots of old timers are bound to remember Onion Miller. Onion Miller had a little farm about a mile and a half north of Double

Adobe and he had become successful by rigorously adhering to an ancient formula; Work hard, live frugally and marry a working woman. He had found a good flavored onion that thrived in the valley, found the cultural practices that worked and most importantly, sold his crop retail. He sold on the old Municipal Market in Lowell, and he and his wife plied the streets of Bisbee with huge baskets of onions which they pedaled door to door. The Millers took great pride in their farm and it was the show place of the valley. The fences were well kept and the buildings were kept painted white. No weeds grew on Onion Miller land.”

Miller was well known for his onion growing, but just as admired for sponsoring an annual picnic. Held in August when the valley was at its best, it was a highlight of the Double Adobe community and the county. On election years none of the candidates dared miss this opportunity to reach so many voters. It was just as important for the voters to have the opportunity to “size up” the candidates. The young folks were initiated into patriotism and realized the importance of being informed.

The following is quoted from the Bisbee Daily Review:

*MILLER TO SPONSOR PICNIC AUGUST 30
(Sunday, Aug. 2, 1936)*

W. T. (Onion) Miller yesterday announced he will hold his annual County picnic at his ranch near McNeal in the Sulphur Springs Valley on August 30.

The picnic, a paradise for political candidates when it falls on election year because it offers them an opportunity to make acquaintances, at-

tracts people from all parts of the county.

A speaking program will be a feature of this year's picnic, starting at 2 p.m., Miller announced. Coffee, cream and sugar as well as ice water will be served free to the guests but the sponsor reminds those attending to bring their lunches, cups and camp chairs. Coffee will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cold drinks, melons and ice cream will be sold on the grounds.

W. G. and Della B. Miller and only son, Harry G., had come from Pennsylvania with only four mules and a wagon. It is unknown how they traveled to get to Double Adobe. They homesteaded 160 acres a mile and a half north of the Double Adobe School west of Central Highway. They were a hard working family and Mrs. Miller is remembered as an entertaining organ player who loved an audience.

Murphy Gardens

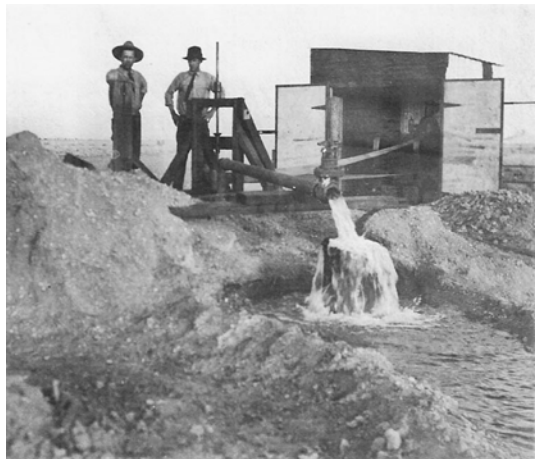
By Glen Dickens (grandson of Frank A. Murphy)

The story of the Murphy homestead is similar to that of a great many that came to the Double Adobe area at the beginning of the 20th century. In 1909, while living in Shamokin, Penn., and working the coal mines, brothers Frank and Joseph Murphy, received a letter from their brother-in-law, Joseph P. Downs Sr., a Bisbee barber married to their older sister Elizabeth Rose. In the letter, Joe Downs explained that Arizona was likely to finally become a state after decades of political wrangling and as a result the Homestead Act would likely be repealed in that legislation. Consequently, while barbering in Bisbee he had been acquiring property from

homesteaders five miles northwest of Double Adobe and adjacent to Whitewater Draw. He led on, that to the southeast of his property there were very suitable tracts of 160 acres available for homesteading. Thus the two brothers packed up and headed West for Bisbee, where they worked underground for awhile, saving money to invest in the 160 acres that would become "Murphy Gardens" in the fall of 1910. After the two brothers selected a suitable home site on the land, they dug a well and sealed their future as a homestead.

The homestead proceeded with the times, as the two brothers worked the land with their plow team of horses, Mike and Katie, and dry farmed with the rain from above. They quickly realized dry farming was not a steady option, so in the summer of 1913 contracted for a commercial size well fitted with a diesel engine, which produced 180 gallons a minute and filled the irrigation pond they constructed. The cleared field had a nice gradual slope which was excellent for slow irrigation of a variety of vegetables, and two orchards of peaches, apples and other fruit were established near the main house. A large silo was dug and plastered for winter silage for the livestock. Native prairie grasses were cut and stored as hay to supplement the winter livestock.

Despite all they grew, Frank would write the Murphy name in the history books in the realm of onions. Initially, Frank tried to grow on-



Murphy Brothers with new pump - 1913

Photo courtesy of Glen Dickens

ions, but was unsuccessful time and time again, because they were not adapted to the area. After some research, he was able to receive open cultivator onion seeds from Australia, Spain and other locales where weather and soil conditions were similar and resistant to the root rot which plagued his onion crops. Over seven years, he was able to cross pollinate a seed that made him known as the “Onion King of Cochise County.” The seed and onion it produced was a large brown with moderate pungency weighing from one to two pounds and grew under intermediate day length. It earned a patent of the “Cochise Brown.” It cured and stored extremely well and provided the homestead fall and winter cash flow from October to April, being sold at \$2.50 for a 50lb. bag to all the ma and pa neighborhood grocery stores throughout Bisbee, Warren and Douglas.



Arizona State Fair, Cochise County Exhibit

Photo courtesy of the Cochise County Extension Office

Top sign, by box of onions reads, Raised by Frank A. Murphy

Hill Farm

By Eleanor Solms Hill

In 1932, Eugene and Zoma Hill moved from Bisbee, where he worked as a bookkeeper for Phelps Dodge Mining Co. to Double Adobe. They bought the acreage one mile north of the Double Adobe School and a quarter mile east of Central Highway from Al and Florence Boss. They intended to move to the country where they could have a garden to supplement the family's food during the Depression. Soon after the move, Eugene was terminated from his job so he farmed the land full time.

With advice from County Extension Agents, the farm flourished into a well-producing vegetable operation; raising spinach, onions, carrots, radishes, turnips, beets, and corn.

During the worst of the Depression, farmers found workers who rode the rail-road cars looking for work or hired students trying to make money for college. When high school or college students were not available, much of the help came from the government Bracero program, where people from Mexico would come for a season of work,



Mr. Hill hoeing spinach

Photo courtesy of Kay Hill Benedict

then return home. Several men returned for many years, and were respected for their loyalty.



Braceros harvesting carrots

Photo courtesy of Kay Hill Benedict and Eleanor Solms Hill

It was definitely a family business. Daughters Zoma Lee and Katherine did their share of tying and then washing vegetables in the vat under cool running water. Wife, Zoma was responsible for local deliveries to Bisbee and Douglas and sons Horace and Eugene Jr. trucked produce to Phoenix.

When World War II began, Eugene, Jr. joined the Navy and Mr. Hill reenlisted in the Navy as a storekeeper.



