



## First RV Trip - Fall 2018



The lunch bag for this ride. This makes 4.

### Hello to Family & Friends

Looks like another perfect day for our last ride. Our time on horseback today will be short, but exciting. First we will visit the gravesite of Johnny Ringo, one of the Cow-Boys, then off to the Chiricahua Mountains and our ride to Fort Bowie.

Should be some beautiful scenery again.

Day 24

Friday

October 19th

Great American  
Adventures  
Wyatt Earp  
Vendetta Ride  
Tombstone, AZ

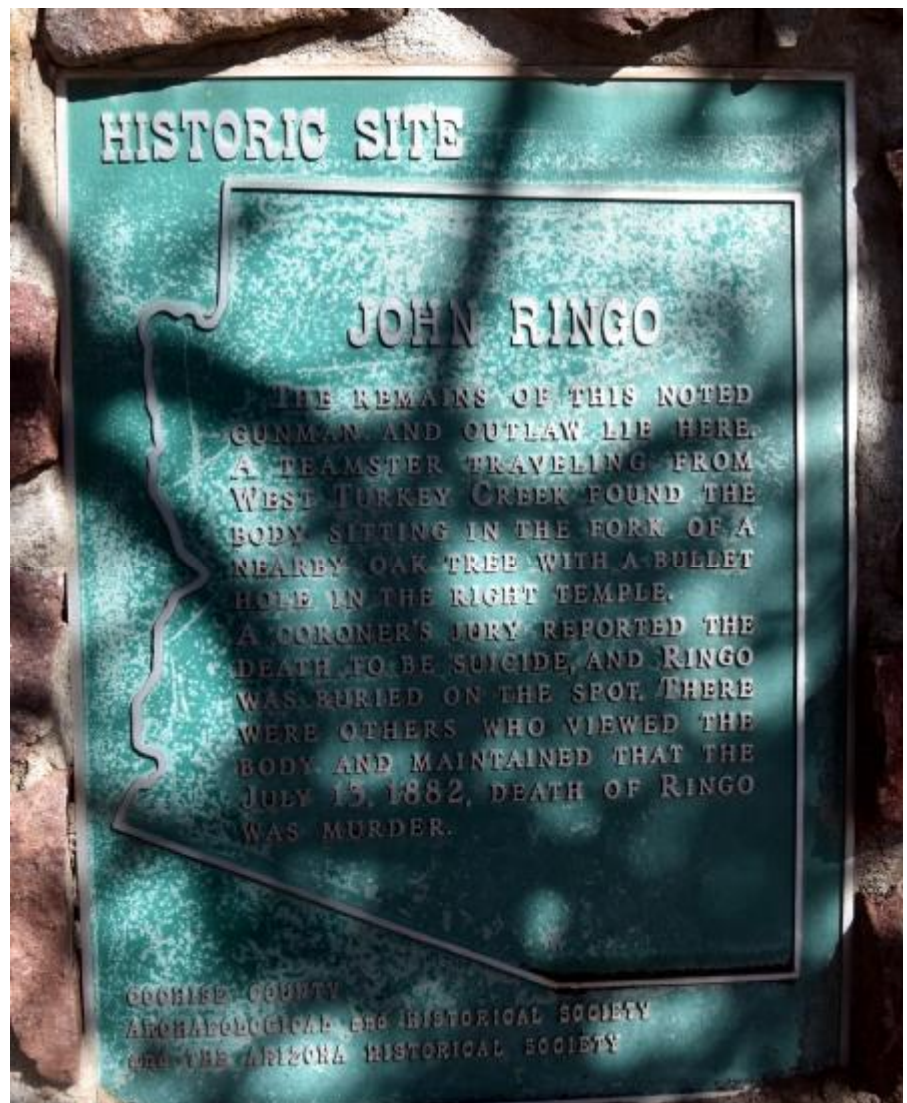
Weather

70's - 80's  
Sunny  
Dry  
Perfect

There is controversy over who killed Johnny Ringo. Was it suicide? Wyatt Earp? A local rancher? Or as the TOMBSTONE movie depicts, Doc Holliday? We will probably never know. The bullet hole was in his forehead, a shell had been fired from his six gun, but there was no gun powder by the wound.

