

### 1: The streets and strikes of Clifton | Blackdaffodill's Weblog

*Welcome to Old Morenci on Facebook. Jump to. Sections of this page. Accessibility Help. Press alt + / to open this menu. Air Mail sent from Clifton, Oct 15,*

Here is Chase Creek Street, with my folks wandering romantically hand in hand They escaped the heat over ice cream while I reveled in it, down one of the more amazing Arizonan streets I have encountered, with buildings well loved where boarding rooms and banana splits and guns are available side by side with buildings now derelict. This place is just itself instead, still standing in spite of everything and even ready to make a come back. Though there are ruins here too! And I wondered very sadly when exactly it was that the bar shut down, El Rey, here I am in spirit! With all the attitude a bar tan cabron requires, I am sure que sigue siendo el rey aunque no mas adentro, because outside? Oh no ! I would have a given a great deal to have gotten in though! Even more for a cold bohemia. I lost all of my attitude in the jail. It was blasted out of solid rock long ago, and sits by the side of the main road with an iron gate swinging open. It is wired for light, but there are no light bulbs, so you go down about 10 steep stairs into a cave of absolute blackness! there is a small room off of which there are three cells with horrible iron doors. Using the flash of my camera I got this picture Of course, I never saw it like this, just the quickest of glimpses in the camera light, and the fear growing and growing every second. You can see nothing in the darkness, but you know the cells are there, and there is no way to know if they are empty. There is one window in the rock that lights up the cell on the right and I crept over to it, but the fear of what lay behind my back, maybe just the fear filling the whole place up like a well, kept me out! and I fought it and lost and scampered back up the stairs as fast as I could possible go. The story goes that the man who blasted it into being was the first man locked inside of it, he started shooting his gun into the air at the opening celebration after the townsfolk refused to toast him for his good work. Anyone who could think such a place was a good idea definitely deserved to spend some quality time there. The employment in Clifton all comes from the earth, from copper and gold, and the huge pit mine in Morenci only a couple of miles away. It belongs to Phelps-Dodge! funny to think that I did a great deal of work for them in the old family business of Orbis Geographics! they even now hold maps I hand colored, and never paid on time if memory serves me correctly! But here is one of the well-kept buildings along Chase Creek St. There is a long history of strikes, and a history just as long of atrocities committed by mining companies and local government against striking miners in Arizona! not that we ever learned any of it in school. One of the best resources on this is Copper Crucible: Then Jerome and Bisbee, The IWW organized and called a strike, a very successful strike. President Wilson had refused to send in federal troops at local request, and appointed the Arizona governor to mediate instead, just imagine! In Jerome, where the IWW was striking against PD, over men were kidnapped by vigilantes and held in the county jail, before being moved by train and dumped in Needles, CA. In Bisbee the strike was against the owners of the Copper Queen mine. Many then continued to be held there by the federal government for months. The cattle cars belonged to him, and he probably supplied the guns! he was indicted, but charges were dropped. And armed guards were stationed at the entrances of Bisbee and Douglas, to pass them required a passport signed by Sheriff Wheeler! so almost none of the men ever returned. You can read more here. Back in Clifton, Morenci, and Metcalf a union was again organized in the early s. Mexicans were still not allowed to hold any of the more skilled jobs. When David Velasquez began helping the Bulldozers shovel what he had once shoveled by hand he became eligible to join the Operating Engineers under the AFL. There was no possibility of rising into the better jobs. Originally they represented all miners, but racism divided the union and crafts split from it; Mine Mill became known as the Mexican union. In Mexican American veterans returning home from the war gave the impetus for a strike, seeking health benefits and equal wages for all races. Mine Mill won its first contract. It suffered constant attack from the federal government, as well as hostility from other unions who all looked to appropriate its membership. In it merged with the steelworkers. In PD announced it was laying off workers in Arizona and Texas. Negotiations began, and in July of a strike was called, and a picket line formed at the Morenci pit. Morenci is entirely a company town! workers were evicted, harassed, arrested, put under

surveillance by the Arizona Criminal Intelligence Systems Agency. Very creepy, but Arizona likes to know what dissidents are up to, particularly when they dare to stop mining. Local government was entirely on the side of PD, putting injunctions on pickets and protests. PD announced it was hiring replacement workers, and 1, people gathered at the gate to the mine to prevent it. PD shut down production. And on August 19th, , the National Guard and state troopers were called in to break the strike. They arrived with military vehicles, helicopters, tanks. They forced entry for the scabs. And that was really the end, though the strike dragged on slowly until February of 86 when the NLRB rejected the unions appeal to stop decertification. It is often seen as the great symbol of defeat for American Unions. And here is what the pit looks like now: It has engulfed the towns of Morenci and Metcalf, swallowed them up and lost them forever in the search for more copper. And I suppose you could say, for a moment, it swallowed the labor movement as well. But just for the moment.