Aerial view of the Hill farm in 1964

Photo courtesy of Kay Hill Benedict and Eleanor Solms Hill

Horace was already at the Naval Academy. They leased the farm and moved to San Diego to support the war effort. When Eugene and Zoma returned in 1945, they farmed alfalfa and grain, as well as vegetables, using sprinkler irrigation in place of flood irrigation until their retirement. Eugene died in 1963 and Zoma in 1986.

Mc Bride Farm

By Ken Mc Bride and Sue Herbert Brown

In 1926, Lon and Ethel Mc Bride moved to 40 acres of unimproved land in Double Adobe on the northeast corner of Hill Road and Central Highway. Lon started a truck farm that evolved into a vegetable stand where their large variety of vegetables and chicken eggs were sold.

After the war, Lon's son, Homer, and family returned from California and purchased land on the north end of McBride Road where they raised livestock and various vegetables, grains and cotton. The vegetables were marketed as far away as El Paso, Texas, and Phoenix. Homer sold directly to Safeway who sent a semi truck to the loading dock behind their house to pick up the vegetables.

Homer irrigated more than 100 acres of various crops using water from their four wells



Lon & Ethel McBride

Photo courtesy of Sue Herbert Brown

and aluminum siphon tubes. Ken, his son, helped his dad as did workers with the Bracero program of the 1950s.

Ken wrote, “One year my grandfather Hill raised 40 acres of tomatoes which became infested with big green tomato worms. Grandpa told us he’d pay a penny a worm if we would go through the rows and pick them. It was a triumphant feeling collecting \$7 for my 700 worms.”



Homer McBride by tractor in the 1950's

Photo courtesy of Ken McBride

Rodriguez Farm **By Eleanor Hill**

Sipirano “Pancho” Rodriguez, born Sept. 21, 1907 in Mexico, arrived here in the 1920s, purchasing his first farm in 1923 on Prince Road. As fate would have it, his future wife, Mary Guerrero would move from their family dairy in Warren to just up the road from Pancho, west of Frontier Road and as they say, the rest is history. Pancho and Mary would buy their first 40 acres from the Young family in 1939 for \$600. Five years later, the land was cleared and vegetables were growing. A cement vat for washing vegetables and a cooler were ready to use. They started selling onions, corn, tomatoes and other vegetables at their vegetable shed in 1942, as well as delivering to local grocery stores in Bisbee and Douglas. At times, they also trucked their produce as far away as El Paso, Texas or Phoenix.

In 1942, they bought another 40 acres, just north of the first 40. Shortly after, he acquired his first John Deere tractor, putting his mules out of work and a second tractor for cultivating some years later. In 1949, he started raising chili and furnishing it to Mountain Pass, N. M. He did this until son Henry started a chili plant, located at the old REA Power Plant, four miles north of the Double Adobe School on Central Highway.

Arevalos Farm
By Joan (Arevalos) Cardona

Edward Charles Fogal was a visionary in farm development, particularly chili. He was instrumental in establishing and building a chili dehydrator that eventually became Cal-Compac Co. in Orange County, Calif. Upon seeing the shift away from farming in Orange County, and hearing of cheap land in Southeastern Arizona, he started searching for land in Double Adobe. In 1950, he did an exchange of property for a section (640) of land. A portion of the land had a natural gas line where he built a new chili dehydrator.

In 1954, he sent his brother-in-law, Gilbert Arevalos, a janitor with no farming experience, to run the farm, saying it would be the perfect place for him and wife Eleanor to raise their four children.

Upon arrival, Gilbert found two houses, a dehydrator and a large building with no neighbors, in a forest of mesquites. Little by little, with the help of dozers, graders and land planers, the land of mesquite was transformed into farming land. The land flourished with chili being the primary focus of the farm to be dehydrated and sent to Cal-Compac and Universal Foods in Santa Ana, Calif. In later years, Gilbert sold wet red chili to Santa Cruz Chili Co. in Amado, used for red chili paste

and to Santa Maria Chili Co. for ground red chili powder and spices.

In 1957, Fogal encouraged Gilbert to expand into growing vegetables to sell at a roadside stand to the public. He put up a tractor umbrella with his children (Ronnie, Joan, Donald and Sandy) underneath selling sweet corn and chili. Gilbert expanded to growing cantaloupes, watermelons, green onions, squash, green beans, okra, black eyed-peas, white corn as well as the popular sweet corn and chili. It became so popular that a building was constructed as a vegetable stand!



Gilbert Arevalos, foreman of the E. C. Fogal ranch west of McNeal moved to the ranch from Santa Anna, Calif., in 1955. After clearing the land and putting in six new wells the land was divided for growing of chili and vegetables. Some of the vegetables are sold to local stores as well as being shipped to California. He holds a green chili.



Aerial photo of Arevalos Farm in 1964

Photo courtesy of Joan Cardona

In the early 1960s, Gilbert got the idea that to save money he could offer people a “You-Pick” price for a discount instead of hiring help to pick the produce. It was an overwhelming success as people came from all over southeastern Arizona to buy fresh vegetables to eat, can or freeze. The vegetable stand operated until 1993. The dehydrator operated until 1992, when due to illness, Gilbert decided to sell it to Rodriguez Canning Co. To this day, the Arevalos girls still “bump” into customers who fondly remember going to the valley to buy vegetables at “Arevalos Farms.”

McDaniel Farm **By The Ken McDaniel Family**

Inspired by tales of cheap land for sale in southeastern Arizona, Kennie and his dad, OC McDaniel arrived in Double Adobe in May 1948 from Vista, Calif., purchasing 160 acres of raw land from Mr. Cosby. The

first year, Kennie and OC cultivated and planted 40 acres in black-eyed peas. They were assured the irrigation well would pump 600 gallons per minute (gpm), but it only pumped 125 gpm. Two more wells were drilled, but pumped only 60-70 gpm.

The next year they planted cotton and sorghum grain, planting the sorghum at the end of the rows of cotton and irrigating from run off. The sorghum was harvested with a row binder and the cotton was handpicked and ginned in Elfrida. In later years, they experimented with growing chili peppers. The first year, they accepted the planting method used in the valley of starting the seed in hotbeds and transplanting by hand. They received their transplants from Elfrida and transplanted an acre or two by hand, only to have the rabbits eat up the entire crop! So a year or two later, they tried again, this time planting the pepper seed directly into the ground like they used to do in California, which started a whole new trend in the area. Another year they grew several trial plots of chili, including pasilla peppers for Rex McDaniel, Kennie's eldest brother.

Like farmers everywhere, the men worked hard in those days, plowing, planting harvesting, irrigating -- backbreaking work that didn't leave much time for conversation. The first year Tудie, his wife, and Kennie worked the Hassell place; it was overgrown with huge thriving careless weeds, which they got rid of by cultivating and hoeing. Johnson grass, with roots that sucked water and choked the bar ditches and tumbleweeds that piled up along fence lines, also thrived throughout the valley. Kennie remembers plowing fields during the cold winters. It could take a whole winter to plow 50 acres using his little 1948 Ford tractor pulling a plow with two bottoms that could only cut 16 inches at a pass. One year there was a late freeze on the sixth of May and another year there was an early freeze in mid-September!

