

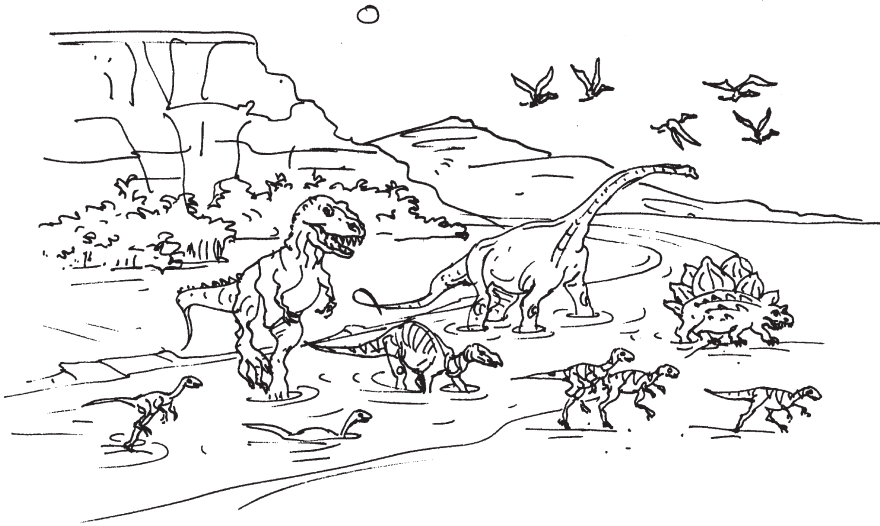
HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF FELICITY

EARLY DAYS

Scientists believe that the earth was formed 4.6 billion years ago.

Our area was quiescent during the entire pre-Cambrian period reaching back 543 million years, particularly since it was under water.

Creatures emerged on to land, and dinosaurs probably roamed through Felicity 200 million years ago. Later, mammoths and prehistoric humans may also have walked here.



THE NOMADS

Early Indian nomadic tribes included the Yumas, later known as the Quechan, and the Cocopah tribes.

THE EXPLORER

In the winter of 1540, Melchior Diaz who had left the Coronado expedition, passed Pilot Knob Mountain at Felicity. He was reportedly the first white man in the area.

THE SPANIARDS COME

The Spaniards, who had settled Mexico, were the first occupiers of the area.

All went well at first as the Chief of the Quechans in the 1770's, Salvador Palma, declared his friendship with Captain Juan Bautista de Anza who headed several Spanish expeditions crossing the area.

Palma allowed the Spaniards to cross the then treacherous Colorado River near Yuma. The Indians swam the livestock across the river for a toll of one shirt per animal.



THE YUMA CROSSING

In 1779, royal permission was given to settle the Yuma Crossing in the name of Spain, and Father Garces initiated his mission program on the north bank of the Colorado.

The Purisimo de la Concepcion Mission was built where Fort Yuma now stands, eight miles from Felicity.

MASSACRES

Spanish rule was oppressive, Indian farms were taken, the people beaten, and a food shortage occurred. On 17 July 1781, the Quechans rebelled striking two Missions and setting fire to churches and homes. The Quechans killed Captain Fernando de Rivera y Moncado, lieutenant governor of California and his men. Surviving Spaniards fled to the Pilot Knob area of Felicity.

Some Quechans took pity on the priests and gave them shelter. Their lives were spared for two days. On 19 July, a few hostiles reportedly composed of Pimas as well as Quechans, arrived at the sanctuary and demanded that the priests surrender themselves. The priests set aside their hot chocolate and, unarmed, walked out of the dwelling to meet their deaths.

THE SPANIARDS LEAVE

The Quechan revolt was ultimately successful for the Spaniards withdrew from Felicity and the Yuma Crossing. It would be 60 years before the Quechans greeted major visitors.

COMING TO CALIFORNIA

In November 1846, General Kearney with 100 men of the Mormon Battalion, entered California, crossing Felicity and the sand dunes to reach Warner's Ranch in December on their way to San Diego to fight the Mexicans. Following the war with Mexico, the U.S. acquired this territory in 1848.

AND MORE MASSACRES

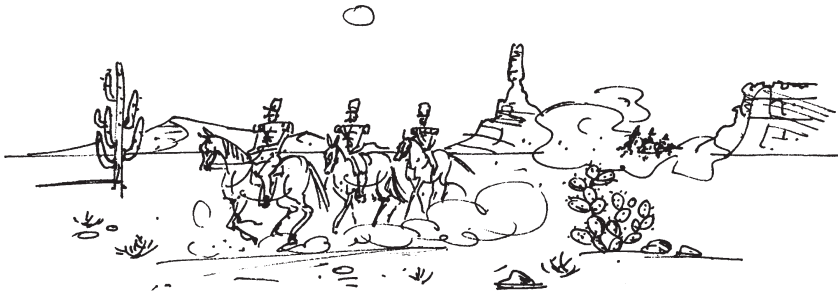
In 1850, the Yumas (now called Quechan) massacred the Americans operating the Colorado River ferry. They were suppressed by the militia called out by the Governor of California.