### 2: Recollections: Herbert Young - Bisbee Deportation

*Clifton is a town in and the county seat of Greenlee County, Arizona, United States, along the San Francisco River. The population of the town was 3, at the census, with a population estimate of 4, by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity. It was a site of the Arizona copper mine strike of*

Jerome[ edit ] American Indians used copper minerals of the Verde district at modern-day Jerome as pigment to decorate skin and textiles. The first European to visit the area is thought to be Spanish explorer Antonio de Espejo , who found silver at a location in central Arizona in . Clark of Montana visited the district in , bought it, and reopened the mine. The smelter at Clarkdale was built in . After the Gadsden Purchase brought the southern Arizona into the United States in , the mine was reopened in , and shipped high-grade ore to Swansea in Wales. However, the remote desert location made mining generally uneconomic without onsite treatment. The area was mostly idle until the New Cornelia mine opened in as the first large open-pit mine in Arizona. Mining continued in the district until . The district produced 6. Clifton-Morenci district[ edit ] Prospectors from Silver City, New Mexico discovered copper mineralization at Morenci , also known as the Greenlee district in . Mining began the following year, and miners extracted and smelted high-grade copper ore until a railroad reached the district in and a concentrator made mining and processing of low-grade ore economical. Production began in after a rich discovery of copper oxide on the Copper Queen claim. The success of the Copper Queen mine convinced Phelps Dodge to buy the adjacent Atlantic claim in . Phelps Dodge later bought control of the Copper Queen and adjacent claims. Although Phelps Dodge was the largest mining company in Bisbee, it was not the only one. The Calumet and Arizona Mining Company organized in March, and operated several large and profitable mines adjacent to the Copper Queen. Mining stopped in , although the Copper Queen still offers tours. The Warren district is credited with having produced 7. The silver mines shut down in , but the following year copper mining took over. The copper deposits consist of malachite and chrysocolla as grain coatings in the Jurassic Navajo Sandstone. They were first mined on a small scale by Mormon settlers in the 19th century, then briefly in , and again . The district produced about , pounds of copper and a small amount of silver. Please update this article to reflect recent events or newly available information. November Significant active Arizona copper mines in , by order of output:

## 3: Clifton, Arizona - Wikipedia

*Souvenir of Clifton-Morenci Copper Belt of Arizona Souvenir of the Clifton-Morenci Copper Belt of Arizona: Photo-Gravures. Morenci, Arizona: S. Wallace Parrott, [ca. ]. Printed by The Albertype Co. 12 mo, pictorial white wrappers, title leaf, 16 photogravure plates.*

Ending access point Old Safford-Morenci Trail west trailhead. Turn left here, then immediately left again onto unsigned Solomon Pass Rd which becomes graded dirt and continue 8 miles to the Solomon Pass-Salt Trap Road junction. Bear left onto Salt Trap Road and follow it 1. A 4WD high-clearance vehicle may be needed for sections of the last 6 miles. Old Safford-Morenci Trail east trailhead. The road descends to the flood plain of Eagle Creek in another 5. A high-clearance 4WD vehicle is often advisable here and beyond. Parking for several vehicles is available along the roadside opposite and just beyond the trailhead sign. After the advent of the automobile in the early s, new roads were constructed along other routes. Decreasing use of the Safford-Morenci Trail resulted in little maintenance, and it became more difficult to follow. Although the trail was originally used as a pack trail for supplying mining camps in and around Morenci it is now impassable in places for horseback riders. Bonita Creek, part of the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area, is crossed about midway and makes a good primitive camping spot. Javelina, black bear, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and mountain lions inhabit this area. Numerous birds, including raptors such as golden eagles and peregrine falcons, may also be seen. Riparian areas are especially good for colorful neotropical migratory birds. Hikers can encounter prehistoric cliff dwellings, remnants of early homesteads, majestic rock outcrops, and sweeping views of the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area, the Gila Mountains, and the high points beyond. Several miles of reconstructed and expanded trail make for easier, more enjoyable passage than was once the case, and more work is planned for coming seasons. The Old Safford-Morenci Trail follows a combination of foot trail, 4WD tracks, and cross-county drainages, and features occasional brown and older green metal signs marked "TRAIL," as well as carsonite posts and cairns. With the exception of perennial Bonita Creek, only a spring in South Smith Canyon near the end of this segment should be considered generally reliable in drier times. Where the route follows drainages, expect an exceedingly rocky go of it at times, but also a wonderful sense of solitude and even the occasional section of scenic slot canyon to explore. Please note that the "official" total mileage listed for this segment, while generally accurate, may feel a bit underestimated due to the rough terrain in places. Budget your time and energy accordingly. The well-defined trail soon turns east and climbs a bit to a low saddle, then descends north into a canyon among pinyon pines and junipers. The trail soon crosses the drainage several times as it continues downhill, eventually settling on its west side. Emerge from the narrow canyon to cross a rocky wash at 1. Cairns may assist in following the trail, such as where it turns sharply right less than 0. Cross the drainage again at 1. The route now follows a wide track, soon passing a potential dry camp at right among the pinyons. The track crosses the drainage three more times, then climbs out on the left with rocks lining the sides of the meandering treadway. Passing over the berm of a dry stock pond 2. Turn left northeast onto the road. Westbounders, look for the wooden sign at right as the road reaches the drainage. The 4WD road undulates northward in pleasant, open country, passing a couple of tracks that head off at right. The second track waypoint leads over to the corral and stock pond partially visible eastward, an unreliable source. Following a steep descent, reach the wide wash of Johnny Creek and a Safford-Morenci Trail sign at 3. A de facto vehicle camping area is ahead a short distance along the road, with live-oak shade. Our route turns right east , rejoining foot trail, first in the wash then along its banks. But watch carefully for where the trail frequently crosses over the creek as well as where it occasionally climbs away for a short spell, for example to avoid a low cement dam across the drainage at 4. As of this writing constructed trail continued to 5. The wash remains very rocky, so expect a sub-2mph hiking pace through here. Ahead, the canyon features several minor slots that occasionally hold pools of water. Beyond the slots, watch for a trail sign and cairn marking where foot trail leaves the drainage at left milepoint 6. Descend sharply back to the canyon bottom at 6. Here a constructed section of trail avoids the rocky wash in favor of the more subdued north side of the canyon bottom, following the flood plain east. It passes an old