Double Adobe Comes Under Irrigation Non-Expansion Area (INA)

With the amount of farming in the southern part of Sulphur Springs Valley, the water table dropped. In the early 1980s, the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) declared the southern Sulphur Springs Valley as an "Irrigation Non-Expansion" area. It was roughly from north of Elfrida to the Mexican border and from Frontier Road to Highway 191. This designation placed a restriction on increasing the number of irrigated acres in the area. Land that was legally irrigated at any time between Jan. 1, 1975 and Jan. 1, 1980 could continue to be irrigated.

This took many acres out of production in the Double Adobe area. Sadly, today there are many empty farm fields that once flourished with crops of all kinds.

Poultry Farms **By Eleanor Solms Hill**

Solms Triangle A Ranch

In 1924 Earl O. and Grace E. Solms purchased 80 acres a mile and a half north of Double Adobe School on the east side of Central Highway and began building their Triangle A Ranch. Besides a home, they built five two-room chicken houses and by 1926 started raising chickens using trap nests and leg tags to keep records of each hen's production. They raised White Leghorns and tried cross breeding with Australorp roosters. Having paid a premium price for six roosters, they were devastated when bobcats devoured all six the first night. More secure pens were built for the roosters' replacements.

The eggs were individually candled in a darkened

room, using a can with an egg shaped hole in the side and a gasoline lantern inside the can to identify any eggs with blood spots. The eggs were then weighed and boxed by size. There was much activity on Thursdays, butchering fryers and hens for Friday delivery to customers all over Bisbee and Warren and a few grocery stores.

Earl dug a cellar and plastered the walls. He built stairs and a peaked roof covered with dirt and grass. This provided a cool place to store eggs until delivery and provide room for incubators. When there wasn't sufficient room, the incubators were stacked in the living room.

In 1936 they leased the Triangle A to Hugh and Mabel Cramer and sold them the chickens.

Downs Poultry Farm

One of the first pursuits that Ed and Agnes Downs undertook after their 1940 marriage was raising chickens. Ed's parents, Joe and Rose Downs, homesteaded and bought additional land five miles north of Double Adobe and a mile and half west of Central Highway. Joe owned a barber shop on Main Street in Bisbee, but each weekend the family traveled to the ranch to work the land. Ed and his brother, Frances and their dad made adobe bricks and built three chicken coops. They raised Rhode Island Red chickens. The baby chicks were delivered by mail after finding they had fewer roosters this way than when they tried to hatch their own eggs. This was critical when trying to maximize their egg production.

It was Agnes' job to carefully candle the eggs. Electricity was available in the community by this time so she could see blood spots more easily than with the kero-

sene or gasoline lanterns. Each egg was weighed and boxed for size. She delivered them to Phelps Dodge Mercantile, Steven's Grocery, the Pigly Wigly and the Copper Queen Hospital in Bisbee.

Triangle Poultry Farm

The Emmet Foresman family owned the Triangle Poultry Farm located on the last curve (S) east of Double Adobe School. They had their home and chicken houses compactly arranged for an efficient operation. He, his wife and daughters, Susan and Kathy, helped with the egg candling, weighing, and butchering for their local town markets. They were in business during the late 1950s and early 1960s. They eventually moved to Douglas where it was handier for the girls to enjoy school activities as they attended high school.

Dairies

By Eleanor Solms Hill

Guerrero Dairy

Frank Guerrero originally had a dairy south of the ball park and streetcar barns in Warren before World War I. He milked by hand and bottled the milk for delivery around town.

In the mid-20s he, his wife, Clara with their six children and dairy cows relocated southwest of the Frontier-Double Adobe Road intersection. Here they built the dairy barn more conveniently close to their living quarters and he raised pasture to supplement their feed. He continued to milk by hand and delivered the bottled milk to his customers. Frank probably had one of the earliest dairies in the Double Adobe community. (His daughter, Mary, met Pancho Rodriguez when he

worked for her dad. They married a few years later.)

Hill Dairy

Eugene C. Hill, Jr., and Eleanor Solms were married in 1946. They bought her mother's Triangle A Ranch of eighty acres for \$12,000. The only acreage that had been cultivated for farming was the five acres between the house and Central Highway.

Having no love for the labor intensive work of vegetable farming, Gene was anxious to try raising feed and pasture. Since he hated milking their one cow by hand he decided he could get a milking machine if he had a dairy. So they went into partnership with his parents, the Sr. Hills. In July 1947, Mr. Hill Sr. traveled to Wisconsin to buy a dairy herd of 48 cows, some Holstein and some Guernsey, along with two young bulls of like breeds.

The building Eleanor's father had made into a mechanic's service and display shop for his Studebaker business eight years earlier was transformed into a dairy barn. The newly painted stanchions held plumbing for modern milking equipment that delivered the milk to the coolers and the cold milk into milk cans picked up by the Thompson Dairy from Elfrida and delivered to Hanigan Dairy near Douglas, where it was bottled and delivered.

It was a very demanding business, milking twice a day at the exact same time, keep the building and equipment clean and sanitary, the cows fed the proper nutrients and driven to whatever pasture was ready each day.

Among the best milkers were Joe Peddicord, who was building a house on land they had purchased with an-

ticipation of their own farm; Maurice Dawson, who eventually found a suitable place for his own dairy and farming; and Mr. McDonald, whose family stayed in the neighborhood for many years after employment on the dairy. Because it became increasingly hard to find good help, they sold the dairy herd but continued to raise pasture and feed.

Dawson Dairy

Maurice and Martha Dawson and their children, Linda and Jack, came to Double Adobe in hopes of starting a dairy. While working for Gene Hill they located the ideal place, on the southwest corner of east Double Adobe Road and Brooks Road. They bought the place from the Lignons in 1949. It had originally belonged to the Lauritzen family.

Quoting from Linda Dawson Jensen's *Double Adobe Story*, June 3, 2009:

"Living on a farm, we had chores to do. In the evening, we would put the machines together to milk the cows and would feed the baby calves. We ground feed for them to eat. Jack fed the heifers into the machine and I changed sacks. That was one dirty job!

We helped Daddy on the hay baler. Daddy or Kay Huddleston would drive the tractor. Jack would set the bales and feed wire through to me and I would tie the bales.

Since we had horses, sometimes in the summer, we would take the cows about a mile up the road to pasture we had rented and some open range land and stay with them until it was time to bring them back.

In 1956, we sold the cows and planted cotton. The next year we moved to Livermore, Calif. where Daddy was a milker for Friesman's Dairy."

English Dairy

John and Ava English moved three miles north of Double Adobe School from Crosbyton, Texas in 1952. They chose to move because John's two brothers, Orville and Amon owned ranches near Bisbee and Douglas.

John embarked on a new venture of dairy farming while his wife, Ava, continued her occupation as a school teacher in Elfrida. A dairy barn was built and equipped with modern milking machines, an aerator, coolers and cans for shipping the milk. It was transported to Purity Dairy in Douglas for processing and distributing. In 1958 they sold the dairy cows and bought beef stock that could be put on the native grass pasture. The Englishes moved to the Brophy Ranch, which John managed for four years after the Brophys sold it to Lloyd Golder from Tucson. They took this opportunity to remodel and add onto their own home. After John's death in 1970, Ava continued to teach and live at their home. She died in 1994.

