

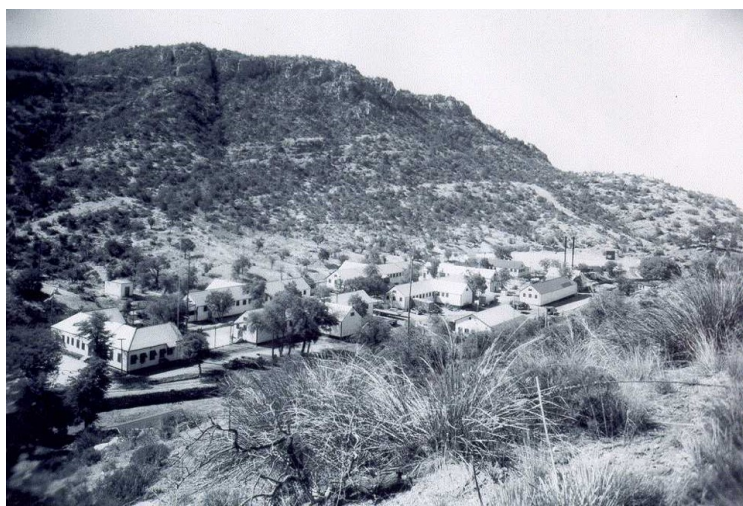
# People and Politics behind the Construction of the Catalina Highway to Mount Lemmon

Free Dinnertime Presentation  
by Archaeologist Bill Gillespie

Thursday November 19, 2020  
6 to 8:30 p.m.

at El Molinito Mexican Restaurant  
10180 N. Oracle Road, Oro Valley, Arizona

*For reservations contact*  
*Old Pueblo Archaeology Center:*  
[info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org) or 520-798-1201\*



In October 1948 the Tucson Chamber of Commerce sponsored a ceremony to dedicate the nearly complete Hitchcock Highway, named to commemorate Frank H. Hitchcock, the man whose astute lobbying efforts made the construction of the new highway a reality. After 15 years of intensive work by men from Federal Prison Camp No. 10 the 25-mile long highway was nearly completed.

As many years as the project took, spanning much of the Great Depression and World War II, it was preceded by decades of earlier, unsuccessful efforts to build a road to connect Tucson with the cool high elevations of Mount Lemmon. At various times citizen groups, county supervisors, the US Forest Service, and federal and state highway agencies strove to find ways to get the road built before 1933, when Hitchcock succeeded in negotiating a successful solution.

Join us for an entertaining and informative presentation about how the Hitchcock Highway (AKA the Catalina Highway) became an important artery of southern Arizona.

*Coronado National Forest photos:*

*Top: Prisoners excavating a road cut through an outcrop near Soldier Canyon*

*Center: Example of prisoners' workmanship at a drainage feature on the Catalina Highway*

*Bottom: 1945 overview of Federal Prison Camp No. 10*

**\* 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 can be 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.

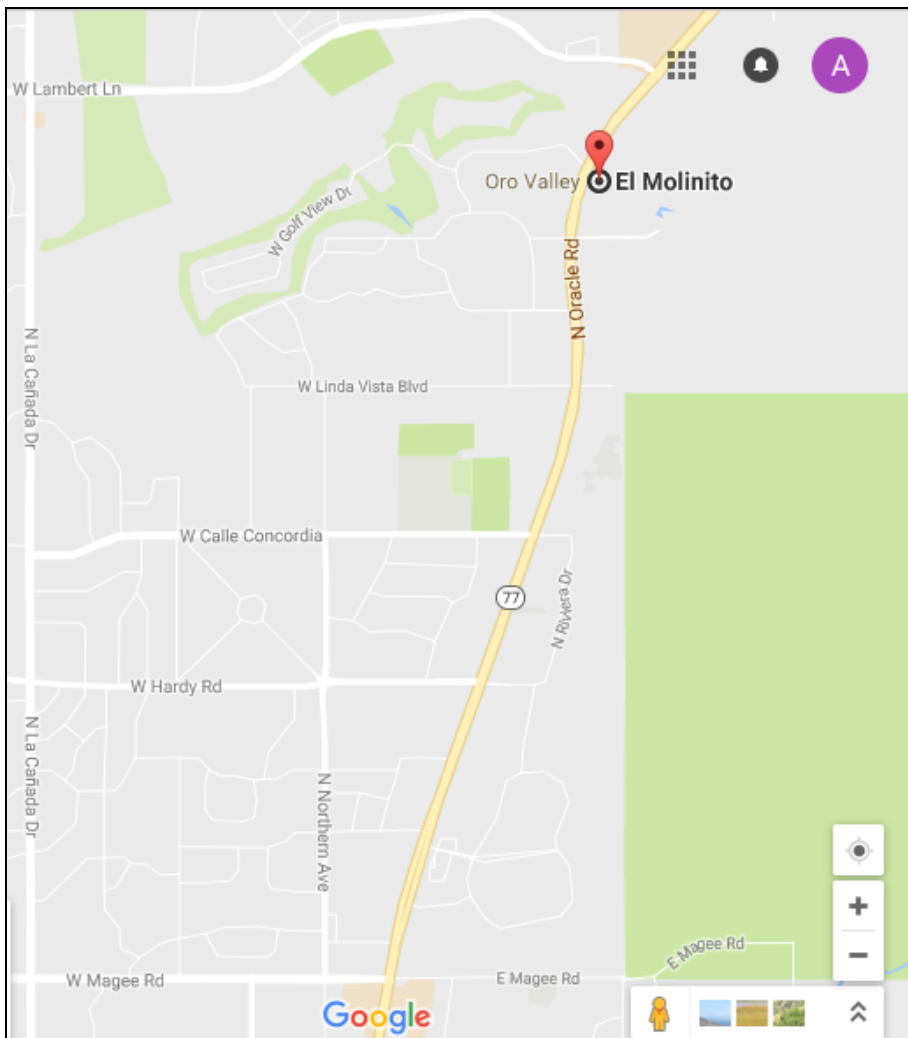
## People and Politics . . .

**This month's guest presenter Bill Gillespie** received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in anthropology from the University of Colorado at Boulder. While in Colorado he spent four summers doing archaeological survey at Mesa Verde National Park and excavating in Mancos Canyon on the Ute Mountain Ute Homelands, and subsequently he spent parts of five seasons excavating at and near Chaco Canyon National Historical Park in New Mexico. He also has excavated in Jordan and investigated recent geological processes in the eastern Sahara Desert of Egypt and Sudan, and has specialized in the analysis of animal bones from archaeological sites.

After moving to southern Arizona Bill spent 25 years working as an archaeologist for the Coronado National Forest in southeastern Arizona, eventually becoming Forest Archaeologist and Heritage Program Leader before retiring at the end of 2015. As Forest Archaeologist he was responsible for overseeing the preservation and management of the numerous and varied heritage sites on the Forest's 1.8 million acres. He also enjoys working with Arizona Site Stewards and other volunteers.



*Photo of Bill Gillespie  
courtesy of the  
Friends of Ironwood Forest*



The Third Thursday Food for Thought dinner and presentation will be held at  
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Oro Valley, Arizona

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