What is your guess?



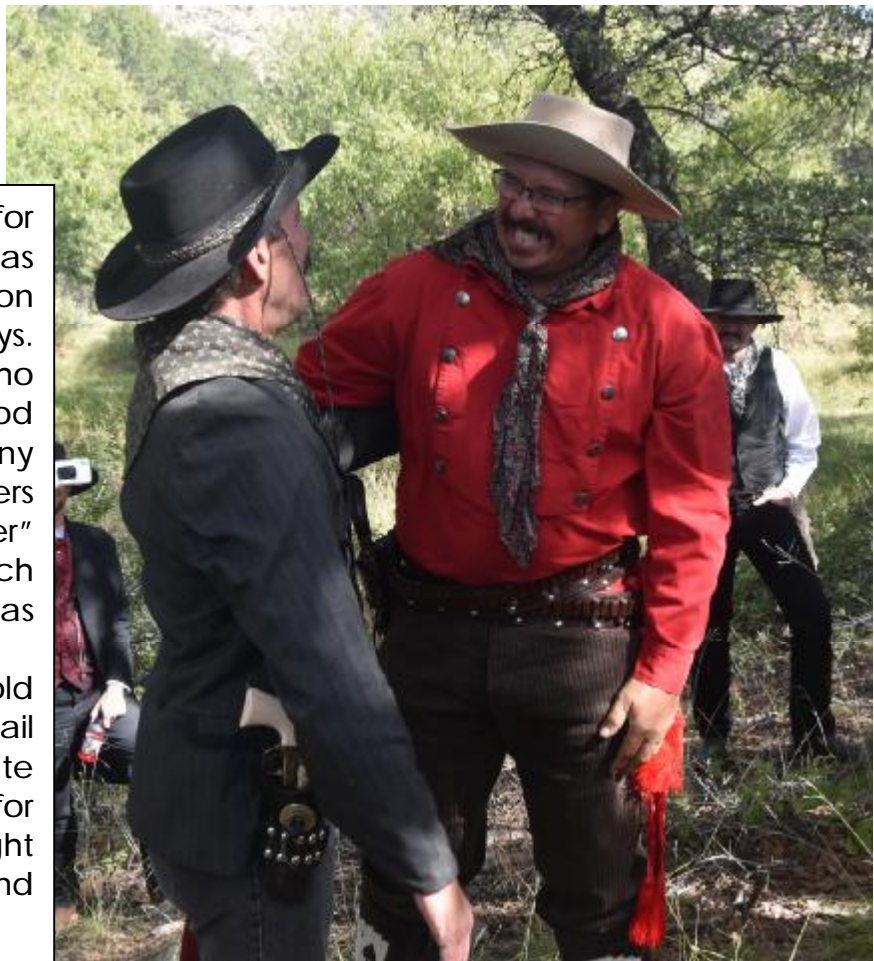


I shot Johnny Ringo



Once everyone had gathered around the grave, arising from behind the tree was the ghost of Johnny Ringo. Maybe now we can get the truth to how he died.

Johnny is wearing the identical outfit worn by Michael Biehn in the movie. Identical to the point of being made by the same individuals who made the costume for the movie.



This was a surprise for Johnny. Tom, dressed as Curly Bill, has joined us on the ride for a couple days. Tom is the rancher who owns the land Cottonwood Springs is on. He and Johnny call themselves "brothers from a different mother" and have not seen each other for over 2 years. It was a happy reunion. It was at this point Tom told us he had received email grant approval to excavate Cottonwood Springs for evidence of the fight between Curly Bill and Wyatt Earp.



Everyone drank a toast to Tombstone, Johnny Ringo, GAA and good friends. The libation was Old Overholt whiskey, the favorite of both Doc and Ringo





## A WALK TO FORT BOWIE

This gentle trail will guide you 1½ miles through an historic valley and up to the ruins of Fort Bowie. Enroute you'll pass the remains of the Butterfield Stage Station, the post cemetery, Apache Spring and the first and second forts. Water, a small museum and a few sales items are available at the second fort. Have a pleasant walk.

