



## TIMELINE 1962 – PRESENT

(Events based on Tom Finger's 2001 "History of Apache Wells Mobile City")

<b>1962</b>	Clinton Ray, a farmer who was buying up land in East Mesa for as little as \$1 an acre, built 3 holes of a golf course near Recker and McKellips Road. This would later become AW Unit 1 with Leland, Lockwood and Lawndale Streets surrounded by the fairways that Clinton started.
<b>1963</b>	R.C. Hughes and three other developers from Spokane, WA bought the 400 acres for \$25,000 on condition they finished the golf course. Shannon Way lots were laid out for travel trailers and rented for \$30/month that included utilities and free golf.
<b>1965</b>	The Tuesday Bridge Club was started and the Grocery Store was built. Half of the store sold feed and seed for area farmers, but a rodent problem resulted in the whole store selling only groceries. A drug store was added and both lasted for many years. The Rec Hall (later to be named Apache Hall) was built. Potlucks were held at the end of the swimming pool. The dining room was only a cement floor at this time. A mobile building on Hermosa Vista housed the office, pro shop and a coffee shop. The vacant sales office became the hobby center and later evolved into a library. A pool table was located outdoors in the area which today is the site of shuffleboard. The first mobile home show was held and by winter, 350 people had moved in. It was a busy year!
<b>1966-67</b>	Population rose to 400. Mail delivery door to door started in March. Plans to expand the golf course from 9 to 18 holes were announced with play to begin in December.
<b>1968-69</b>	Grand Opening of the AW restaurant with coffee shop and cocktail lounge. Snead Drive opened in Unit 3. Bingo started for 25 cents and gifts for prizes. 300 families were now living in Apache Wells.
<b>1970-71</b>	Horseshoe pits were constructed and a horseshoe league was formed. (There had to be other things going on?)
<b>1972</b>	A bank opened in a double-wide mobile home with a concrete vault. It was the first bank with a woman manager and the first bank to be located inside any retirement community.
<b>1973-78</b>	The 18 hole ladies golf group started in '73. By '78 the golf course was becoming more expensive to maintain and the \$120 annual fee was raised to \$240 and it still lost money. The free golf of '63 was a distant memory. About 98% of the lots were sold and the monthly dues were \$20.70. At this point, AW was having cash flow problems and the original investors were bailing out, leaving Hughes in deep financial debt. In '78 AW reorganized with a new investor, Laymen Allen, and Hughes/Allen Inc. was

<b>1973-78</b> (continued)	formed. The AW RV Park was developed to generate cash flow, green fees were raised and the monthly dues went to \$35/month to cover operating costs. However, the residents and property owners took Hughes/Allen, Inc. to court and won because their books could not justify the increase.
<b>1979-87</b>	These were difficult years for Apache Wells. Hughes/Allen Inc. left the mobile home park business and the homeowners looked to gain control of their property. In '79 when Bret Hughes tried to list the golf course for sale in The Wall Street Journal a group of residents organized the sale of 485 shares (certificates) to residents only. When Hughes tried to sell the recreation facilities the residents rallied and purchased those for \$190,000. They then purchased the commons building and 5.6 acres where the softball field is now located with an \$1100/lot assessment. In '87 the Apache Wells Homeowners Association, Inc. was formed.
<b>1988- Present</b>	Tom's history of Apache Wells, which appears in the 2005 ASU/LRPC Study, ends in 1987. If you take a drive thru our community today you will see the changes that have taken place since '87. You have a new Library, a former Bank/nor an Administrative Building and if built will have a new Community Center to replace the current AWCC Building. You are seeing the older mobile homes being pulled out and replaced with expensive site-built houses that dwarf their older mobile home neighbors. Your monthly dues are currently \$38.50/month and you may have to tack on a \$6020 assessment for a facility that surely will cost the homeowners even more money in maintenance and operating expenses.
<b>The Future?</b>	If the current trend continues, you only have to take a drive through Alta Mesa or Las Sendas to see the future of Apache Wells.

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