



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center presents:

El Camino del Diablo – The Devil's Highway

Free presentation by National Park Service
Superintendent Charles R. “Butch” Farabee

Thursday March 15, 2018, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

at El Molinito Mexican Restaurant

10180 N. Oracle Rd., Oro Valley, Arizona

Contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at

info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201 for reservations*

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, El Camino del Diablo – The Devil's Highway – is a brutal, 200-mile long, prehistoric and historic route from northern Sonora to Yuma, Arizona then on to the mission areas of California. Used for at least a millennium by Native Americans, conquistadores, Father Kino, miners, undocumented aliens, and modern-day adventurers, El Camino crosses three large federal areas in the extreme

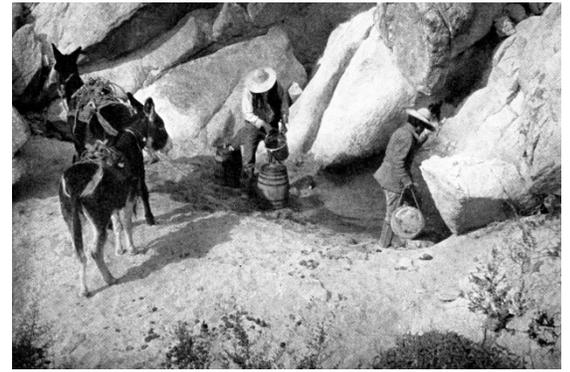
desert of southern Arizona, which is the focus of this presentation. A reputed 400 to 2,000 lives have been lost traveling along our very own, isolated and wild part of the Arizona-Mexico border, most from heat, exposure, and a desperate lack of water. Join Butch Farabee, who has driven this remote, four-wheel drive road six times, for a part history, part travelogue, and part informational overview of this fascinating but humbling area.

The early travelers of El Camino--on foot, horseback and wagon, until the first automobile in 1915 – often began in Caborca, forty miles south of the border. Leaving this then frontier village and its permanent little river, they encountered only one more certain source of water between there and the Colorado River. If lucky, however, they could find water further on, stagnating in a handful of granite rock tanks, hidden at the base of nondescript mountains along the next 125 miles. The most important of these life-sustaining pools was the Tinajas Altas. Hundreds of bedrock mortars, as well as numerous petroglyphs, pictographs and related evidence, testify to the use of this area, probably even long before Father Kino, De Anza and then, Spanish miners, passed nearby. Graves – possibly hundreds – scattered along El Camino are now mostly gone, obliterated by time, wind and sand and often, man. In Arizona, The Devil's Highway, now used mainly by the U.S. Border Patrol, traverses Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, and the Barry M. Goldwater Bombing Range, with little sections of both the State of Arizona and the Bureau of Land Management, thrown in.

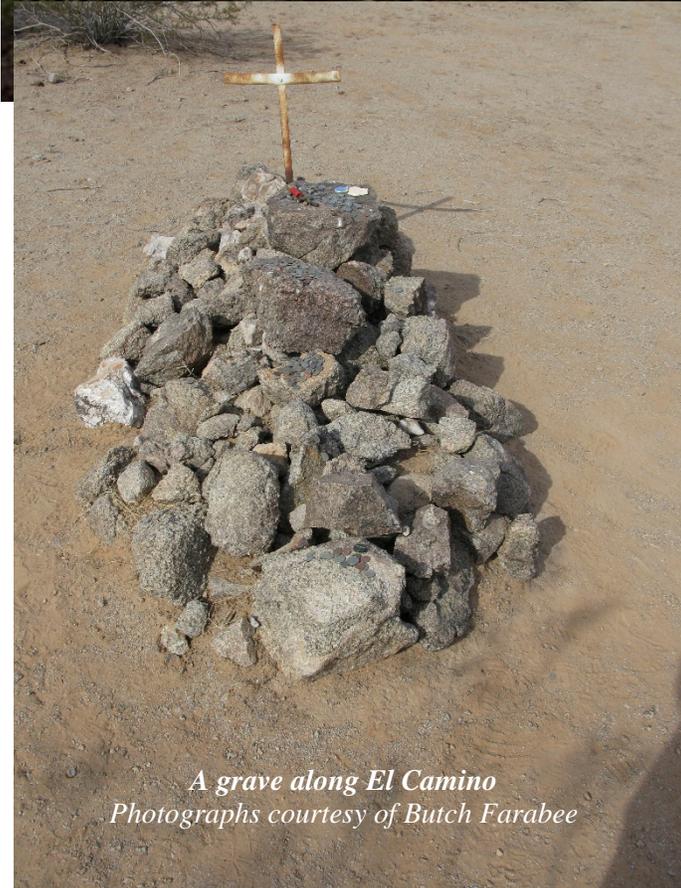
*** RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED: PLEASE WAIT TO HEAR FROM OLD PUEBLO THAT YOUR RESERVATION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BEFORE ATTENDING BECAUSE THE FIRE CODE LIMITS HOW MANY GUESTS WE CAN HAVE IN THE RESTAURANT MEETING ROOM.**

Reservations must be requested before 5 p.m. on the Wednesday before the program date. Guests may select and purchase dinner at the restaurant. There is no entry fee. Donations will be requested to benefit Old Pueblo's educational efforts.

This month's guest presenter Butch Farabee, growing up in Tucson and very active in Scouting and the out-of-doors, graduated from Tucson High School in 1960 and then the University of Arizona. He has a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and a Master of Arts in Public Administration and is a graduate of the FBI Academy. He spent 35 years with the National Park Service as a field ranger and then superintendent in 10 different park areas including Sequoia, Grand Canyon, Glen Canyon, Lake Mead, Death Valley, Yosemite, Glacier and Washington, DC. He also spent three years with the Tucson Police Department in the late 1960s, along the way, arresting local Mafia chieftain Bill Bonanno. He has four books published but is mostly just the very proud father of two sons and their families.



"Lower Tank" along El Camino del Diablo



*A grave along El Camino
Photographs courtesy of Butch Farabee*