Mary Ann (Eberling) Bond Fairchild, Entrepreneur

By David Bond

Mary Ann (Eberling) Bond Fairchild was born in Nogales in 1918, which put her on track to live through the Great Depression and World War II. She and my father, Albert Bond, were forever marked by those times. They never bought on installments, they kept a constant supply of home canned food, they always had chickens, one or two cows, paid cash for cars and they worked.

As a child she was the second of 10 children scraping a living off a small farm in the Elgin-Canelo area. She had memories of trading eggs for a spool of thread at the local store.

She and Albert built and sold seven homes in the Double Adobe area. This was in addition to holding down regular jobs outside the home. Mary Ann taught school and Albert worked in the Bisbee mines. We kids (Philip, David, Charlotte, and Eddie) were expected to help with the building of these homes, along with other odd jobs.

Albert died in 1967. This didn't stop Mary Ann from continuing to work at home building and other odd jobs. In her later life, she bought, fixed up and rented dozens of houses and mobile homes. She and her second husband Junior Fairchild owned and operated the Double Adobe Trailer Park. They built a little store and sold jams, pies and canned goods.

During this time, the Double Adobe Quilt Club started in 1980. One of the ladies from the trailer park decided the women needed something to do. She started teaching the ladies how to quilt and invited local women to join.

Mary Ann, with her friend Mary Price made and sold hundreds of dozens of tamales to finance a road trip to Alaska with her grandkids.

She hired Jim Irwin to help with the rentals and relied on him as her maintenance man. Mary Ann, Jim and Philip, her oldest son, went into the rental business together.

Along with Philip who owns a nursery in the Coolidge area, she sold trees and harvested ocotillos. Her idea of success was to gather seeds in the desert or forest, plant them in free gallon cans from the Bisbee High School cafeteria, water them and later sell the plants for \$2. To her that was pure profit.

Mary Ann left her legacy in many ways to the Double Adobe area. She died at age 90 on Aug. 28, 2008. She and Albert Bond were married for 27 years. She mar-

ried M. A. Fairdchild, Jr. in 1973 and they were married for 27 years. She always said that she was very fortunate to have been married to two very good men.



Ocotillo crew-Mary Ann Bond Fairchild, Hugh Pendigras, Jim Irwin, and Richard Spettigue, 1998

Photo courtesy of Phillip Bond

Significant Events in Double Adobe history

World War II (*Fund Raising and Donations*)

By Margaret Bemis

To earn money for needed school improvements and other good causes, as well as for entertainment, the country people often had Saturday night dances. More money could be raised by having a dance than most any other way—bake sales, pie social, or barbecues. Although many of the women's clubs and the Double Adobe Farm Bureau would incorporate these other means of making money into the dance, too.

Money earned from the dances was used for various projects. One of significance in January 1941 was purchase of an electric stove for the Double Adobe School. Thirty dollars was raised as a down payment for the stove, which was paid off a few months later by another dance.

Mrs. Lillian Reed, teacher of the upper grades in 1940-41, asked the Farm Bureau to sponsor a lunch supplement project for the school. Commodities from the federal government were available if a sponsor was obtained. Five dollars was given to Frontier, McNeal and Double Adobe Schools to start this lunch program. In Double Adobe the money was used to buy sugar, salt, baking powder and some cooking utensils. Again, a dance raised the balance of the money needed to buy other commodities. It was given to Mrs. Lon McBride, clerk of the school board, for school purposes.

In March 1942, E.C. Hill suggested a salvage campaign to collect scrap iron for the war effort. He was appointed chairman with members of his committee being Messers Porter, Bell, Buchanan, Hulse, McLoughlin, Murphy and McBride. The Hill Ranch was designated

as the place to collect the scrap iron. A few loads of scrap were delivered to Hill. He offered to use his truck to pick up large quantities of scrap if he could secure help to load it. He would also pick up brass, copper and old rubber which could be sold with the proceeds given to the Red Cross.

The United Services Organization (USO) met in Douglas, asking the Farm Bureau to make door to door campaigns to raise funds. Walter Neel, who represented the Frontier District, reported these plans. Since this was thought impractical given the distances to cover, Bell suggested the three districts (Frontier, Double Adobe, McNeal) raise funds by giving a dance at the McNeal Schoolhouse.

In December 1942, the Farm Bureau sent cards and boxes of candy to local men serving in World War II. The names listed were: E. C. Hill, Jack McDonald, Robert Waisanen, Armus Erkill, Ray Latimer, Henry Saarick, and Eben Lane. There were many other men who joined the service, but unfortunately, there is no record who they were.

In April 1943 a letter from the Douglas Chapter, the American Red Cross thanked the Farm Bureau for their excellent cooperation in the important War Fund Drive. Donations were also given in 1944-1945, as attested by small membership cards. In 1947 money was also given to fund research in the fight against infantile paralysis (polio).

Rural Electrification Administration (REA)

1st Electric Power Cooperative in Arizona

By Pat English

In early 1937, County Agricultural Agent Mark Bliss gathered a group of ranchers and farmers for a meeting

at Double Adobe School on the possibility of forming an electric cooperative. On Jan. 11, 1939, Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) received its Articles of Incorporation, making it the first member-owned utility in Arizona.

The initial project was 138 miles of line serving 266 members. Because natural gas was available in the Double Adobe area, the first generating plant was located four miles north of Double Adobe School. The seven acre site was purchased from Frank Murphy. The original engines for the plant were obtained from the U.S. War Department. They were 450 horsepower Cooper Bessemer engines that ran on natural gas and did not have to be converted to diesel.



Mike Bennett was SSVEC's first general manager.

On Oct. 20, 1940, the new plant was dedicated with more than 5000 people attending the ceremony. Cochise County's 19th Annual Fair was held on site in conjunction with the grand opening. The Douglas Chamber of Commerce prepared lunch. Governor R.T. Jones and many other dignitaries welcomed the first member-owned electric cooperative. Mrs. C.M. Byrd, SSVEC's first board secretary, threw the switch. Mr.