THE LAST INVASION

A reliable report claims that the Felicity area saw the last incursion of United States territory by a European power.

In 1865 French soldiers of the army of Emperor Maximilian crossed the border in hot pursuit of a Juarista rebels.

Upon reaching the point that is today the center of town, they abandoned the quest and returned to Mexico.

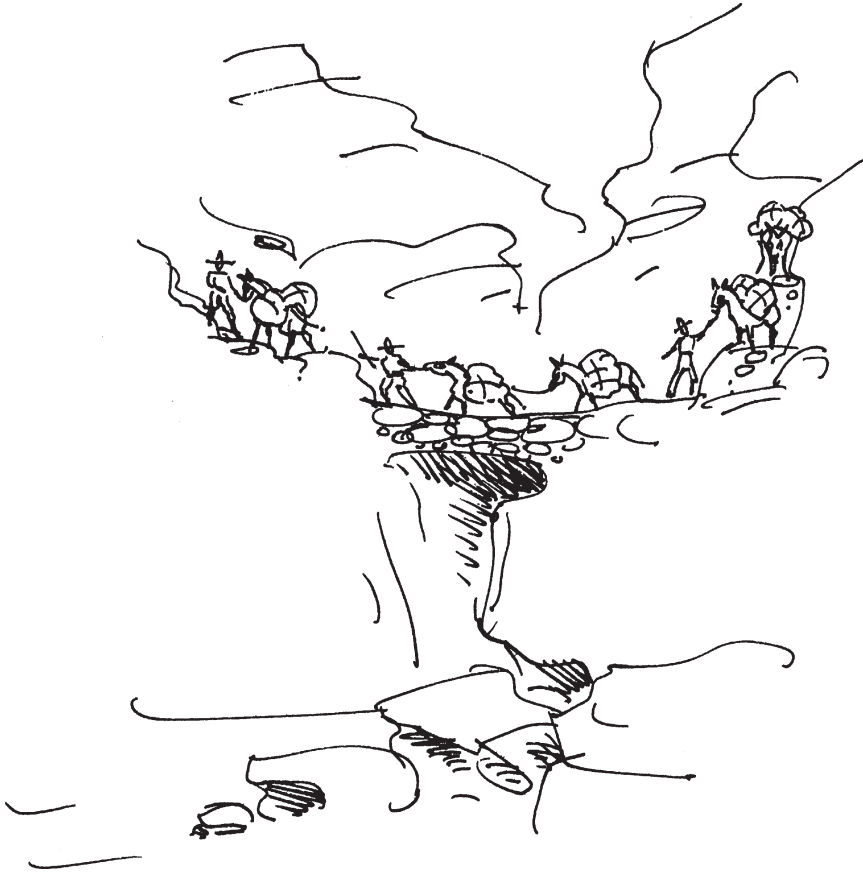


French influence at Felicity awaited the installation of Section 12 of the original stairway of the Eiffel Tower in 1990, about 125 years later.

To commemorate and celebrate centuries of friendship between France and the United States of America, a monument marking this event is appropriate.

JACKASS MAIL

During 1857, mail by mule (called “jackass mail”) was inaugurated from Fort Yuma through Felicity to San Diego.



From 1858 to 1861, Butterfield took over the overland mail including the “jackass mail” line.

Later, this line came under the control of Wells Fargo. Ruins of the adobe *stage station* are about two miles east of Felicity.

THE GOLD RUSH

In the 1860's gold was discovered in the Picacho area, northeast of Felicity. Then gold was discovered in the Cargo Muchacho mountains, adjoining Felicity. Tumco was a big producer from 1884 to 1914.

The American Girl mine, started in the early 1900's is within sight. Nearby, to the northwest the Mesquite Mine of Newmont Gold Co. is one of the largest on the continent.



HOMESTEADING

A critical historic event was the passage of the Homestead Act in 1862 by the United States Congress, offering 40 acres (and up to 160 acres per family) to any person who would settle on the land for more than a year. The idea was to shift population to the west. It was a success.

A trickle of Americans, the vanguard of a flood, came from east to west. The area was crossed by an increasing number of wagon trains bringing immigrants who settled the Imperial Valley at the turn of the 20th century. Most were Europeans, and some Swiss dairy farmers settled Holtville, California 35 miles west of Felicity.

THE RAILROAD

In 1878, Southern Pacific constructed a railroad line through Felicity to Los Angeles. In the 1880's, as Yuma settled, some persons migrated across the Colorado River to the present village of Bard, California. Today, the Union Pacific runs its double (upgraded) track main line through parts of Felicity and offered a railroad stop. The Town will build a station when warranted by traffic.

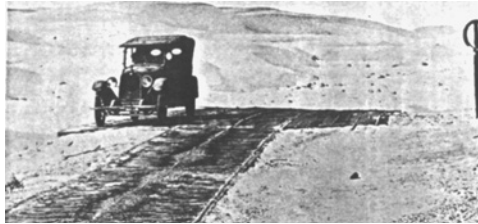
AND THE ROAD

The sand dunes, just west and seen from Felicity. Originally named Colorado Desert, then the American Sahara, they are, as part of the Sonoran Desert, the *Imperial Valley Sand Dunes*. Today they are an important recreation area for San Diego and Phoenix as well as for our region.