3-sided stone structure, where it enters a mesquite bosque and turns more northerly, then comes to a signed junction at 6. The final jaunt to the cabin is more of a cross-country walk through the riparian forest. Continuing on the Safford-Morenci Trail, ford the normally gentle, ankle-to-shin-deep flow of Bonita Creek. The creek setting is very attractive in its corridor of cottonwoods, willows, and sycamores. As of this writing, a carsonite post marked the continuation of trail beyond the crossing. The trail then joins an overgrown roadbed, before entering a grassy, sycamore-shaded, camp-friendly flat. Here find a way through the brush, remaining at the edge of forest, to a confluence with the drainage of Midnight Canyon at a metal TRAIL sign 7. You may note a small cliff dwelling on the canyon wall to the northeast, actually a prehistoric granary; the cliffs are now too fragile to permit up-close inspection. The canyon eventually narrows to a slot and becomes quite dramatic, with red-rock conglomerate walls occasionally only a few feet wide. The steps also serve to contain pools of water in wetter times. Beyond the slot, turn left north where the drainage forks waypoint and follow the wash to a 4WD crossing, at 8. Keep straight at the junction with signed Christensen Rd at 9. Bonita Rim Rd to. The well-graded trail ascends with occasional switchbacks to the head of Midnight Canyon. Trail crews have done a commendable job in smoothing the way through this surpassingly rocky landscape, although the trail tread will be difficult to keep free of brush without more frequent use. Reach the broad ridge of Turtle Mountain by an open gate at. Nearby you may find the memorial to Albert Bellmeyer, a pile of rocks marking the spot where he was ambushed and killed in by Apaches for grazing cattle on Indian land. Bellmeyer may have been killed by the legendary Apache Kid, whose own gravesite the G. The trail proceeds southeast into the head of South Smith Canyon, at first with views eastward toward Morenci Mine and the distant Mogollon Mountains. Initially the trail follows the south bank of the drainage, then meanders back and forth in the drainage bottom as it widens down-canyon. Although very cobbly as elsewhere and somewhat slow-going, the canyon bottom is enjoyable for its low, shady canopy of oak, pinyon pine, and juniper. A carsonite post may indicate where the trail reenters public lands at. The trail becomes a wide, rocky track soon before a side canyon joins from the left at. Singletrack trail resumes below the fork, but ends back at the old road by a metal sign and cairn, just west of a metal stock tank and trough which sometimes has a bit of algae- and insect-bespangled water. Another canyon merges, this time from the right, at. You may also find pools and some flow where the trail crosses the drainage below. Just beyond, at. Continue down the rough 4WD track, with views ahead to the Morenci Mine. Pass through a gate by a trail register, less than yards before reaching the Old Safford-Morenci Trail east trailhead on Black River Road milepoint.

**4: 67 best Clifton/Morenci images on Pinterest | Arizona, Small towns and Scrapbook**

*A photographic view of Old Morenci, which is now placed, along with blogs and other photos, on the Morenci Pals site for former and current Morenci, Clifton and Greenlee residents, to enjoy.*

Set against a desert backdrop, with an imposing river, and a nearly abandoned historical district, the small mining town conjures images of the old Wild West. My grandfather Romulo was the last Miranda to live permanently in Clifton, and he moved away for good in 1915. The family house remains in the town, just behind the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in the Chase Creek section of town. The Family House since the late 1800s. Clifton is the county seat of Greenlee County, Arizona and one of the oldest continuous mining communities in the Southwestern United States. Another theory is that the town was named for an early prospector named Henry Clifton. Both oral history and a review of historical newspapers from the area, Clifton had a reputation as a raucous frontier town, with little in the way of law and order. Census data, Clifton had a population of about 1,000 people in 1880 and peaked at just under 5,000 people in 1900. Today the population is estimated at a little more than 3,000 people. Greenlee County Historical Society Throughout its history, Clifton has been tied to three major themes: The original copper smelter was located in the town of Clifton, but copper operations in Clifton and neighboring Morenci has been managed by several mining companies, including: Open-pit Mine North of Clifton For much of its history, the Clifton-Morenci mining district was one of the largest producers of copper in the world. During times of high copper prices, Clifton experienced population and building booms. Conversely, when prices dipped, so did the fortunes of the town, leading to population exodus and labor issues. On several occasions throughout its history, the smelter was even closed due to the low prices of copper. Everything changed when the Phelps Dodge Corporation decided to abandon underground mining for open-pit mining in the 1920s, which sealed the fate of neighboring Morenci. The town was eventually swallowed up by the open-pit mine in the 1920s, leaving Clifton to stand alone. Operations continue at the open-pit mine north of Clifton, and the mine today remains the largest producer of copper in Arizona. They were also paid by the hour, whereas Anglo miners were paid by the day. Finally, the Mexican workers were not permitted to unionize, meaning they had little chance of improving their working conditions, hours, and salaries. When Phelps Dodge decided to cut the workday from 10 hours to eight hours in 1917, the Mexican workers lost 25 percent of their salaries. The Arizona Territory authorities appealed to President Theodore Roosevelt for help, and the President responded by sending federal troops to put down the strike. Torrential rains, leading to a major flood, helped put a stop to the strike, and federal troops later arrested some dozen strike organizers. End of Strike Another major strike occurred in late 1917, when miners in Clifton, Morenci, and Metcalf walked off the job to again demand equal pay as well as better working conditions. The strike lasted more than four months, and was ultimately resolved in February 1918 when then-Governor George W. Hunt agreed to mediate between the Detroit Copper Company and the unofficial Mexican-American mine associations that organized the strike. In December 1917, Manuel Lucero was one of 22 strike participants ordered to appear at the district court in Tucson. This strike was ultimately successful in that the Detroit Copper Company agreed to a sliding wage scale that was tied to the market price of copper, meaning that workers received higher wages while copper prices were high. The article at right is from the February 4, 1918 Copper Era newspaper is a letter describing the end of the strike and includes the signature of Manuel Lucero. In his book, *Corridors of Migration*: While not directly related, see the Bisbee Deportation of Clifton and Morenci men made up the estimated 10,000 Mexican-Americans that served the United States armed services during the war. Despite their service including many officers, they returned to the prejudices and unfair labor practices that continued in the Clifton and Morenci mines. And yet, war became the catalyst for bringing about change. The first Latino mining union was formed in the years following World War II and finally abolished the dual wage system and established a series of first-time benefits for Mexican-American workers. Unfortunately, there is not a happy ending. On July 1, 1980, the existing contract between the 13 unions representing copper miners at the Morenci open-pit and the Phelps Dodge Corporation expired. Workers at the mine walked off the job, while the union heads entered into collective bargaining discussions with Phelps Dodge. The early 1980s were tough times for copper, and prices had hit historic