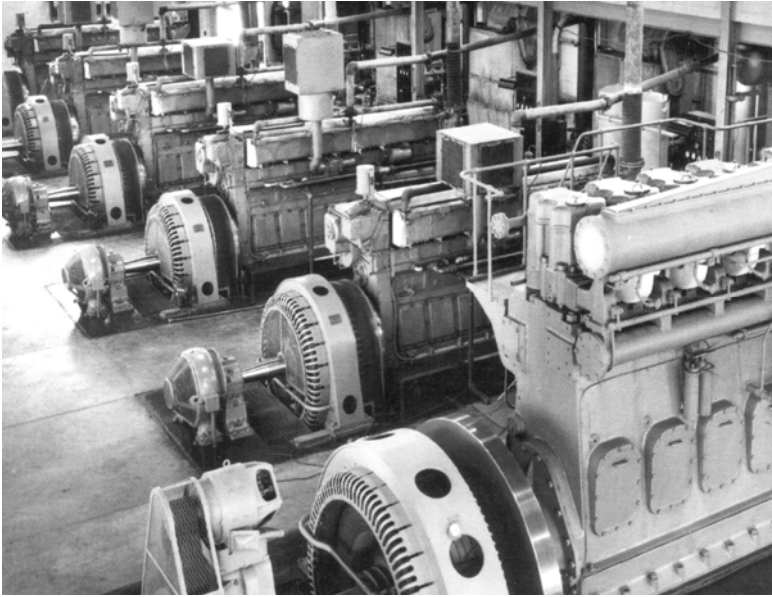
and Mrs. J. H. Cunningham was the first home to receive electricity and Frank Murphy was the first well to receive electricity. A total 30 homes received electricity in the Double Adobe, McNeal and Elfrida areas.

By the mid 1950s, the cooperative added an average of 170 homes per month, and an additional power plant was constructed at Cochise. By the 1960s, the original plant near Double Adobe was phased out in favor of a new steam generating plant in Cochise. Today the site



Dedication of REA plant in 1940

Photo courtesy of Cochise County Coop. Extension



Electric generators, REA Plant - 1950

Photo courtesy of SSVEC

is home to a chili canning facility and a sub-station for SSVEC.

How times have changed: SSVEC has a postcard sent by one of its original customers stating their electricity was off and asked the company to fix it....No phones, no computers, just rural mail delivery.

Organizations that Helped Form the Community

Although living in the country could sometimes be lonely, many residents participated in activities outside the home. Groups such as 4-H, church, Home-maker's Club, and Farm Bureau provided some family activities.

Double Adobe Farm Bureau By Margaret Bemis

The Double Adobe Farm Bureau was started to advance the purposes of local, county and state bureaus in helping farmers. A cardboard engraved sign found in the papers stated, "The Farm Bureau's ideals of freedom and independence for which our forefathers fought and died are an inherent part of the American farmer's tradition. In all its efforts to improve farm living and farm opportunities, Farm Bureau is guided by this tradition." Under this statement is a farmer with a rifle next to the word "AMERICANISM".

Membership in the local group was \$1 a year, 50 cents for the county and \$2.50 to belong to the state and national for a total of \$4. The local bureau was continually soliciting membership, knowing that strength in numbers brought needed legislative clout to local issues. Membership was encouraged in Bisbee and Douglas as well as Frontier, McNeal, Double Adobe and Elfrida. In February 1941 there were 63 members.

It was not above the group to use coercion to obtain membership. "The secretary presented a bill from the

Bisbee Chamber of Commerce for \$4 for annual dues of the Double Adobe Farm Bureau. It was brought out that there is only one Bisbee business firm carrying membership in the D.A. Farm Bureau and Mr. (Oscar) Bell volunteered to see the secretary of the Bisbee Chamber and advise him that we would renew our membership in the Chamber when at least five Bisbee businessmen joined the Farm Bureau.”

Double Adobe Farm Bureau Officers

The Double Adobe officers in 1940 were E. C. Hill, president, J. H. Cunningham, vice president and Ann T. Murphy, secretary-treasurer. During the Jan. 3, 1941 meeting Hill asked to be relieved of the presidency on the grounds that he did not have time to do the job properly. Cunningham suggested that Hill’s resignation be accepted with regret.

Sometime after October 1940, Earl Solms must have replaced Cunningham as vice president because at this same January meeting, a motion passed to fill the vacancy created by the death of Earl O. Solms. Frank Murphy was elected vice president, and J. H. Cunningham was chosen president. Mrs. Ann T. Murphy continued as the secretary-treasurer. These same officers remained in 1941. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Murphy served the organization as the only officers until April 13, 1945 when J. P. Magee was elected president; Byron Davis, vice president and Mrs. W. W. Harsha, secretary-treasurer. In 1947, Eugene Hill, Jr. served as president; Homer McBride, vice president, and Lois Mitchell, secretary-treasurer. In 1948-50, Ed Downs was elected president; no record of vice president, and Mrs. Claude Lambert served as secretary-treasurer. Mr. C. S. Wooldridge served as the secretary of the County Farm Bureau.

1950 was the last set of local bank statements. Local groups were dropped in favor of county, state and national groups. Because local membership provided an opportunity for families to socialize, support their neighbors in times of need, do fund raising together, learn about and support political issues, become better farmers and get help from extension personnel, the ending of this era must have left many saddened.

Issues Worked On by Farm Bureau

A. Telephone Service

At the Oct. 1940 meeting, the group asked the manager of the Tucson Bell Telephone Company about telephone service for the community. Mr. Day Campbell of the Douglas office was to contact Hill, which did not happen.

Discussion on telephone service continued as old business until the January 1941 meeting when E.C. Hill reported contacting Day Campbell, manager of the Mountain State Telephone Co. regarding the installation of a telephone booth at the REA power plant. Mr. Campbell agreed to install such a booth. For many years, telephone calls could be made from a pay booth at the REA plant. Party line phone service came in the 1950s and later, private lines were put in for families.

B. Cochise County Fair

The Cochise County Fair was held on the grounds of the REA plant, Oct. 19-20, 1940 in conjunction with the dedication of the power plant and transmission lines. Mr. Graves, president of the fair association and M. M. Bennett, superintendent of the REA power plant had entire charge of exhibit space. Tents were rented to

house the fair and commercial exhibits. The Douglas Chamber of Commerce furnished the barbecue and music for all who attended. The Douglas High School band under Otto Utke, gave a concert on Saturday afternoon and the Douglas American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps played for the dedication.

Mrs. E. C. Hill announced the Double Adobe Home-makers', Frontier Women's, Valley Woman's and the Webb Mother's Clubs would run the sandwich and soda pop concessions during the fair and dedications of the REA power plant. These same groups agreed to hold a dance at the Double Adobe Schoolhouse and share in the proceeds. Mrs. Frank Murphy and Mrs. Walter Neel were appointed to represent Double Adobe and Frontier on the dance committee. Later, however, the Webb Mother's and Valley Women's Clubs decided not to take part in the dance.

Double Adobe and Frontier agreed to exhibit as one community for the community prize. Messers. Frank Murphy, Lon McBride, Cecil Wooldridge and Mrs. Jack Waters took charge of the agricultural and floricultural display. At the November 1940 meeting, Hill reported that the Frontier-Double Adobe exhibit at the fair had been awarded second prize and \$10, which was deposited in the Farm Bureau treasury.

C. Young People's Program

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hill, Sr. were leaders of a young people's program sponsored by the Farm Bureau. Miss Eleanor Solms, secretary of the Work-Play Association gave a report at the Oct. 3, 1941 meeting the group had raised \$60 at two dances. The money was used on picnics and other social functions for the young people of Double Adobe and Frontier communities. The group also had a "knitting day" for Bundles for Britain (sending needed knitted items to Britain).