In 1915, with the advent of the upcoming Balboa Park Exposition, celebrating the opening of the Panama Canal, it became imperative to have a reliable and direct route from Arizona and points west to San Diego.

An entrepreneur named Ed Fletcher laid two parallel tracks, each 25" wide, spiked to wooden cross pieces for six and a half miles across the shifting sand dunes.

In 1916, it was replaced with a solid plank roadway eight feet wide. Whenever a car went off the track, the occupants had to wait until another going in the same direction contained enough men to lift the stranded car back on the track.



This famous *Plank Road* was replaced with a modern asphalt road in 1926, later named US 80 then replaced by the present Interstate 8. Vestiges of the *Plank Road* remain a tourist site just west of Felicity.

In 1997, five miles of old US 80, now a frontage road of Interstate 8 at Felicity, was renamed *Center of the World Drive* by Imperial County.

FIRST SETTLERS

THE CARLSON FAMILY

It was not until the 1920's that part of the land that is now Felicity was actually claimed under the Homestead Act by Emil Carlson, wire chief for Western Union in Yuma, for himself, his wife Olive, and for members of his family.

The Carlson family is distinguished. Part of the children's schooling took place at Ogilby, a village nestled among gold mines and just north of Felicity. The Ogilby Grammar School was a boxcar donated by the Southern Pacific. It accommodated all eight grades in the one car until replaced by a better schoolhouse in 1924, and still better in the 1930's.

Emil's youngest son Fred, bought the schoolhouse at Ogilby in 1959. He moved the building several miles to the south side of old US 80, now Felicity, making it one of the first buildings of the area. Fred, last homesteader on site, lived there until near retirement in 1974.

The eldest brother, Barrie, an accountant and noted amateur mineralogist, graciously contributed to this history. Their middle brother Kent, graduated from Stanford University and was one of the few Americans who flew Spitfires in 1940 for the British in World War II, before America went to war. He then transferred to the U.S. Air Force and died in an aircraft accident shortly after the war ended.

AND NOW PATTON

In 1942, General George S. Patton of the U.S. Army trained his troops for the North Africa landing at Felicity and points north.

On 11 November 1990, veterans of Patton's army held a reunion at Felicity, and that same year a monument approved by the State of California was erected at Felicity to record this noble phase of history.

○



KOREAN WAR DAYS

In 1952, during the Korean War, a young U.S. Marine lieutenant born in France, Jacques-Andre Istel, saw the intriguing desert and determined to buy a large site if he survived. In the late 1950's he financed the drilling of a well, discovered a wonderful aquifer, and formed a family group that bought the bulk of the township that is now Felicity.

THE ADVENT OF FELICITY

A quarter century of Istel's career was spent running his own parachute company. After selling same, he moved to the desert in 1985, and created the *Town of Felicity* named for his wife Felicia. To our knowledge it is the first town in America named for a Chinese lady. The town was legally established on 11 March 1986 by the Board of Supervisors of Imperial County (Book 258, file 220.18, page 234). In 2007, the City of Yuma, Arizona, named the Mayor of Felicity, Jacques-Andre Istel, as its first and only Honorary Citizen.

ACCESS

An early meeting with Fred Carlson led to a lifelong friendship. Some thirty years later, the Carlson homestead was added to the township as well as land from Judge F. Lewis Ingraham, thus including part of the Sidewinder exit on Interstate 8. This provides superb access to Felicity, already well serviced by old US-80 as a frontage road, now *Center of the World Drive*, and by Amtrak for train enthusiasts. Yuma International Airport, 15 minutes away, provides access by air, as does a small private strip on the property.

THE AQUIFER

The future Mayor's approach to Felicity was visionary. In 1962, he read Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" and believed her warning about pesticides. He therefore refused to farm for three decades the land that is now Felicity in order to protect the aquifer. Today, the water quality of Felicity is among the best in the southwest and far superior to that of nearby areas. No chlorine or other treatment is required in the public water supply. In 1997, Istel was appointed Water Commissioner by the County of Imperial.

THE FELICITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The philosophy is simple: "Concentrate on the quality of life". Build little, but of high quality with strict architectural standards and no debt. Eventually, plan the growth of Felicity. For this purpose the *Felicity Historical Society* was created with Covenants to ensure the attractive development of the town, now and in the future.



Even the State of California, which built the area headquarters of the *California Highway Patrol* at Felicity, could not buy land until it met the architectural standards of the *Felicity Historical Society*. The resulting unusual building is a contender for an architectural prize.

SETTING THE OFFICIAL CENTER OF THE WORLD

WITH A CHILDREN'S BOOK

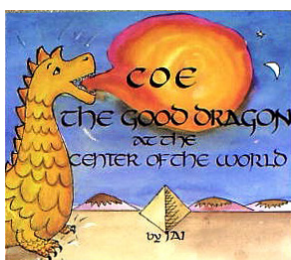
The Mayor had had some success with inventions and, desiring to fix a memorable point, wrote a children's book (now in its 7th edition) that established *The Official Center of the World*® at Felicity.

