



For Immediate Release:
January 19, 2004

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NEW MUSEUM HAS PRISTINE SETTING, PERFECT BACKDROP

Apache Junction, ARIZ – After more than twenty years of planning and fundraising, The Superstition Mountain Historical Society (SMHS) has finally fulfilled its dreams of having its own museum in which to educate the public and display the history, legends and lore of the Superstition Mountain environs.

The new Superstition Mountain Museum is located on Highway 88 just 3.5 miles N.E of Apache Junction, which is approximately fifty miles East of Phoenix. “While the new museum building is complete, the twelve acre site will be an evolving work-in-progress as we are planning to create trails, outdoor exhibits such as our authentic 20-stamp mill and an amphitheater for our lecture series. Down the road we could see having additional buildings to house particular exhibits and to expand our offerings,” said George Johnston, President of the historical society.

What makes the Superstition Mountain Museum (SMM) even more unique is the fact that the land, the new building and all of the exhibits have no mortgage, and not one penny of which was from taxpayer or municipal entities. Many years ago museum officials entered into a shrewd business deal with a Canadian Bank who owned hundreds of acres in the area and were interested in selling. In a nutshell, the museum’s board convinced the Canadian Bank to sell them the land with little down and promised to pay it off within one year – by the way, this is the old west, where deals are done by a mere handshake. Little did the Canadian Bank know that Museum officials knew someone who was interested in the land and therefore sold it for nearly double what they promised to pay the Canadian Bank. In the end, the SMHS had a twelve-acre site for their new museum and a few hundred thousand in the bank to build it. While the SMHS was able to obtain their land and enough money to build the museum, they have, and still rely upon private and corporate donations for the operation of the building. The SMHS used nearly its entire bank balance to pay for the construction of the museum building, they are now hoping that public and corporate philanthropy will pay visit as there is still so much to do and no funds to do it.

The new SMM has an extensive gift shop with books, maps, photos, periodicals, Indian jewelry, arts/crafts and many other unique and indigenous items to the region, many exclusive to the museum.

“We hope the public will embrace the collection we’ve put together as it will help to offset some of our operating expenses,” said Shirley Keeton, Executive Director of the Museum.

There are so many things to see, do and learn about the Superstition Mountains when visiting the SMM, there is the Jacob Waltz “Lost Dutchman” exhibit with twenty-three maps on display of the famed, lost gold mine; the natural history exhibit which displays a variety of local animal and reptile life; the military exhibit, showing saddles and uniforms from the civil war to the Spanish American war; there is even a 20-stamp mill, one of only two in the country that show exactly how the miners extracted gold from quartz. The museum also offers an educational lecture series in addition to being the official “Apache Trail Tourist Center.” For all you armature and professional photographers out there, due to the natural landscape of the SMM site, there is without question, the most spectacular and unobstructed views of one of the most famous mountains in the world to shoot.

The Museum is open daily from 9am to 4pm, except Christmas. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and \$2 for children. Group rates are available and credit cards accepted.

The Superstition Mountain Museum collects, preserves and displays the artifacts, history and folklore of Superstition Mountain, Apache Junction and the surrounding region. A large part of its collection involves the Lost Dutchman gold mine, famous throughout the world. Nowhere in the United States is there an area as rich and full of legend, history and intrigue as the rugged Superstition Mountain range.

The Superstition Mountain Museum can be reached at:

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