Double Adobe 4-H Club

By Joan Cardona

Boys' and Girls' Clubs were encouraged by extension as attested by County annual reports as early as 1915. The first report (1915) was made by Cochise-Santa Cruz County agent, A. L. Paschall. In 1916, he reported assisting, along with the State Club Agent and several local leaders, in club work. The initial projects were raising of a couple pigs and of home gardening work. He visited and addressed 22 schools, giving boys and girls much information on all types of agriculture practices.

In December 1916-December 1917, nine district fairs were planned and eight were conducted in Cochise County. At these fairs, specialists from the Extension Service assisted in judging, demonstrations and lectures. These local fairs proved to be excellent events for every community. Owing to the value of these for bringing people together, for their educational value in exhibiting the various farm products, in bringing about better community cooperation, improved methods and crop standardization, the Extension encouraged such fairs be conducted each year and this work be one of the regular projects.

In the following years 1918-1923, new agents worked with farmers and some ranchers on specific areas of concern. These included farm orchard, poultry, dairy, swine, soil improvement, special crops, horticulture, livestock, rodents and miscellaneous pests, and agricultural economics projects. No mention is made of working with the boys and girls clubs in these reports. However, most children in families were expected to help with farm and home chores.

In 1924, the first woman Home Demonstration agent's report was written by Miss Laura Mae Seward. Most of

the work Seward did in 1925-26 in Double Adobe was accomplished by working with the school. She would weigh and measure children each month, furnish record blanks and tags indicating child's weight and height according to average. The children would be encouraged to keep their Food Habit score and Beauty Score. The goal for this project was that 50-percent of children be up to their average weight. Obesity was not mentioned as a problem, but rather malnutrition.

The first mention of organizing a 4-H club in Double Adobe is October 1926 with Miss Freda Rundell the club leader. The name of the club was Double Adobe Ocatilla Ramblers with a total of 11 girls enrolled in this garment project. In a report sent to the agent, the Double Adobe Club members' program of work stated they would complete the sewing bag and the stocking darn this month (November 1926).

In January 1929, a new County Home Demonstration Agent, Bertha J. Virmond was hired for Cochise County. She worked with women's clubs in teaching various projects (food preservation and preparation, clothing construction, and home improvement projects.) In her memoirs, she mentions that junior work, called 4-H, was stimulated in August 1929 when a 4-H specialist was appointed to supervise all 4-H projects. Howard R. Baker was the 29 year old appointee.



**Bertha Virmond, Cochise
County Home Demonstration
Agent - 1937**

Photo courtesy of Cochise County Coop. Extension

Information on 4-H in Double Adobe between the

years 1926-36 is sparse. In her memoirs, Double Adobe teacher (1924-28) Florence Boss said, "The girls entered the county contests in home decoration, sewing, and cooking. Sam Clark, County Farm Agent, helped with the boy's 4-H club. They planted peanuts and potatoes (the first in our valley) which grew well. He also helped with the poultry project. They had a Poultry Show, bringing the head poultry judge from the University to judge our dozen coops."

The Double Adobe Social Progress Club's history and yearbook for 1936-37 filled with a wealth of information was furnished by The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension office in Willcox.

This memorable and noteworthy club was incorporated into a Friday afternoon school day. The club leaders were Double Adobe teachers, Lucy H. Thurman and Viola Johnson, who taught from 1934-37.

The club had a total 46 members, all pupils of Double Adobe School, except four. The other four were three high school students and one in nursing school. There were 24 regular meetings per year and 4-H members completing their projects was 100-percent. Projects at that time included: canning, garment making, a junior and senior health club, handicraft, music appreciation, and landscaping.

Officers listed for the Social Progress Club



Mrs. Lucy Thurman, senior 4-H club leader of Double Adobe Social Progress 4-H club - 1937

Photo courtesy of Cochise County Coop. Extension

(1937) were president, Eugene Hill; vice president, Albert Boeckmann and secretary, Eleanor Solms. The 4-H Garment Making Club was president, Mae McCormick; vice president, Katherine Hill and secretary, Juanita Harsha. The 4-H Handicraft Club president was Billy Kimbrough; vice president, Cris Gojkovich and secretary, Freddie Bell.

Local achievement days in each community were held with the State 4-H Club Specialist and State Home Demonstration Agent judging the exhibits and contests. After all the community contests, county winners were selected to compete at the State 4-H Round Up. In 1937, Eugene Hill was selected as the healthiest boy in the County. He later won the State contest as the healthiest boy with a score of 97.3. Rosanna Boeckman represented the county as the healthiest girl and won second place in the State contest. Billy Kimbrough and Freddie Bell won first place in the county and the state with their health demonstration. Barbara Porter won five awards at the county fair in canning and was rated second in canning for the county, receiving Kerr jars



Eugene Hill, 13 yrs. local, county State health champion, 1937 and Roseanna Boeckmann, local, county health champion and second place, state contest, 1937

Photo courtesy of Cochise County Coop. Extension



Freddie Bell and Billy Kimbrough, county and state winners in health demonstration team contest with Mr. H. R. Baker, State Girls' and Boys' Club specialist, 1937

Photo courtesy of Cochise County Coop. Extension

and cash premiums as her reward.

The highlight of 1937 was submitting this club history and yearbook hoping to win an R.C.A. Victor radio. The radio was the prize to the club with the most outstanding report. The report stated, "The need for music in this community is very great. The rural districts in Arizona are not music minded and nothing could have been done for this community that will add more to their musical education than the presentation of this radio by the sponsors of the 4-H Social Progress Program."

Radios at that time were a luxury in the rural communities of Arizona and Double Adobe was no different. The contest did more than any other one thing to encourage buying radios. It also spurred interest by the



First year Double Adobe girls model their aprons in a “Rolling Pin Drill,” county Farm Bureau picnic, 1937. L-R: Betty Rohrer, Bonnie Porter, Mary Rucastle, —, Katherine Hill, Juanita Harsha, Erline Shaw, —.

Photo courtesy of Cochise County Coop. Extension

children in becoming radio conscious. Incidentally, to the surprise of the community and the members, they did win. They were awarded the radio for having an outstanding club history and yearbook. The radio was presented to the Double Adobe School and used for years.

The Double Adobe Social Progress 4-H Club initiated and supported many activities school wide. They included Halloween, Christmas and Easter parties for all the community, as well as the end of the school year picnic in the Chiricahua Mountains. This tradition continues even today with the Double Adobe School children and their parents attending, as well as some alumni.

Public presentations were encouraged. When invited to the yearly Farm Bureau picnic in the Chiricahua Mountains, the entire club attended. There were

around 800 people present, and the club was a definite part of the program. This event encouraged and boosted 4-H Club interest. Freddie Bell presided over the meeting. He stood on one of the picnic benches and gave a history of 4-H Club accomplishments during the past years, not only for the Double Adobe community but for the whole county.

The Double Adobe 4-H girls presented a cross section of the work in sewing. This dress revue was planned by the Double Adobe Social Progress Club without assistance from any other group. They used a Victrola for music and introduced each girl taking part in the dress revue, telling of her achievements. This included work from the first-fifth year garment making. The director of the Extension Service was present and requested that the Double Adobe group give their performance at the State 4-H Club Round Up at the University of Arizona.