The center of the world (that is universe) could be anywhere, therefore had never been established by law. Laws are logical and the concept has no logic. Hence such a law could not be based on geography, philosophy, history, morality, or other logical reason.

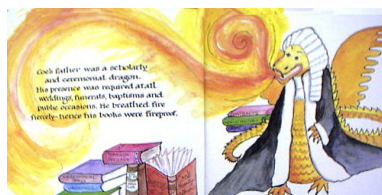
THEN BY LAW

Reasoning that a fairy tale is memorable and uncontroversial (who in the world argues that Little Red Riding Hood wore a blue dress?), the children's book *Coe The Good Dragon At The Center Of The World* caused the Supervisors of Imperial County (James Bucher, Val Blume, Louis Curiel, Luis M. Legaspi, Abe Seabolt) to establish *The Official Center of the World* at Felicity by law on 21 May 1985.

At geographic co-ordinates (Longitude: 114° 45' 55.35" W Latitude: 32° 45' 1.38" N), *The Official Center of the World* was set by law for the first time in history.



7th Edition



To everyone's surprise on 14 September 1989, the *Institut Géographique National* of the Government of France, recognized *The Official Center of the World* in writing and notified other governmental geographic institutions in Europe of their action. Indeed a United States law is owed recognition by the International Court at the Hague. There followed enthusiastic articles in scores of magazines and newspapers, and television coverage in over 130 countries.

THE FELICITY POST OFFICE OVERCOMES OBSTACLES

IN 1987, THE NEW TOWN OF FELICITY’S REQUEST FOR A
POST OFFICE WAS TURNED DOWN FLAT.

20,000 Post Offices were being eliminated as a measure of economy.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
FELICITY, CALIFORNIA
CELEBRATING
30 YEARS OF OPERATION
AT NO COST TO TAXPAYERS



The Town then offered “to operate the US Post Office at Felicity for one dollar a year.” This was accepted by the Government as a “contract station”, with proviso that the title: “United States Post Office” was forbidden.

The Town consulted the ultimate authority, Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary whose definition #1 for Post Office is “a place that sells stamps”.

Back to Washington: “You gave us the right to sell stamps, here is the definition, and we are in the United States.” Authorities probably smiled and Felicity was granted its own

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

(The sign discreetly includes the words contract station as proof of co-operation with Uncle Sam.)

A formal invitation to the President of China for the Inaugural of the United States Post Office at Felicity California, brought Chinese Consul Zhou Wen Zhong 600 miles from San Francisco. Per Mayor’s request his speech, only in Chinese, amazed about 500 spectators. 2,300 pieces were mailed on Inaugural Day.

The Postmaster General of the United States was invited to the Celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Felicity Post Office, *operated for three decades at no cost to taxpayers.* All Treasury checks of one dollar each are still un-cashed and framed.



CREATION OF THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY IN GRANITE

THE CONCEPT OF REMEMBRANCE LED TO THE 1991 CONSTRUCTION OF THE WALL FOR THE AGES®

This first 1991 monument, The WALL FOR THE AGES® includes the Hall of Fame of Parachuting, a university and school panels, as well as other memories.