lows. In recognition of this, union leaders offered to accept a three-year wage freeze, but demanded cost-of-living increases tied to the rate of inflation. Phelps Dodge never blinked. Following confrontations between strikers and company officials in August that temporarily closed the mine, then-Governor Bruce Babbitt ordered the national guard into Clifton and Morenci, inundating these twin sleepy mining communities in Southeastern Arizona with tanks, helicopters, and armed soldiers. While this ostensibly kept the peace, the strike continued until Scabs eventually crossed lines, pitting families and friends against each other. For some labor relations scholars, the Arizona Copper Strike became a symbol for the decaying power of unions in the United States. Historical newspaper articles chronicling the floods describe how the town was virtually wiped away on several occasions. From these articles, it appears quite clear that the , , , and floods were the most devastating. It washed away many buildings and moved the railroad track. As noted above, the flood was largely responsible for ending the copper strike in Clifton-Morenci. Clifton Flood of Courtesy: According to Patton, the total damage caused by the flood was so great that there was much talk of abandoning the town altogether. Of note is the description of damage to several properties owned by my GGG step-grandfather, Romulo Chavez, a successful merchant and landowner in Clifton and a leader of the Mexican-American community there. In the end, after assessing the overall damage, the town leaders came together and worked with the copper company to build flood walls. There was another moderately damaging flood in and then not again until , which destroyed homes and 24 businesses and prompted town officials to install a flood-warning siren. Main Street after the Flood Courtesy: According to the USGS report, between 6 and 11 inches of rain fell in Southeastern Arizona causing the river to overtop the flood walls. The flood destroyed 90 homes and 41 businesses, although there was no loss of life. Many locals in town have since claimed that despite no loss of life, the town never recovered from the physical devastation. Thankfully, there have been no major floods in Clifton since the flood.

**5: Morenci Copper Mine near Clifton, Arizona. A Travelling Days Website**

*Clifton also can serve as a base for exploring other nearby spots, such as the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area, and the nearby towns of Duncan, Ariz., and Silver City, N.M. The town has the Blue Door Sanctuary, a bed and breakfast in an historic mission church, Morenci Motel and Rode Inn.*

It is one of the largest mining and processing complexes in the world. Fortunately, many excellent books and articles are available that tell the story of its discovery and development, the many important people involved, and the technological innovations made there. This overview provides only an introduction. The Longfellow Mining Company was formed in 1872. A mining camp was established in 1873 at what was to become the town of Metcalf. Steep inclines were built to lower ore cars from the mines on the high slopes to Chase Creek. A smelter was built in Clifton, Arizona in 1874. In 1875, the Coronado Railroad, a 20 inch, baby gauge, was constructed to link the base of the Longfellow Mine incline to the smelter. In 1876, a steam engine replaced mule power. The railroad continued to operate until 1880. In these operations were sold to a Scottish firm, the Arizona Copper Company. Copper prices dropped sharply in 1881 but a low-cost process for leaching and precipitating copper from waste tailings saved the day for the company and paid off the mortgage. As ore grades decreased, lower grade sulfide ores were successfully processed in a new concentrator built in 1882. In 1883, the company built a large concentrator to process ore from its Humboldt Mine. A new smelter was built south of Clifton in 1884. Initially, the mines only operated for a short time, but they were successfully reactivated. By 1885, the company needed funding to build a smelter. Phelps, Dodge, and Company of New York was approached for a loan. In 1886, after an examination of the properties was made by Dr. James Douglas, the loan was granted and the smelter built south of Clifton. In 1887, the smelter was moved to Morenci. In 1888, the company constructed the first concentrator in Arizona. The plunge in copper prices caused the operations to shut down in 1889. When prices improved, another new concentrator was constructed in 1890. It was unsuccessful at treating sulfide ores. The railroad operated until 1891. James Douglas as President. Mining started north of Metcalf in 1892. In 1893, its smelter started operation south of Clifton; however, the rich ores feeding the smelter were quickly exhausted and it shut down within the year. A concentrator was built in Clifton in 1894 and the smelter resumed production. The ore reserves at its mines were depleted by 1895. With the collapse of the copper price in 1896, the company was sold to the Arizona Copper Company. Labor strife shut down all of the companies in the district during 1897. Unfortunately, this was during a period of high copper prices. The end of World War I brought the collapse of the copper price that affected all of the producers. The underground mines in the Metcalf area, with the exception of the Coronado, shut down for good. The mining and processing operations seen today reflect the many changes that have taken place at Morenci since Phelps Dodge gained control of the district in 1898. During 1899, an extensive exploration program revealed the large, low grade deposits now being mined. By 1900, all underground mining had ceased. In 1901, overburden stripping began for the Morenci Pit. Power shovels loaded haul trucks. Rail haulage of ore was introduced from the pit to a new concentrator built in 1902. The pit continued to expand eventually necessitating the abandonment of the old Morenci town site. The result was the new, modern town of Morenci located two miles away. In 1903, an exploration program was begun in the Metcalf area. The Metcalf Pit was started in 1904. The Metcalf Concentrator was constructed in 1905. The two pits merged in forming the huge pit area seen today. In-pit crushers feed an extensive conveyor belt system that delivers ore to the concentrators.