The goal of all members in the club was to attend State 4-H Round Up. To have parents pay for the trip was a hardship. The club members voted to have a dinner/dance to raise money. With help from their mothers, the club netted \$108. As a result 22 members with chaperones participated in the state 4-H Round Up. Southern Pacific Railroad cooperated by giving the group a special rate. Members in later years would recall catching the train at Bisbee Junction for their first train ride in an air-cooled coach to Tucson.

Community enterprises have always been encouraged through 4-H. Because the community did not receive enough mail to warrant daily service in 1937, mail was delivered only three times a week. The Double Adobe Social Progress 4-H Club with help from their leaders and teachers sent out 500 letters for "free" items and requiring responses. This increased the volume of mail to the community and resulted in daily mail service.

This group of enterprising young men and women ac-

completed another project -- raising money to erase a \$62 debt hanging over the school. The group, with the help of parents and leaders, held a community dance. The check for \$62 was presented to the Double Adobe School Board and erased the indebtedness for the school.

The School Board requested the men of the community help with necessary repairs on the school without pay. No one responded. When Ann Murphy, clerk of the school board attended the Social Progress 4-H Club meeting, each member pledged that their oldest family member would help with the needed repairs. That particular Saturday, all work on the school was accomplished by the men of the community.

Community service is a large part of 4-H. Some of the community service projects over the years have included painting mailboxes, cleaning roadways of trash, Christmas caroling, providing food baskets for the needy, and collecting clothing, toiletries and money for those suffering from natural disasters locally and in the world.

Besides the aforementioned names of the Double Adobe 4-H Club, there have been others. In the 1940s the boys' club was called the Double Adobe 4-H Ranchers. The girls' group was called the Double Adobe 4-H Sewettes. In the early 1950s, these two groups joined and became the Double Adobe 4-H Ranchers and Sewettes Club. Today, the group is called the Double Adobe 4-H Club.

4-H is no longer part of the school curriculum. However, the Double Adobe 4-H Club holds its monthly community meeting in the old Double Adobe School auditorium. The 4-H pledge, "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my

club, my community and my country” is still followed and encouraged.

Through the dedication of volunteer leaders and parents and through the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H remains an important part of many young people’s lives. County 4-H Extension Agents Susan Pater and Darcy Tessman serve the 4-H clubs today. Over the years Double Adobe 4-H has succeeded under the leadership of C. C. Mitchell, Albert and Mary Ann Bond, Ed and Agnes Downs, John and Mary Price, Earl and Grace Solms, John and Elona Panzer, John and Eleanor Vaughn, Mike McVean, Sandra Arevalos, Joan Cardona, Dean Vaughn, Nathan Watkins, and Justin and Rebecca Riggs. Numerous project leaders and junior leaders have given money, endless hours and caring to continue a tradition in our community that holds 4-H dear to our hearts.

Homemaker’s Club **By Eleanor Solms Hill**

The Homemaker’s Club was an important part of country living, beginning in the early days of the Double Adobe Community. It was the result of a state law authorizing the Cooperative Extension Service in Arizona that passed March 6, 1915. The earliest Home Demonstration Work was begun in southeastern Arizona in 1919, with the first agent, Laura Mae Seward, being located in Willcox, starting June 1, 1924, to serve Cochise County.

Miss Bertha Virmond had the longest tenure as Extension Home Economist in Cochise County serving from Jan. 15, 1929 until Feb. 13, 1946. In her memoirs, “Berpy” tells of buying a new Model A Ford, a sport model with cloth top and jump seat, on her second day

in Willcox. She was to wear out two Fords and three Chevys before retirement.

(Page 37) "In the early days with no refrigeration, food preservation was very important. We introduced pressure cookers, canning in cans with sealers as well as the usual glass jars. We dried vegetables and any fruit that couldn't be canned. We made cheddar cheese to use surplus milk. In Home Improvement we taught them refinishing, reupholstering and rug making. Some women had frame gardens for small plots of ground. Clothing demonstrations were given for beginners and advanced to learn patching, remodeling, machine attachments, cleaning of machines and tailoring. All this adds up to the Extension slogan: 'Live on the farm—off the farm'."

Though Miss Virmond did not mention communities by name, as a child in Double Adobe, Eleanor Hill remembers her mother, Grace Solms, learning to do all those things except the rug making and the tailoring, which probably were not of interest to her. She remembers helping her mother can spinach in cans. They could be cooled quickly in a tub of cold water. Not being farmers, Grace did the canning of surplus vegetables on shares with the farmers whose wives were too busy marketing vegetables to have time to can. This was a helpful arrangement for both parties.

Other useful projects they learned were making ice cream, and cottage cheese, bound button holes and wooden picture frames with plaster of Paris molding which was painted for framing treasured pictures.

Eleanor found most useful as a young housewife, reupholstering and learning the fastest way to iron a shirt, making western shirts and cooking nutritious and quick meals. Mae Baldrige was the Home Demonstration Agent.

Besides the educational instruction received from the Extension Service, the Homemaker's Club was active in other interests of the community. They came to the rescue of neighbors in need, raised money for various community improvements, the school lunch program, furnished Christmas goody bags for the annual school programs, and were available as a group to influence important decisions.

Probably the longest standing member of the Double Adobe Homemaker's Club is Mary Rucastle Price. Not only was she raised in the community, but as a young family the Price's returned in 1953. She remained a member until the club was abandoned in early 2000 from lack of attendance. The interests of rural families have changed.

Boy Scouts **By Eleanor Solms Hill**

In the early 1930s, E. C. Hill had one teenage son and another soon to be. He wanted something constructive for them to do and knew the Boy Scouts had a good program for just this purpose.

It became an active group that besides having regular meetings, took trips to nearby mountains for hiking, camping, and cooking over a campfire. The bugle, still in Kay Hill Benedict's possession, would set all the dogs in the neighborhood howling in response. She remembers, from tagging along, hearing it being played from a high mountain top when the troop reached their goal.

The local 4-H Clubs soon became popular. They filled the need for skill training and a social outlet and the Boy Scouts were delegated to the city kids.

Double Adobe Union Sunday School and Valley Bible Church

By Doug and Lou Ann Ralston

In 1944 a number of residents felt the need for Christian outreach in the community. A Sunday school was organized and met in the Double Adobe School. Vacation Bible Schools, held in the summers, offered activities for the community's children.

American Sunday School Union missionaries served as area representatives through the years. This was an organization dedicated to rural ministries. Under their leadership and the dedication of community members, the Sunday school grew and children participated in summer camps and other activities.

Through the faithfulness of many people in the community, the Sunday school continued to thrive. At some point, the leaders and members began discussing the need for a permanent church to be established. They envisioned moving from the schoolhouse into a building of their own.



Valley Bible Church

Photo courtesy of Doug and LouAnn Ralston

Under the leadership of C.S. Wooldridge, Homer McBride, and Charles Pomroy, this soon became a reality. They purchased two acres of land on Double Adobe Road, one mile east of the school, and on Jan. 30, 1966, held a groundbreaking and dedication ceremony. On July 7, 1968, the first service was held in the new building. This congregation became known as Valley Bible Church.