HOW A MONUMENT IS BUILT

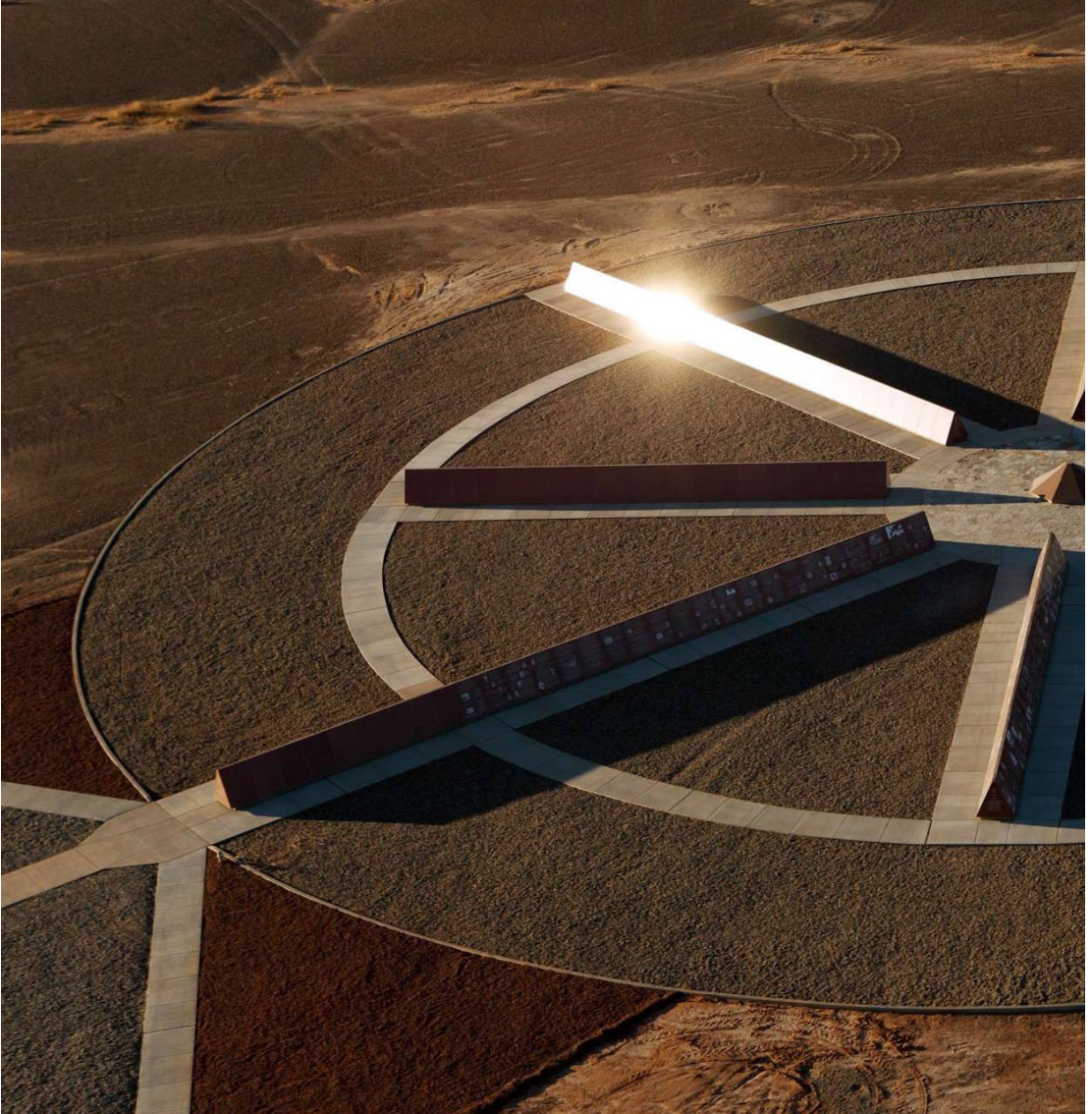
In 1990 structural engineers were given specifications of 4,000 years (no guarantees) to build an elongated, one hundred foot long, triangular granite monument. 1,960 cubic feet of 3,000 psi concrete are poured over 5,945 pounds of knitted steel installed in a three-foot deep trench.

The monument is faced with 60 panels of Missouri Red granite, each weighing 477 pounds and two triangular granite end pieces each weighing 351 pounds.

Historic text is engraved deep into the granite.



THE EIGHT MONUMENTS OF THE CENTRAL OCTAGONAL *FELICITY STONE*™



Inner triangular panels repeat the Humanity title panel text in Chinese, French, Hindi, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese and Russian.

Outer triangular panels have quotations from the Bible, Winston Churchill, Confucius, John Donne, Mahatma Ghandi, Andre Gide, Seneca, and Shakespeare.

THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY

IS A ROSETTA STONE FOR THE DISTANT FUTURE.



Inspired by Edward Gibbon (1737-1794)

**"Unprovided with original learning, unformed in the habits of thinking,
unskilled in the arts of composition, I resolved to write history in granite."**

Jacques-André Istel

THE OCTAGONAL FELICITY STONE

AT THE CENTER OF THE EIGHT MONUMENTS OF THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY
IS A “ROSETTA STONE” FOR SCHOLARS AND VISITORS OF THE DISTANT FUTURE.

In 3000 years the Egyptian language was lost, who will read English in Millennia?



On 18 May 2009, a formal Dedication with Laurent Perrier Grand Siècle champagne celebrates the construction of the monument. But what to engrave was not obvious.

The panel in English is translated and engraved in Ancient Greek, Ancient Egyptian, Latin, Chinese and Sanskrit. In 2018, two of the eight panels still await selection of languages with, perhaps, one only in mathematical symbols.



MUSEUM OF HISTORY IN GRANITE

FELICITY, CALIFORNIA 92283-7777 USA



WWW.HISTORYINGRANITE.ORG

“meticulously researched” *Los Angeles Times*

“design worth the trip” *Time Magazine*

“...no digital images could have prepared me for the tranquil, lofty sensation of standing among the monuments and looking up at the church.” *Elizabeth Starr McClintock*

17

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



This 100 foot 62 panel monument was gifted to the United States with a 100 year guarantee of no cost to taxpayers on 22 February 2014. A written A+ was received from the Director of the Global History Program at Princeton University.



