



Picketpost Mountain

Near Pinal City

Photo by Michael Clinton

Pinal City Field Trip

Sponsored by San Tan Chapter of Arizona Archaeological Society

March 9, 2022

Led by George Renner and John Dawley

Text by Marie Renner, Photos by Marie Renner, Michael Clinton, & Marie Britton

Participants from the San Tan, Rim Country, and Phoenix chapters joined for a great day in the Superior area. We gathered just outside of the Boyce Thompson Arboretum, piling 15 of us into high clearance vehicles and headed to Pinal City.

We found foundations of many buildings that are still visible along what was Main Street and into the area known as China Town.

We located the Pinal Hotel and what we think may have been the Grand Hotel.

John Dawley told tales of the life in Pinal City from a book he had found called When Silver was King.

And we found some interesting artifacts from the different periods of occupation.



A Pinal City Foundation Photo by Marie Renner



A Pinal City Artifact Photo by Marie Renner

We also found the tin smith's shop.



Remains of Tin Smith Shop

Photo by Marie Renner

We hiked along the old Perlite Rd up to the wagon wheel tracks left from the twenty mule team wagons that brought the ore from the Silver King Mine down to the mill in Pinal City. The ruts are as deep as three feet or more in some places.



Wagon Wheel Ruts Worn into Stone where Ore was Brought Down from the Mine to the Pinal City Processing Mill Photo by Marie Renner

We then followed the Perlite Road back down to Mill Hill, where the King Mill was located above the banks of Queen Creek. The foundation of the assay office is very prominent on top of the hill. Many of the foundation pieces of the mill building are visible along the creek with many piles of broken bricks, some with markings.

From Pinal City we traveled up to the Queen Creek Tunnel along Hwy 60 and parked just past the tunnel built in 1952. From there we walked down to the rock hewn tunnel that was part of the original Hwy 60 that went from Superior up to the Magma Mine and beyond to Globe and Miami. It is part of a 2.5-mile hike from Superior up along the original roadway to beyond the new tunnel.



George Renner on the Tunnel Hike along Original Hwy 60

Photo by Marie Britton



Inside the Queen Creek Tunnel

Photo by Marie Renner



Inside the Queen Creek Tunnel, Looking Out

Photo by Marie Renner



Air Vent Holes Inside the Queen Creek Tunnel

Photo by Marie Renner

Our last stop was the Historic Pinal Cemetery where we saw the plaque erected for Mattie Earp, the common law wife of Wyatt Earp.



In Memory of Celia Blaylock aka Mattie Earp
July 3, 1888 - Suicide, Pinal, A.T. [Arizona Territory]

Photo by Michael Clinton

Using photos of the original gravesite with a metal bound pair of railroad ties that were removed by the state, we were able to determine the approximate location of her final resting place that had been maintained for many years. The marker was removed because the state said they could not be sure she was really buried there. After uproar from the public, the plaque was placed just inside the new cemetery fencing.



Pinal City Field Trip Group

Photo by Marie Britton

Participants included Members of San Tan Chapter (STC), Phoenix Chapter (PC), and Rim Country Chapter (RCC) ...

Marie & George Renner	STC
Sherie & Dick Duprey	STC
Carlos & Silvia Acuna	STC
John Dawley	STC
Kevin & Debbie Maikis	STC
Reid & Larissa Pixler	STC
Marie Britton	STC & RCC
Elizabeth Winter	RCC
Michael Clinton	PC & RCC
Jolanta Sokol	PC & RCC

--- Marie Renner
San Tan Chapter
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