**6: Clifton Morenci High School Reunion – Ron A. | The Vietnam War | WITF Stories**

*Copper mining in Arizona, a state of the United States, has been a major industry since the 19th century. In Arizona was the leading copper-producing state in the US, producing thousand metric tons of copper, worth a record \$ billion. Arizona's copper production was 60% of the total for the United States.*

Clifton, Arizona – Mining Copper Through Thick and Thin Clifton, Arizona, Clifton, a once booming frontier mining town in southeast Arizona, has suffered through labor strikes, the ups and downs of mining and floods, yet still survives and is the location of one of the worlds largest deposits of copper. Near the confluence of the San Francisco River and Chase Creek, and the birthplace of noted Apache Geronimo, Clifton was founded a year later in 1857. As the claims grew so did the mining companies. Other area mining companies that would be created in the area were the Arizona Copper Company and Detroit Copper Company. Only one of the ten original locomotives remain in Clifton, the Copper Head, retired in 1954 and on display next to the Clifton Cliff Jail. Speaking of which, as the area boomed, like with many mining camps, so did crime. The Lesinsky brothers had the jail built into the side of a solid granite cliff, approachable only by climbing up the side of the cliff. Varela, using a pick and drill, along with blasting powder, created two cells in the building, one of them a small room for the more violent prisoners, the other a larger eight by twenty foot room for the others. Both had iron bars two inches wide and three fourths of an inch thick, with iron doors and two windows, ten feet above the floor. According to local legend, as Varela celebrated the completion of the jail he got drunk and shot up a dance hall, which resulted in his arrest and being the first prisoner of his new achievement. In the Shannon Copper Company built another smelter on what is now known as Shannon Hill, to refine ore from the nearby mining town of Metcalf. Prisoners had to be pulled out a small window high in the roof and the jail was left filled with mud and debris. Known for its thermal springs that fed directly into the building, the business had a steady flow of patrons, which benefited other businesses in Clifton as well. A rich social life sprang up, compared with that of larger cities. Attractions included theatres and opera houses which drew renowned talent to their stages. So it was not surprising that voters selected Clifton as the seat of the newly formed Greenlee County in 1891. A new courthouse and jail were completed in 1892. It was also around this time that Clifton peaked in population, with census numbers indicating 5,000, however it was likely more as numbers for Mexican and Chinese residents varied according to who was counting. In the years leading up to many of the mining operations were consolidated and firmly under the control of the Phelps Dodge Corporation, which had been a part owner in the Detroit Copper Company. Although the Stock Market Crash of 1929 ultimately resulted in the mines closing for 4 years, open pit mining brought back yet another boom and continued copper mining to this day. Clifton, Arizona Depot Although there had been flooding in the past, few were as severe as the floods of 1891 and 1907, both of which did severe damage and hurt the local economy. Each time however, the people of Clifton have persevered. Also, Clifton and nearby Morenci are the setting for the Arizona Copper Mine Strike of 1903, which lasted nearly three years and resulted in the the governor calling in the National Guard, replacement of most of the striking workers and the largest decertification of Unions in U.S. While the downtown was primarily abandoned during our visit in 2010, there has been talk over the years of trying to bring life back to the district, much like Bisbee did.

**7: Tales From The Crypt**

*Merry Christmas to all, and hope you enjoy our trip though Old Morenci.*

There are two Duncan cemeteries, not differentiated on the Death Certificates. There are some cemeteries that seem to be known by several names, and conflicting numbers of burials listed. The County, the 14th in Arizona, was created in and named for Mason Greenlee, an early settler in Clifton, the county seat. It was formed from part of Graham County, which opposed the formation because it would lose considerable revenue. This came from claims, mines, and large scale copper mining, which began in . In most mines were consolidated into the Arizona Copper Company, which later was taken over by Phelps Dodge Copper Mining Company, which had developed its own mining and smelting interests in Morenci. This is a major employer in the region today. Greenlee is one of only three counties in Arizona without an Indian Reservation. A fascinating glimpse of early deaths in this copper mining area began to emerge, as well as some unsolved mysteries. The person filling out the forms had a choice of race of the deceased: White, Black, Mexican, Chinese, and Indian. Many of the early certificates left the place of burial blank, or it was written in illegible handwriting. You can sense someone holding their nose in this entry: Probably died one month before. Coroner was ill and owing to decomposition, immediate burial was necessary. Reading thru these Death Certificates is like turning the pages of a history book to read glimpses of life in a mining area almost years ago. Demographics shown in the Death Certificates for the early s revealed about 90 percent of the burials were Mexican, many from Mexico. One Internet article stated: Mute evidence of many deaths of young children from diseases such as diphtheria, typhoid, dysentery, measles, whooping cough, cholera, enterocolitis, and gastroenteritis were recorded. Some causes could lead to speculations about the circumstances. A 4 year old boy died of 2nd degree burns on his arms, face, chest and legs in . An infant died of syphilis, no father. Many infant deaths listed no physician. All this suggests that poor or non-existent medical treatment in that mining era was possibly contributing to deaths of children and others. Many burials had no undertaker listed, were they buried by parents or family? An Internet article said that during World War I an influenza epidemic claimed many babies in the Morenci area. Families would take the small victims at night and bury them in the narrow spaces near graves of kin. Was this possibly to avoid being quarantined and miss work? I did not notice an increase in infant deaths on the Death Certificates for this time period; many may have gone unreported and unrecorded? Life in a mining town was often fatal for adults, too. A big event in Clifton must have been a shoot-out in July, , between a deputy sheriff and a Mexican. Both died, and their Death Certificates followed one another. A stockman from Texas was killed by a fall from his horse. The incline was 3, feet long and 1, feet high and ore was transported to the smelter near Metcalf. Some were Italian, some Mexican, some white, and they were buried in many of the area cemeteries. Was 70 years old. In Morenci one cemetery was located by the Arizona Central underground mineshaft. If someone died in the mine, coffins were stored nearby, No embalming was done, but there was a window in the lid. The family would be called and the custom was to stand the coffin up so they could have a last photo taken with the deceased! Supposedly this created a problem once when two men were courting the same girl, and then she married someone else. When they stood the coffin up on a chair, it was knocked over a big wind. The superstition arose that the suicide would never rest until the other jilted suitor was dead. Is this just a tale or did it really happen? The records of the time are silent. A cemetery at Metcalf Mine was moved to Clifton in and the graveyard at the Arizona Central shaft where coffins awaited victims of mining accidents was moved to East Plant site in New Morenci in . Are bodies really there, or were just the headstones removed, and actual graves buried under tons of slag. A reconstructed list of burials is on the Internet, from a photograph of the 2-ton monument which had marked the cemetery and later disappeared. Some mysteries emerged from Death Certificate research. The rest of the town was either blasted away in expansion of the open pit mine or buried under tailings piles. Some burials went back to ; no one has been buried there since the s. I have sent files of these burials to Neal. A query to the local historical society in Clifton is as yet unanswered. I suspect it was one by the mine shaft. An area of future research will be to look at Death Certificates between and to see when