A JOYFUL DEDICATION ON WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY 2014



THE MARINE CORPS KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

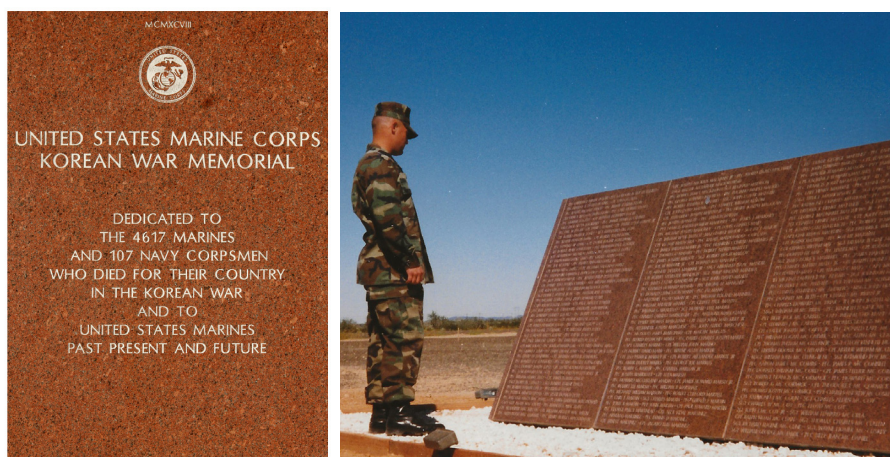
In 1997, the fiasco of a never built memorial monument intended for Normandy caused tens of thousands of World War II veterans to lose their money through stupidity and poor management. This prompted the founder to build and engrave in precisely one year, the 100 foot granite Marine Corps Korean War Memorial.

1998 DEDICATION BY GENERAL RAYMOND G. DAVIS, USMC, Medal of Honor



From left MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT MAGNUS, USMC, COLONEL EMILE GUEGUEN (FRANCE), AMBASSADOR JEAN-MARIE DAILLET, MAYOR ISTELE (LT.COL. USMCR), GENERAL DAVIS, LT.GENERAL JOHN I. HUDSON,USMC, BRIG.GENERAL WILLIAM WEISE, USMC, COL.CRAIG TURNER, USMC, W. R. HAAS, PRES., MARINE CORP SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION 1st MARINE DIVISION BAND and "C" COMPANY 5th MARINES.

Engraved are names of 4,617 Marines and 107 Navy Corpsmen who died in the war as well as Medal of Honor recipients. These were researched with great administrative assistance from Headquarters, United States Marine Corps. A two-panel history of the Korean War reflects the considerable role of the Marine Corps in the conflict.



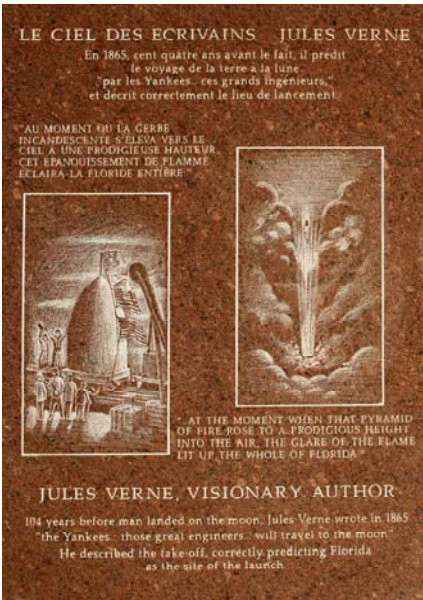
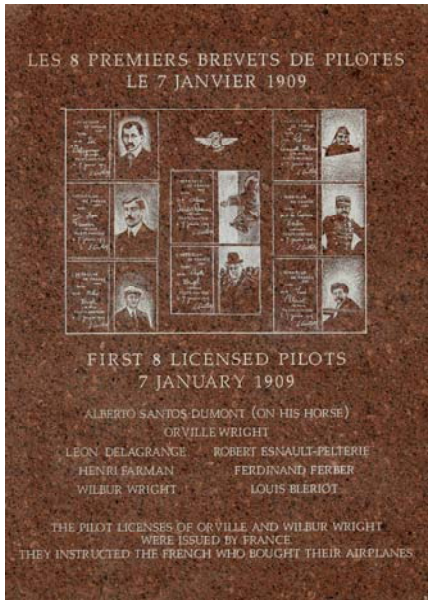
HISTOIRE DE L'AERONAUTIQUE FRANCAISE

THE HISTORY OF FRENCH AVIATION MONUMENT
WAS RECIPIENT OF AN AIR AND SPACE MEDAL IN 2003

The first balloon and first human flight in 1783 were French. As were the first seaplane, helicopter, dirigible and airport. The Wright brothers sold their airplanes in France. The world's first 8 pilot licenses, issued by France include Orville and Wilbur Wright and are engraved on this monument...



MONUMENT GIFTED TO FRANCE ON 23 MARCH 2008 and accepted by
Consul Philippe Larrieu in presence of Ambassador Jean-Marie Daillet.
In touching the monument, visitors touch France.



HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA



DEDICATION 19 MARCH 2016, IMPERIAL COUNTY SUPERVISORS
Ray Castillo and Chairman John Renison at presentation.
MONUMENT GIFTED TO STATE OF CALIFORNIA
with guarantee of no cost to taxpayers for 100 years.





