

TOTAL NEWS

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The History of Oatman

Oatman is a former mining camp in western Mojave County, near the Arizona-Nevada border. It's main claim to fame was a \$10,000,000 gold claim filed by 2 partners in 1915.

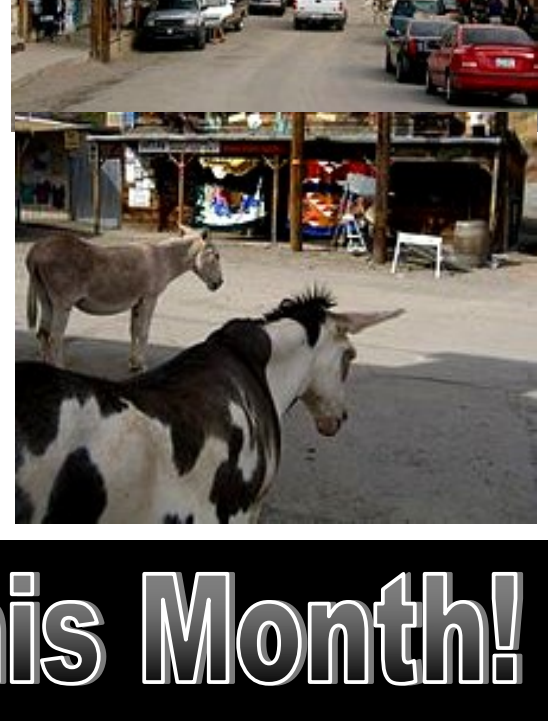
The town lost most of it's buildings after a fire in 1921, but the old Oatman Hotel survived, making it the oldest 2 story adobe in Mojave County. This is also where Clark Gable and Carol Lombard honeymooned, and it was always said Clark came back to enjoy the laid back atmosphere.

United Eastern Mines, a gold producer, and the largest employer, was shut down, and by 1941, all gold operations ceased, since there was little need of the metal. Luckily, Oatman was on Route 66, so was able to do business with travelers passing through.

Nowadays, the intense interest in Route 66, and the nearby mining town of Laughlin, Nevada, have helped to lift Oatman from the fray. There are free roaming burros in the street, to be fed with carrot packs, and the scene can be antique cars, re-enactments, side-shows, etc. It's a good place to blow off some steam!

—George Hirko

Pictured at right on top: a scene from Route 66; on bottom: burros in Oatman



T.E.A.M. Turns 20 this Month!

Hard to believe it has been 20 years. I still remember sitting in my living room with several friends trying to come up with a name. Ultimately, the name we came up with not only became a recognized brand name, but part of our operating philosophy; We became who we are and grew and succeeded as a TEAM! Over the years, we have employed nearly 18,000 people, have worked in excess of 40,000 events and accounts and have served and protected over 50 million patrons. We have made many friends and grown relationships that will last a lifetime.

I still remember the names of most of the people that worked with us when we started. It was not that many, and our very first assignment was to guard the street closures on Mill Avenue. This is back when Mill Avenue used to close off every Friday and Saturday night, and urban legends were born; many of them based on actual events. Our first large event was the Tempe Sister Cities Oktoberfest, which back then was still at Hayden Square. We are not the only ones who have grown. It would be a book, not a newsletter, to tell all the memorable moments. I was going to tell you a couple of the best ones, but Coomer insists that the statute of limitations has not expired on either one of them. At the same time, I have always said I should write a book on all the excuses why employees have called off. The best one is still the employee who called off because he had to go to his funeral. Strangely, we never heard from him again...

I was asked recently what stands out the most over the last 20 years. I had to think a few minutes about that, because there are so many things, but I think the camaraderie, friendships and professional relationships that we have formed are what matters the most to me. I have always believed in surrounding myself with the very best people, both in the office and in the field and have never made any of this about me. At the same time, we have been blessed with the very best clients that a company could hope for, and many of them have been with us on this journey for most of these 20 years.

Karen Foley told me many years ago that we would never become the best by being the biggest, but that we could become the biggest by being the best. That has always been a guiding conscience to me (well, so has Karen). I have learned a lot about people and business. I have learned that a lot of people will do anything to get a piece of business, but we have always stayed true to our values of honor, integrity and honesty. I try to remind everybody who works for T.E.A.M. that as long as you always do the right thing, you will never fail. I have learned that you might have to go through a thousand people before you meet one person who's life you change, because they just needed a chance. I always will wonder what happened with Kenny Shelman. He was one of those. I have watched employees go on to Federal, State and local law enforcement. I watched so many deploy into war, and dreaded reading the names of the casualties (fortunately, there was never a familiar name there), and watched so many grow and become somebody special in our society. I regularly run into people that say they used to work for T.E.A.M., and how it was the funnest job that ever had. (sorry Clear, I could not resist)

Over the last 20 years, we have accomplished amazing things, and the best of times are still ahead. It is impossible to get 20 years into a single article, and contrary to some of my other contributions, I am not even going to try. Instead, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our amazing employees past and present, and those who will join us in the future for the funnest job ever, our wonderful clients, and our management team, that work so hard to make sure that we keep on getting better and better. Marlies, Clear and Frank especially, who's never-ending commitment, dedication and passion for what we do carries us forward each and every day.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mary McGowne, who believed in me and gave us one of our biggest opportunities; Karen Foley, for always being my conscience and who believed in this company long before it existed, and of course my mother, whose love, support and wise advice helped me through many a dark moment. (She still believes all I do is stand on the corner of 6th and Mill and talk to the cops for a living.) No person could ask for a better mother.

—Mick Hirko

Event Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Oct 9	US Airways Center	Josh Groban
Oct 10-13	Tempe Beach Park	Oktoberfest
Oct 11	Comerica Theatre	Glenn Beck
Oct 11 & 12	US Airways Center	Disney Junior Live
Oct 17	Ak-Chin Pavilion	Jason Aldean
Oct 18	Comerica Theatre	Julieta Vanegas
Oct 24	US Airways Center	Jimmy Buffett
Oct 24	Comerica Theatre	Sasha, Benny, Erik
Oct 25 & 26	Comerica Theatre	Daniel Tosh
Oct 25-27	Scottsdale Waterfront	Art & Wine Festival
Oct 26	Heritage and Science Park	Zombie Walk 5
Oct 28	Ak-Chin Pavilion	Zak Brown Band
Oct 30	Comerica Theatre	Sarah Brightman
Oct 31	VARIOUS	Halloween

Annual Picnic

We will be having our Annual Picnic on October 23rd, and this year we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary! We'd love for you to come out and join us in our yearly shenanigans. It's a really fun time where everyone can let loose and have a good time. There will be games, good food, and drinks.

When: October 23rd
Time: 4 PM—????
Where: Clark Park in Tempe

Feel free to bring something to eat to share with the group, and bring your own drinks if you'd like.

Please call 480-829-8326 to RSVP so we know how to plan. We look forward to seeing you there!



"Fear makes us feel our humanity." - Benjamin Disraeli

Happy Halloween!



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