

# Travelling Trunks

## **Box 1: Nineteenth-Century Residents' Lives—Anglo and Mexican Americans**

### **Description**

The story of the nineteenth-century residents of Arizona can be told, at least in part, through the tools those people used and the items that they possessed. This trunk contains a group of artifacts that give a general impression of the life of these people, both the American and Spanish settlers and the natives who were already living in the area when they arrived. We get an idea of their everyday domestic chores through the washboard and twisting tool. We see from the horseshoe, harness, brands, hay bale hook, and animal horn that ranching or just plain horsemanship was a large part of many of these residents' lives. We also see, in the presence of the railroad spike, the importance that that industry had in the local economy of the time. Not every possession was a necessity though. Luxuries like the photograph and purely recreational items like the cloth ball were present as well. The tomahawk reminds us of the presence of a variety of native tribes in frontier Arizona, people whose society inevitably gave way to the encroachment of Europeans.

## **Box 2: Nineteenth-Century Residents' Lives-Pioneer Domestic Sphere**

### **Description**

This trunk contains items that the nineteenth-century residents of Arizona would have used within the domestic sphere. The bag of wool and the darning tool are two items necessary for the making of clothing, an activity that women of the time would have spent a large portion of their time on. The wooden man toy reminds us that these people had possessions that had no practical purpose but were used purely for recreation. We see, by the soap, that even in the dirty Western environment, cleanliness was frequently sought out and achieved. The rest of the artifacts were used in the preparation of food. The trunk contains various utensils from the period, as well as pieces of pottery (which would have been used, when whole, for the preparation or storage of food), a wooden pestle for grinding grain and seeds, and a butter mold.

## **Box 3: Nineteenth-Century Residents' Lives—Native Peoples**

### **Description**

This trunk primarily contains items used by the nineteenth-century native peoples in Arizona. Most of the items were used in the collection, preparation, or storage of food. The owners of these items would use the baskets to gather foods such as the corn, seeds, pollen poppers, acorns, and gourd. They would use the arrow heads to hunt game. The food might then be processed through the use of a grinding rock and stored in baskets, pottery, or a hollowed gourd. This trunk also contains items used for the decoration of the body—jewelry, like the bracelets and sea shells.

## **Box 4: Late Nineteenth, Early Twentieth-Century Settlers**

### **Description**

This trunk contains items used by the white settlers of Arizona in the late-nineteenth- and early twentieth-centuries. By this time in history, people had the luxury of conveniences such as canned foods and bottled drinks, especially helpful out on the frontier, where refrigeration was nonexistent and food spoiled fast. The trunk contains a number of kitchen conveniences of the period—a granite-wear teapot, a granite-wear spoon, a glass flask, a fork with a wooden handle, a wooden cooking spoon, a sugar scooper, and a cloth bag. Those who were able provided themselves with light at night by kerosene lamps, which allowed them to read such books as the *Local Poets Book of Cowboy Poetry* and the *Higher History of the United States*. They also were able to keep their animals relatively neat and bug-free with the animal brush.

## **Box 5: Scat of Arizona**

### **Description**

The Arizona of frontier-times contained much native fauna, and this collection of different excrements reminds us of its variety. Alongside the human inhabitants of Arizona, there were Rocky Mountain Elk, bison, coyotes, mule deer, javelinas, gray foxes, black tail jackrabbits, cows, and collard peckery javelinas.

## **Box 6: Mining the Landscape**

### **Description**

This Trunk contains artifacts and objects related to early mining. It contains samples of rocks and minerals including, malachite (green), azurite (blue), copper ore, pyrite (fool's gold), quartz and others. In addition it holds mining accessories including a gold pan, cable brush, pick and baby wrecking ball. The trunk also contains detailed historic maps used by early miners. A packet is included in the trunk. This provides further detailed descriptions of and background on the items enclosed.

## **Box 7 : Animal Skins**

### **Description**

These trunks should give you a better idea of the type of animal life present in the Arizona of the late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-centuries. It is also an opportunity to have a tactile experience of the fur of these animals. The boxes contains the skins of a black cow, a calf, a fox, a lynx, sheep, mule deer and a bison (usually, but incorrectly, referred to as a buffalo).

## **Box 8: Animal Bones**

### **Description**

This trunk contains a number of bones from different animals. Bones included are, cow hip and skull, deer leg, elk vertebra, rock squirrel skull, cow or elk leg joint, fox or small coyote skull and jaw and woodrat/pack rat skull/jaw

## **Box 9: Tools and Food of Native Peoples**

### **Description**

This trunk contains items used by the natives of Arizona when white people first came. The ears of corn, beans, and peppers in the small top tray are examples of foods eaten by these natives. In the large top tray there are arrow heads, used (as one would expect) on the ends of arrows to kill game, a knife (used to slice up game and hides), pieces of pottery that might have been used to hold food or water, a piece of stone that has been fashioned into the shape of a pig, and some beads that would have been used as body decoration.

In the center tray there is a model of a pit house (also called a dugout), a dwelling frequently used by Arizona natives that is partially made up of a hole dug into the ground and partially of a building built on top of that. The tray also contains a number of tools. The pot would have been used to hold food or water. There is a polishing stone, which was used for polishing clay pots. A bone awl, which was used for making holes in hide for the purpose of sewing. The jasper awl scraper was used for both perforating and scraping hides. There is an item that could have been used as either an anvil or a polishing stone. The abraider served a file, hone, or whetstone in working other stones, shaping wood, or shaping bone tools. They're generally made of a granular type of stone, rough to the touch, serving as an abrasive material. The stone axe head was tied to the end of an axe and used as a general-purpose tool, for chopping wood or meat, or even in warfare. The hammer stone was used to break off large pieces of rock for later shaping into various tools. The digging stone was used mainly for digging different items out of the ground, primarily food items. The shaft straightener is used for straightening arrow shafts. It was important that they be extremely straight in order for the arrow to hit its target. The shaft holder was used for hold the shaft as it was straightened. The use of the stone ball is not clear, but it might have had a variety of uses. The pestle was used for crushing, grinding, and mixing grain and other solid substances. This was done in a mortar. The spindle whorl was used for spinning different fibers into thread. The paint cup dish was used to hold and mix paint, which could have been applied to different surfaces, including the human body. The floor polisher was used to polish the dirt floor of a dwelling. The stone mano was used in conjunction with mutates and other grinding slabs to grind grain.

## **Box 10: Pioneer Living Kit**

### **Description**

This traveling trunk contains objects that a family of early pioneers would have used or carried. Early children's toys such as a Jacob's ladder, Corn Husk Doll, clothes pin doll, wooden ball and pickup sticks are included. There are also some examples of early Children's literature and education manuals, including *The True Mother Goose*, *The ABC Coloring Book* and

*Patriotic Exercises in Schools*. Furthermore the trunk also contains household kitchen items including, a rolling pin, whisk, coffee grinder, food masher, and iron pots. See the “Overview on the Pioneer Living Box” for further explanations of the contents.

## **Box 11: Native Flora of the Southwest**

### **Description**

This traveling trunk contains multiple display cases that represent Native American objects and the flora and fauna of the southwest. Native American objects include, pottery shards, *Metate* (mealing stone), *Mano* (type of hand stove used with metates as well as other grinding stones used for grain) casts of Clovis points (grey and brown) Agave twine, arrowheads and an arrow shaft straighter. Flora and Fauna objects include, Juniper Berries, Bear Grass, Yucca, early Indian Maize, Juniper Plant, Mesquite Beans and Corn Pumplaw Seeds. This is a very through trunk and there are many more objects inside!