THE CHURCH ON THE HILL AT FELICITY

In 2002, the 150,000 ton “Hill of Prayer”, welcoming all religions, was built on flat ground. The Church on the Hill at Felicity, Catholic and Protestant, was inspired by a chapel in Brittany, and overlooks the “History of Humanity”.



The Church was dedicated in 2008 by Monsignor Richard W. O'Keeffe, E.V. and The Reverend Arthur P. Stanley, Chaplain of Her Britannic Majesty's Forces.



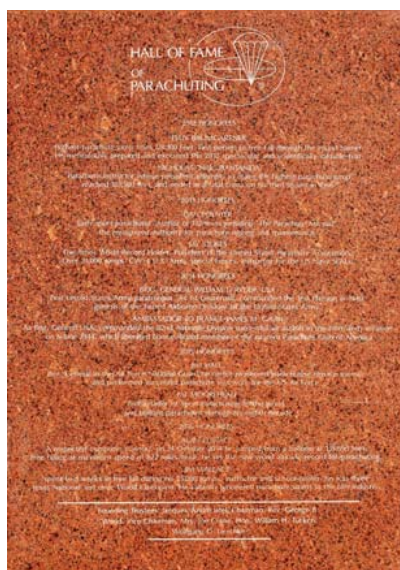
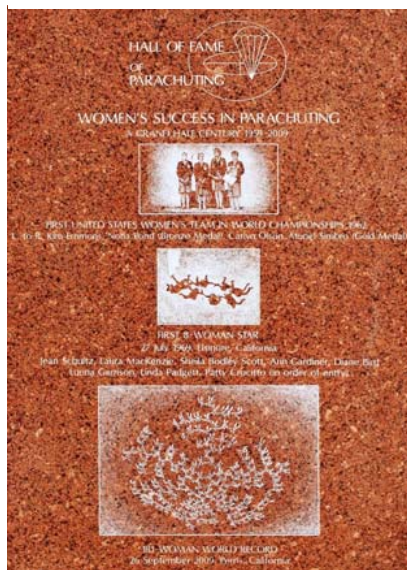
A tax deductible 501-c-3 corporation founded in 1973

DEDICATION “The act of parachuting, measured in seconds, and with mistakes punishable by death, sets a standard for education.” J.A. Istel

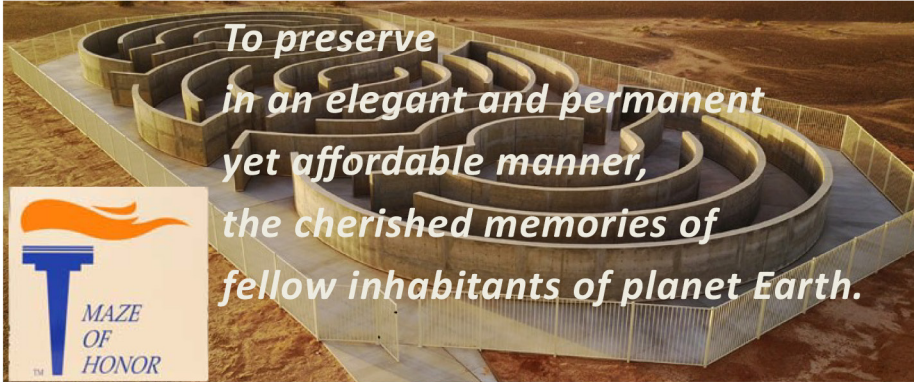
HISTORY



EACH YEAR TWO NEW HONOREES



MAZE OF HONOR™
OF THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY IN GRANITE
WWW.MAZEOFHONOR.ORG



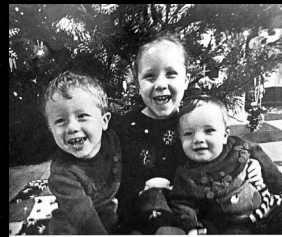
**Orianna Merer
and friend in year 2004**



FAMILY OF MARTIN AND NORA NEE
BUNDORRAGHA, CO. MAYO, IRELAND IN 1970's



Helen, Nora, Martin Sr. Seamus, Kathleen, Geraldine
In front: Maureen, Martin Jr. Pauline



Charlie, Rosie, Noah Concelly
Christmas 2015

TOWN OF FELICITY

Dedicated to Remembrance

The Town was created by law on 11 March 1986 by Imperial County.
The 15 foot Sundial's gnomon is a bronze three-dimensional interpretation of Michelangelo's "Arm of God" which points exactly to the center of the Church on the Hill at Felicity at noon on Christmas Day.



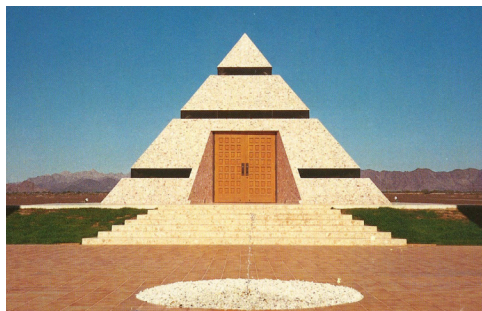
A SENSE OF TRADITION

"Upon installation of the telephone, the Mayor made the first call to the White House. A polite but baffled operator took the report of the birth of the Town of Felicity in the President's home state."