A number of men served as pastors of the church. The longest serving pastor was Herman Boerman, who served from 1981 until his retirement in 1990. It is interesting to note that the Boermans first came to Double Adobe as Vacation Bible School workers in the early 1950s when he was a student at Arizona Bible College in Phoenix.

The ministry of this church continues to serve the community today.

Our Lady of La Salette Mission of Double Adobe

By Joan Cardona

Our Lady of La Salette Mission began with the vision of Fr. Roland Bedard, a missionary priest of Our Lady of La Salette Missionaries, assigned to St. Francis of Assisi in Elfrida. Upon arriving, he searched out all Catholics who lived in the entire Sulphur Springs Valley. He brought with him Brother Norman Blanchett, Order of La Salette Missionaries, who had been his companion through various other assignments. The two of them, through the association of La Salette priests, became active community members not only to Catholics, but the entire Sulphur Springs Valley.

Bedard noticed many Catholics from the south end of the valley, particularly Double Adobe, were dispersed



Our Lady of La Salette Mission

Photo courtesy of Joan Cardona

into different parishes. They attended St. Patrick's in Bisbee, St. Luke's in Douglas, St. Francis in Elfrida, or no church at all due to the distance. Upon investigation, he discovered Fr. Rook, a previous priest from St. Bernard's Parish in Pirtleville, had purchased property in the Double Adobe area with the vision that one day a church would be built.

When this information came to light, the wheels in Bedard's mind began to turn. He brought it to the Catholic residents of Double Adobe -- would the residents support and help build a mission in the Double Adobe area?

A petition was written stating, "We the people of Double Adobe and vicinity have signed this petition because we would very much like a Catholic Church built in this area." In the Fall of 1983, Bedard presented the petition to Bishop Manuel Moreno in Tucson. Since the Diocese already owned property, Moreno gave his approval for building a mission church that would still be associated with St. Francis Church in Elfrida.

Bedard envisioned a church on the curve of Double Adobe Road two miles east of Double Adobe School that would look out to all the mountains and welcome all people. He exchanged the property owned by the Diocese for the present site. The only obstacle was that no money would be provided. If the people wanted it, they'd have to find a way.

At a meeting on March 18, 1984, at the home of Mike and Marietta Balta, Bedard announced that the Diocese had given permission to build a church. Some funds were available, and a raffle for a whole beef on hoof was held to provide additional funds. Bedard applied for septic, well, and building permits that week. The community of Double Adobe helped tremendously with needed funding and manpower. Bedard had backing from many faithful people in Attleboro, Mass., who were eager to see Our Lady of La Salette spread her message to the West.

On March 24, 1984 people of Double Adobe began clearing land to build a small mission church. Work on the site was done in the evening and all help was welcomed. A decision was made to use a 24' x 48' pre-fabricated garage for the building with an estimated cost of \$15,000.

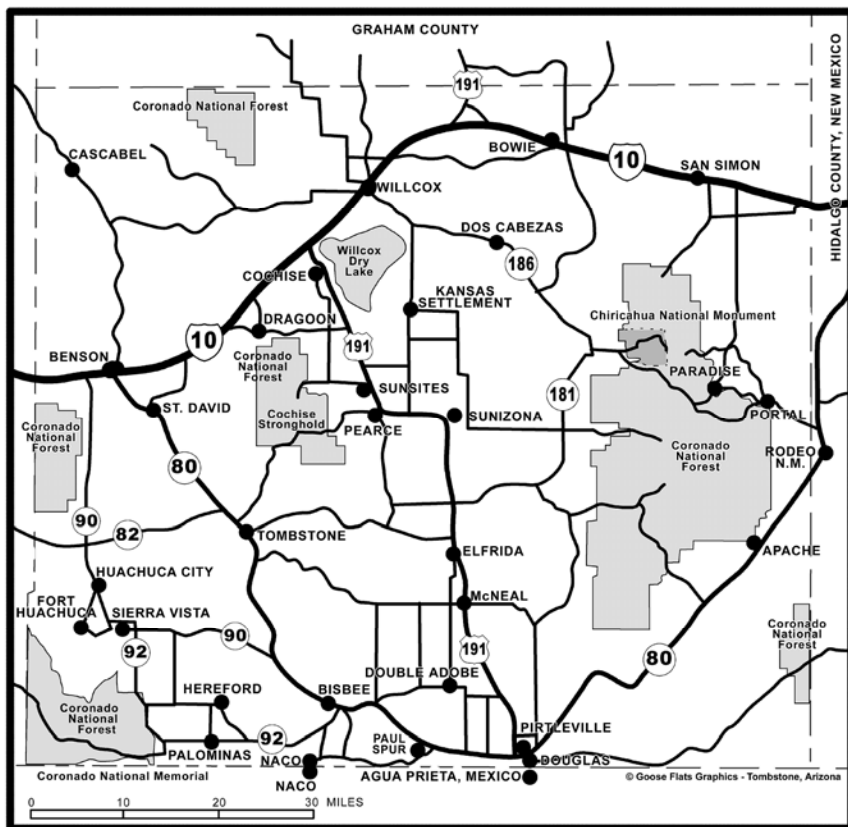
In May 1984, a well was dug through the generosity of Robert and Karen Tanner and family. Materials for the future church were delivered around the first week of June 1984. On June 1, 1984 the foundation was poured, and on July 1, 1984 everyone was invited to a "Church Raising." Men and women came to help under the supervision of Bedard's nephew, Leo Potvin, a building contractor in San Diego, Calif. The pre-fab building was completed on that day. It wasn't only Catholics who helped build it, but the communities of Sulphur Springs Valley who united to complete the vision of one man.

The new Mission of Our Lady of La Salette was dedi-

cated at a solemn Mass by Bishop Moreno on Sept. 22, 1984. The overflow crowd consisted of visitors and all who had waited so long for a Catholic Church in the Double Adobe area. A huge La Salette cross and a life-like statue of Our Lady of La Salette grace the grounds in front of the church.

Since that time, an addition to the front of the original building and porches to the sides were added in 2000. Construction was done by volunteers and Leo Potvin. This part has been designated as an official shrine to Our Lady of La Salette, Blessed Mother of our Lord Jesus.

Due to limited space, many of the researched articles were omitted from this journal. It is our hope to publish them in a future journal. Thanks to all who so willingly shared their stories.



Cochise County, Arizona

Cochise County Historical Society Membership Information

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

Mail payment to:
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Dues are paid effective in
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THE COCHISE COUNTY HISTORICAL JOURNAL

Double Adobe ~ loved community

These articles were written for others to know how this community started, and to instill pride in its current residents. We encourage you to write your family history and “talk story” to your children and grandchildren.



The Double Adobe Historical Society

L-R: Eleanor Hill, Joan Cardona, Ruthell Hicks, and Pat English.

Special thanks to Margaret Bemis for all her hard work.

CCHS
1001 D Avenue ~ P.O. Box 818
Douglas, AZ 85608
www.cochisecountyhistory.org