the use of Fraternal Cemetery was stopped. Also, a personal visit to the area may answer some questions, if the historical museum is open. The Find-A-Grave site shows a number of small family cemeteries, possibly on ranches or homesteads. Some are individual gravesites, such as one for Ike Clanton of O. Corral fame in Tombstone and a woman. Most of these little cemeteries have no records of who is buried there. However, one burial in the Death Certificates was a 65 year old Mexican goat herder from the Nelton Ranch on the Gila River and buried there. It may be the unknown Eagle Creek Road cemetery mentioned on the Internet. This photo inspired my Greenlee County research. Tom Gilleland To summarize, looking at Death Certificates for Greenlee County provides much of interest as well as a way to possible locate forgotten, derelict cemeteries. There is no set year for the research to end. I began in I continued until it became apparent that there were no more clues to lost graveyards or burials, around , though I jumped to to see if Fraternal Cemetery was still listed, which is was not. Sometime I will continue research in the years between and , to see when the listings for Fraternal Cemetery actually ceased. The records go from thru for some counties, which pretty well covers the period of early graveyards and cemeteries and their establishment, use, and possible abandonment, for APCRP members to find again! Why not consider trying research in an area where you live? And, finally, to Neal Du Shane for his patience in helping me set up Document files, making useful maps, and checking out cemetery locations and related information. When a visit can be made to this remote county, possibly I can update this research!

**8: Clifton, Arizona | The Greene & the Miranda Families**

*In 1881, the company built the Morenci Southern Railroad to connect Morenci to the Arizona and New Mexico Railroad at Guthrie. The railroad operated until 1887, Phelps, Dodge, and Company became the Phelps Dodge Corporation with Dr. James Douglas as President.*

Contact By Robert A. Hunt Army scouts were on the trail of marauding Apaches, but the elusive renegades were always a step ahead. The soldiers were tracking them up a small stream in a narrow canyon, later named Chase Creek. One of the scouts, Robert Metcalfe, noted that the water in the canyon was heavily mineralized and tasted foul. He observed that the canyon walls had copper out-croppings, and there were indications of primitive mining. Having had mining experience in New Mexico, Metcalfe was familiar with identifying promising mineral deposits. The hostile Indians were his first priority, so he made note of the location, vowing he would return. That he did, along with his brother James and a party of adventurous miners and businessmen eager to prospect for valuable metals. Mining companies were formed and many claims were staked out and developed. The largest mine at the time was the Longfellow, which was about three miles up Chase Creek Canyon. Businessmen Henry and Charles Lesinsky owned many claims and their success helped Clifton grow quickly as they expanded their mining and smelting operations. Experiencing limited smelting success with their first adobe furnaces, in the Longfellow Copper Mining Company built a larger and more efficient smelter where Chase Creek emptied into the San Francisco River. The Arizona Copper Company purchased the Longfellow group in 1887, and continued expanding and making improvements to the smelter complex. The Arizona Copper Company, headquartered in Scotland, built a new smelter in 1888. It was located two miles south of Clifton and replaced the Chase Creek facility. It incorporated modern smelting techniques and improved the air quality in town. Many businesses grew and flourished. Businesses in town benefited from a steady flow of patrons ready to spend their hard-earned wages. Its opera houses and theatres welcomed national and world renowned talent to its stages. With the creation of Greenlee County in 1891, voters soon selected Clifton as county seat. The courthouse and jail were completed in South Clifton in 1892, making the town the center of local government. In 1893 a new state highway, known as the Coronado Trail, was completed, connecting Clifton to Alpine and beyond. It gave people greatly expanded opportunities to travel and enjoy the beauty of the area. The proud history of Clifton is centered on mining. Copper is the life blood of the town and the incredibly rich ore body is still flourishing, even after plus years of nearly continuous operation. Photo courtesy of the Greenlee County Historical Society. Where the Trail Begins Clifton smelter circa 1888 The trusty burro was widely used for many years, as the one seen here. The section of town was an important social and economic center for the community and district.