"An original copy of the law, duly signed by the original signatories, is encased in the cement of the foundation of the Pyramid."

"The brief poem composed by the Mayor as a wedding toast in 1973, is encased in the foundation of the first building."

*"To trials past,
To empathy,
To a halt in uncertainty,
To the one, my last Felicity,
Salute in immortality,"*



CBS Interviewer: How is your pyramid different from those of Egypt?

Mayor: I was short twenty thousand slaves.

ORIGINAL COUNCIL OF SAGES

(And Their Career Highlights)

Mr. Pierre Bataille	France	Sculptor, "Jacques Cartier" "The Norman Conquest" "The Mayflower"
B. Gen. Derrick H. Baynham	U.K.	GM, ADC, Guards Armored Division, Aide to H.M Queen Elizabeth II
Sister Magdalen Coughlin	U.S.A.	President, Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles
Hon. Jean-Marie Daillet	France	Depute, Assemblée Nationale, Foreign Relations Committee, Ambassador
Brian J. Hays, Esq.	U.S.A.	President, Distribution Solution,
Mr. Wolfgang G. Lieschke	U.S.A.	Exec. V.P. J. Walter Thompson, Dir. Hall of Fame of Parachuting
Dr. W. Warren Point	U.S.A.	Asst. Professor, Harvard Medical School, Founding chair, Charleston Department of Internal Medicine, West Virginia University
The Rev. Arthur P. Stanley	U.K.	Honorary Chaplain of Her Britannic Majesty's Forces
Edward H. Tuck, Esq.	U.S.A.	Partner, Shearman & Sterling, Director, Corning International
Hon. William H. Tucker	U.S.A.	Chairman Interstate Commerce Comm. United States Trustee, Three Combat Jumps, World War II
B. Gen. William W. Weise, USMC (Ret)	U.S.A.	Navy Cross, Silver Star, Korea, Vietnam Heinl Award for History
Ex Officio		
Hon. Jacques-Andre Istel	U.S.A.	Mayor, Town of Felicity
Madame Dominique Lacoste-Riggs	France	Diplomatic Relations

The sole duty of Sages is "To Dispense Wisdom". Annual remuneration is eighteen cents per year (\$.18), and includes travel expenses. There is no cost of living adjustment. *CBS Interviewer*: "Why is this famed Council of Sages only paid 18 cents per year?" *Mayor*: "19 cents is too much."

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abeloe HISTORIC SPOTS IN CALIFORNIA 1933
 Bechdolt Frederick GIANTS OF THE OLD WEST 902.04 8391G
 Bee Robert L. CROSSCURRENTS ALONG THE COLORADO: THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE QUECHAN INDIANS A970.5 B414C
 Bee Robert L. QUECHAN. HANDBOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS Vol. 10 Southwest 51 1:20/2:10
 Bee Robert L. THE YUMA ARA 970.3 B414Y
 Carlson Frederick A. THE FIRST AND LAST HOMESTEADER 1984
 Cleland WILDERNESS TO EMPIRE 1966
 Cronise THE NATIONAL WEALTH OF CALIFORNIA 1868
 Denis SPANISH ALTA CALIFORNIA 1927
 Fenton THE FOSSIL BOOK 1958
 Jackson GOLD DUST 1980
 KC Publications SOUTHWESTERN INDIAN TRIBES 1968
 Love, Frank THE YUMA DAILY SUN 12/31/89
 McNeil T. Journal of Arizona History SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH UNDER FIRE; PIONEER CONVENT SCHOOL ON THE COLORADO RIVER 1988
 Norton THE STORY OF CALIFORNIA 1913
 Odens Peter MAVERICK PRIEST: FATHER GARCES
 Repplier JUNIPERO SERRA 1933
 Rissenberg THE GOLDEN ROAD 1962
 Roske EVERYMAN'S EDEN, A HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA 1968
 Spec. EARLY YUMA: A GRAPHIC HISTORY OF LIFE ON THE AMERICAN NILE ARA 979.104C
 Scott Foresman OUTLOOKS THROUGH LITERATURE 1968
 Southern California AAA THE PLANK ROAD November 1992
 Taylor Robert L. NEW YORKER PROFILE of Jacques-Andre Istel, 25 April 1959
 Winther VIA WESTERN EXPRESS & STAGECOACH 1945
 Barry Carlson, Fred Carlson and Marcel Jojola, Imperial County Historical Society ORAL HISTORY

The Founders. Jacques-Andre Istel named the Town for his wife Felicia, then created the Museum.



LITERACY FOR MILLENNIA®

LOGO OF THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY IN GRANITE



MEDAL OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT
OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE
AWARDED IN 1998
TO
THE TOWN OF FELICITY
FOR
THE CREATION
OF THE
MUSEUM OF HISTORY IN GRANITE