The National Park Service



## Apache Pass—A Corridor Through Time

Apache Pass is a low divide separating the massive Chiricahua Mountains from the Dos Cabezas Mountains. This landscape formed a rugged corridor through which people and goods were moved. The pass and its nearby spring became a strategic point in mid-19th century American western expansion.

The surrounding area was home to the Chiricahua Apaches for hundreds of years. During the 18th and early 19th centuries, when this region belonged first to Spain and then to Mexico, the pass was an identified landmark.



Arizona Territory and Chiricahua Apache Indian Reservation, 1872, adapted from original map, General Land Office

Apache Pass contained critical features for travelers

By the beginning of the 20th century, Apache Pass had been forgotten as a travel route. The Southern

55 and continue to do so today.

The wagon road, trails, and fort buildings have eroded during the last century; the landscape of the pass remains little changed. Apaches still regard this corridor as part of their traditional homelands and maintain connections with its special places.



We were escorted by the cavalry. This is Sgt. "Rodeo" Rankin





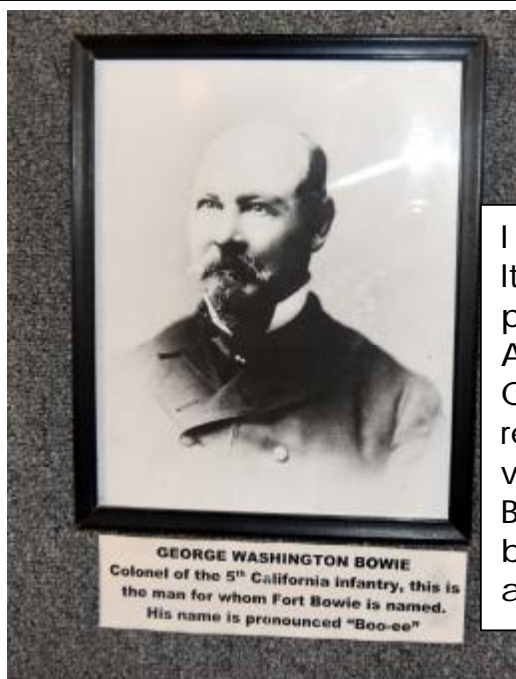


You can see 3 levels of switchback here





Fort Bowie



**GEORGE WASHINGTON BOWIE**  
Colonel of the 5<sup>th</sup> California infantry, this is  
the man for whom Fort Bowie is named.  
His name is pronounced "Boo-ee"

I have to admit that I was intrigued by this National Monument. It seems like a very interesting site. A little further down is a photo as we ride through Apache Pass. Apache Pass also has Apache Spring. The remains of the Butterfield stage station, the Chiricahua Reservation's agency building, a cemetery, and the remnants of the two forts that were constructed here can all be visited along a hiking trails. Near the top of the pass is where Lt. Bascom executed his Apache hostages and Cochise's followers burned his. Apache Spring still flows. I will have to visit this place again.

The Cavalry.

As represented by GAA riders





Nearing the end. You can see our vehicles in the distance.



Quigley got a little choked up when I said goodbye for the last time. Can you tell?



The saloon above is at the Triangle T Ranch. This is our destination for dinner. Movies have been filmed here. John Wayne slept here.



Waiting for dinner. Or maybe, gathering of the dudes?



Brisket, chicken, salad, rolls, and half a baked potato.





As you have heard many times, GAA is a family. These are the gifts that Steve and Marcie bestow on their friends and riders: The lunch bag made by Marcie; the red sash of the Cow-Boys made by Marcie; the marshal badge; a mug; a shot glass (Johnny Ringo grave); a short story with illustrations by the author, a friend of Steve's; a calendar thingamajig; the "suitable for framing" certificate which does have my name on it; and the bottle of wine is in the RV.

This may have been the last day of riding, but it's not the last day. Tomorrow is a dinner at the Tombstone Monument Ranch and a chance for us all to say goodbye until the next...Great American Adventure.

Goodnight