**9: Visit Clifton, Arizona - art, wine, culture and history**

*Two other towns - Metcalf and Old Morenci - have been swallowed up by the pit. And Clifton still has people who love it for what is and for what it was. Al, 92, and Harriett have lived in Clifton.*

Journal of Arizona History 18 Summer In all its outward aspects the episode was a paradox that caught the whole Territory by surprise. The Western Federation of Miners, active in Arizona since a labor-management confrontation at Globe in , had not gained a foothold in the Clifton-Morenci district. There was no apparent labor organization and in view of the preponderant number of alien Mexicans in the area, the strikers could expect no support from the Union. Yet, where the WFM had not succeeded thus far in staging a successful strike on a large scale, the Mexican workers at Clifton managed to tie up the whole district. In fact, the conduct of the walkout revealed a sense of unity and a power of decision notably lacking in the activities of the predominantly Anglo WFM. The strike failed through a combination of circumstances that nobody could have expected or foreseen, but it wrote a chapter in the labor history of the state and was a landmark in the painful upward progress of the Mexican workman " without whom Arizona could not have achieved industrial significance. Park, microform librarian at the University of Arizona library, specializes in the demography of the border area with emphasis on the role of the Mexican in Arizona labor history. Indian labor had proved unsatisfactory. Anglo-Americans were restless in the employ of others and tended to work only long enough to grubstake themselves. Chinese laborers, no longer needed by the railroad companies, came and went but not in significant numbers. In the villages south of the Mexican border, however, there existed an abundance of capable workers, many of them with experience in working ores of the Arizona-Sonora zone. These aliens crossed the frontier, legally or illegally, in increasing numbers both before and after the turn of the century to join the native-born work force, and little distinction was made between the two groups. An account of their origin, background, treatment and eventual rebellion throws considerable light on the labor history of the copper state. Their employment at Clifton-Morenci became important with the opening of the district in Except for a few ranches in the upper Gila, this region was completely isolated, and the environmental and social problems encountered there during the developmental years were fully as difficult as those experienced on other frontiers in Arizona during earlier decades. The nearest point of supply was Silver City, New Mexico. Military posts were too distant to offer effective protection, and renegade Apaches from the San Carlos reservation roamed freely through the region, attacking supply wagons and wood-chopping crews, and even raiding the settlement, thus adding to the problems of inaccessibility and isolation a factor of danger that made it doubly difficult to attract and retain workmen. The Clifton ores were known to Mexican prospectors of the early nineteenth century, who reported the presence of copper in the precipitous mountains north of the Gila River. In , Henry Clifton rediscovered the ore body, but due to its remote location, he returned to Silver City without attempting to file on it. Six years later Robert Metcalf and a group of prospectors found outcrops of beautiful copper carbonates along the cliffs about two thousand feet above the bed of Chase Creek. Aware that Mexicans had a traditional knowledge of smelting, Henry Lesinsky recruited a small force with experience in copper mining, deciding to leave it to them to build and operate the first smelters at Clifton. Returning to Silver City, he was joined by Metcalf and others, and they packed into the area. During the next two or three years, according to Hiram C. Hodge, thousands of tons were worked through the furnaces, several of which were in continual operation. From to men were being employed at three to four dollars a day. From the mouth of the Longfellow Mine the mineral was carried down a steep incline to a wagon road, then hauled some five miles to the reduction works at Clifton, where Mexican workers shouldered the ore baskets and carried them to the smelters. In Henry Lesinsky improved the local transportation arrangements by building a twenty-inch railway over the route. Mules hauled the cars up the incline. During the early years, the owners used bull teams, hauling their copper miles to Kansas City and returning with supplies. A few dead bodies, and the wreck of a plundered wagon, told the tale to the teamsters who followed. In May of , this long-postponed event began to materialize with the construction of the Southern Pacific to the west bank of the Colorado. In mid-November, , the first cars crossed the river and

