

Summer 2010

# Smelter Times



## Upcoming Displays

### June to September

- Construction and History of the Smelter in Clarkdale

### October to December

- The Jerome Civic Opera and the Town of Clarkdale Operettas (1983)
- Fund Raising for the restoration of the Clubhouse
- Historic photos of the Clarkdale Memorial Clubhouse
- Historic photos of town homes and buildings

### January to March

- VerdeValley Country Club
- Trophies and historic photos of the golf course in Clarkdale

## Upcoming Events

### July 4th, 2010

Raffle in the Park !

### Fall 2010

Two geology tours hosted by Paul Handverger.

Limited to 12 people on a first come, first served basis. Dates and fee yet to be determined.

### December 2010

Historic Building Tour.  
December 11 and 12.  
Still in planning stage.

## Clarkdale Business District

The original business district of Clarkdale was located in Lower Town just east of Miller's Warehouse in 1912 after the smelter was relocated from Jerome to Clarkdale. The first businesses were Bank of Arizona, Miller's Store and the Post Office. A fire destroyed these wooden buildings in 1914 and work was begun on the business block on Main Street and was completed in 1915.

These eight buildings on the south side of Main were made of local brick, each having an individual style, color, and roofline giving each business a unique design. Only one building, a restaurant, was built on the north side of Main Street. The present Clarkdale Classic Gas Station was originally a Texaco Station built by Phelps Dodge in 1942 called the Clarkdale Copper Bowl because the outside was made of copper!

The first person to lease the station was M. O. Lindner, Sr. who also owned M. O. Lindner Garage on Broadway. Subsequent lessors of the gas station were Dan Wombacher in the 50's and Ted Turner in the 70's. The current owner, Mike Hensley, bought it from Bennett Oil in 1976 and is restoring the station to reveal the beautiful original copper siding.

Starting on the corner of 10th Street and Main was a furniture store which later became a hardware store, a laundry, the Lindner Showroom in the 1950's, law offices, an architectural office and is today occupied by Alcora Marble and the e-Go Gallery.



The first theater in Clarkdale is next door and was known originally as the Coliseum and then the ValVerde. In 1936 Joe Becchetti, after a major remodel and renovation, reopened it with a new name: the Grand Theater. He also operated a theater in Cottonwood called the Rialto. The Grand showed movies every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 6:45 and 9:00 each night. The cost was 10 cents for children and 40 cents for "reserved" seats. Joe is credited for creating a "crying room" for mothers and babies. Spanish



*Your  
Clarkdale  
Historical  
Society and  
Museum  
NEEDS  
and  
WANTS  
your help!*

NEEDS —

We are currently in need of volunteers for the following:

- Advertising—Writing press releases for local newspapers
- Help identify people in photos
- Assist with oral history recording
- Cleaning of Museum on a weekly basis
- Assist with **Historic Building and Home Tour** in December
- Give tours of Museum to visitors (with training)
- Distribute museum brochures to businesses

WANTS —

- **The Alchemist Yearbooks**  
1921, 1922, 1923, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1941, 1952 and after
- Photos and Information on **TAPCO, Hopewell and Verde Valley Country Club**
- Any town Photos and Artifacts

NOTE — Photos and Artifacts do not need to be given to the Museum permanently. We are able to scan your photos and return them to you promptly or we may simply use them on a temporary basis with your permission.

*c o n t i n u e d* **Clarkdale Business District**

movies were presented on Thursday nights for the many Mexican families in the Clarkdale area. Currently the building is being renovated to become a performing theater for Verde Valley Theater Group.

Above the theater were the Masonic Lodge and four apartments. Many residents remember climbing the stairs to the dentist offices of Dr. Joe Pecharich and Dr. Ray Pecharich which were also located on the second floor.

The drugstore occupied the next business with the Gassoway family as one of the owners and then the Harrah family. Over time it became various commercial businesses such as a heating and cooling shop. In 2000 Mike and Kerrie Bluff purchased the building and remodeled it creating a second story which increased the square footage from 2800 to 3800 square feet. The current business is Gantry Construction.

The fourth building from the corner was United Dry Goods store which eventually became Selna's Grocery before it moved to the corner of Ninth and Main to occupy Miller's General Store after it closed.

The next building housed numerous small

businesses over the years: a barbershop, a jewelry store, a tailor shop, a beauty shop, a cigar store/pool hall, and a sporting goods store. Currently The Newsstand occupies two of the original buildings.

The Bank of Arizona filled the next spot and eventually became First National Bank of Arizona. The original teller cages, vault, and bank furniture are still used by Glenarm Land Company and Clarkdale Investments.

The corner building is the original T. F. Miller Store which was owned and operated by Senator Clark's brother-in-law who was married to Clark's sister. This was the "company" store often referred to as the place where the smelter workers and their families could "purchase" necessary items by a simple signature until payday. Selna's Grocery moved in after a few years and Fairway Foods owned by Jim Ziemkowski began business.

Many businesses came and went over the years on Main Street, but we see the same spirit of pride and ownership today with new businesses: the 10-12 Lounge, Miller's Market, Salsa de Border, Su Casa, and Main Street Grill.