work resumed with the help of daily importation of Chinese laborers, over by the end of the week. Not only did the importation of coolie labor exclude Mexican workers from a great number of jobs that would otherwise have been available, but it brought into Arizona another class of cheap labor that threatened to destroy living standards already notoriously low throughout the southern part of the Territory. While the Chinese remained in competition with Mexican workers only, their presence provoked little concern among news editors and representatives of the vocal groups. But it was not long before they began to drift from the railroads into mining work. Clifton had become the busiest place in Arizona. According to an observer describing the camp during the spring of , the settlement was beginning to stretch out along the banks of the San Francisco River beneath a towering wall of red cliffs. The reduction works of the Gleason and Sweeny Mine was situated at the northern extremity of the camp, a neat adobe structure surrounded by outlying buildings and several Mexican huts. A mile below was Clifton, comprising some thirty to forty Mexican adobes forming a devious line between the cliffs and the river, and two well-constructed buildings which made up the office and residence of Louis Smedberg, superintendent of the Longfellow Copper Company. Speaking of the progress of the work, the writer said: They employ some men at the mine and works, principally Mexicans, with a considerable number of freighters and coalburners [charcoal burners] in the mountains adjacent. Butchering was done at dawn every other morning, when beef and mutton could be purchased at twelve and a half cents a pound. Mexican workers did not like to cook for themselves, yet they deplored the mess system at Clifton. In any event, their money went one direction or the other. The importance of the commissary stores during the early operation of the mines is revealed by Colquhoun, who writes: Had it not been for the stores the enterprise could not have existed. But, on account of the Apache problem, it was difficult to hold the men once they were brought into the mines. In the Apache chief Victorio broke out of the San Carlos reservation and raided the Clifton camp, driving off the mules and frightening away many of the Mexican laborers. In order to fill the gaps, more hands were imported from El Paso. Realizing the importance of the family unit in Mexican culture, Lesinsky finally decided to recruit married men with families, thus doubly assuring the company of more permanent workers since desertion was made unthinkable when loved ones were placed in a position of danger thereby. Not a single interested family group was found, however, so he chose the next best alternative, returning to Clifton at the head of a caravan of twenty-five Mexican couples who were promptly married by Superintendent Smedberg on their arrival in camp. In June of , according to a Clifton reporter, Lesinsky left on a recruiting trip, hoping to bring in seventy-five to a hundred new workers. The year before, on a similar trip, he had hit upon the idea of hiring Chinese railroad laborers, and this time he brought back a number of them. He intended, he said, to use them as wood choppers, but he was as ruthless as the railroad companies had been in putting them to work where they were needed. If occasionally a few were killed, no questions were asked, and the work went on as usual. This was accomplished in spite of the Apaches, who continued to harass the camp in the early eighties. Lesinsky alleviated the problem to some extent in when he imported a tiny steam engine capable of pulling up the grade to the foot of the Longfellow incline. Arbuckle and two Mexican helpers were assigned to its operation, which included maintenance as well as heaving the contraption back on the tracks after each of its many derailments. They even harassed the drivers hauling ore along the track between the mine and the smelters. Clifton produced 8,, pounds of copper from the Detroit smelters alone. On their way out of the hills, several of the unfortunate Orientals were waylaid and killed for the money they had scraped together. Meanwhile, where the percentage of Anglo-Americans continued to increase in other mining districts in the intermountain zone, Clifton became a predominantly Mexican community. Anti-Mexican sentiments, though no doubt felt by the Anglo-American miners there, were not outwardly expressed to any significant degree, either toward resident or alien Mexicans. The difference in attitudes at Clifton, as compared with those of other camps, was noted in the remarks of D. Sayre, publisher of the Clarion: Our Mexican fellow citizens have largely attended masquerade balls nightly in the Tip-Top hall for several nights past, and they have done their share of merrie-making for the carnival week of . Among themselves the Mexicans are kindly and orderly, but a few white men generally manage to intrude their presence on these festive occasions and not only mar the pleasure of the devotees of Terpsichore, but disturb the whole neighborhood, in the small hours of the night, by their noise. Regarding the population composition, the writer continued: The railroads,

reduction works and mines belong to the Arizona Copper Company, and hundreds of men are employed. The major part of the population in Mexican; there is a large Chinese contingent who have a strong foot-hold, a respectable sprinkling of Italians, several [Jewish] itinerant merchants. All skilled workers are white. What the population is in round numbers no one knows as the census enumerator failed to enumerate a large percentage but it is estimated, approximately, that the population is about 2, souls. The Detroit Copper Mining Company at nearby Morenci finally shut down, while the Clifton mines often had barely enough money to pay wages and none to meet payments on a million-dollar mortgage. The old mechanical means of reducing copper ore was not successful in processing the low-grade oxidized porphyry then coming out of the shafts, with the result that much of the copper content passed on to the dumps. Unable to get financial backing, he set the men to work building with reclaimed timbers and iron fittings a leaching plant capable of extracting 2,, pounds of copper a year. Production was increased forty percent and the cost of processing copper reduced two cents a pound. In regard to labor demand, the advent of the leaching plant had even greater effects. Where profits once depended almost solely on the quality of the ore, the capacity of the reduction works now became the principal factor, thus permitting increased volume to compensate for declines in copper content. Consequently, to sustain the tremendous quantities of low-grade ores flowing through the smelters and leaching plants, the number of surface and underground workers had to be doubled and tripled. By the turn of the century, the output of the Arizona Copper Company exceeded that of the entire Territory in , some 29,, pounds of copper being processed through its reduction plants during In that year, the Overland Monthly reported that the company was using the latest improved machinery. In the mine shafts, ore was hauled in electric cars from huge bins and racks to the elevators, then brought to the surface to be processed through modern concentrators, smelters, and leaching plants. The labor recruiter operating on both sides of the boundary, soon became the central figure of the period, though he was a universal outcast. He was hated by union workers for his traffic in cheap labor; he was accepted and solicited by employers only insofar as he proved profitable to them. His activities often led him beyond the limits of the law, yet never far enough to move authorities into taking action against him. The contract-labor and immigration statutes of the time were designed to apply to seaports and to overseas immigrants and could easily be evaded in Arizona since they were inapplicable to conditions along the border. The recruiter operated in violation of several of these laws. The Immigration Act of February 26, , declared void all labor contracts made with foreign immigrants prior to their arrival in the United States. It also forbade any person or company to prepay the transportation, assist, or encourage in any way the immigration of aliens under contract. While the Immigration Act of sought to control Japanese immigration primarily, its provisions applied to all immigrants. Section One stipulated that whenever the president had reason to believe that a foreign country was issuing passports enabling persons to come to the United States to the detriment of labor therein, he could refuse such immigrants entry into the country. None was designed to restrict the flow of voluntary Mexican labor across the border in any way. The Immigration Act of provided for the location of inspection stations at ports of entry along the seaboard and on the Mexican and Canadian borders. Two of them were in operation on the Mexican boundary by On account of the great length of the border and the constant remigration across it, however, the smuggling of Orientals as well as the traffic in Mexican labor went on unabated. After Mexican immigration became a matter of general concern. The rush to build feeder railroads into the copper districts and the resultant upturn in production brought thousands of Mexican workers into Arizona. Between and , the number of these immigrants was three times larger than that of the two preceding decades combined.

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