

# Newsletter

Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum,  
in association with the Smithsonian Institution  
Issue #83 Spring 2020

## Yesterday & Today

## What We Can Learn from History If we wanted to oooo

**We learn from history that we do not learn from history.**  
Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

**Really? Let's take this out for a spin...**  
Carrie Gustavson

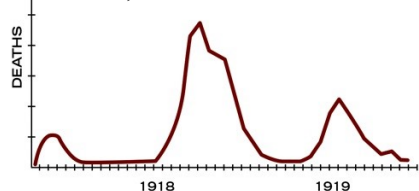
### 1918—1919

The 1918 influenza pandemic, or “Spanish flu”—or, as history is now suggesting, the “Kansas Flu,” was the most severe pandemic in history. It was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin. Although there is not universal consensus regarding where the virus originated, it spread worldwide during 1918-1919. In the United States, it was first identified in military personnel in Spring 1918. It is estimated that about 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected with this virus. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States.

Mortality was higher in people younger than 5 years old, 20-40 years old, and 65 years and older. The high mortality in healthy people, including those in the 20-40 year age group, was a unique feature of this pandemic. While the 1918 H1N1 virus has been synthesized and evaluated, the properties that made it so devastating are not well understood.

With no vaccine to protect against influenza infection and no antibiotics to treat secondary bacterial infections that can be associated with influenza, control efforts worldwide were limited to non-pharmaceutical interventions such as isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and limitations on public gatherings, all of which were applied unevenly.

There were three different waves of illness during the pandemic that started in March 1918, subsiding by the summer, 1919. The pandemic peaked in the U.S. during the second wave, in the Fall of 1918. This highly



[www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918)

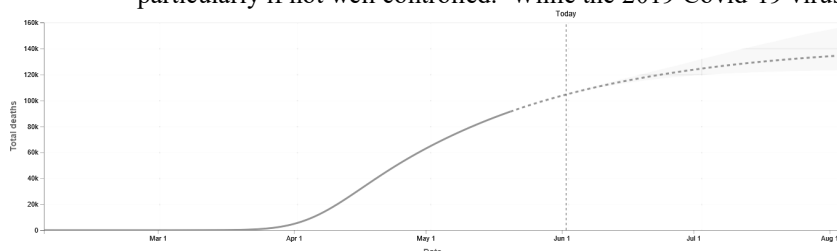
fatal second wave was responsible for most of the U.S. deaths attributed to the pandemic.

When the pandemic first arrived in the US, national public health officials were saying: “This is an ordinary influenza by another name,” or “You have nothing to fear if proper precautions are taken.” Sound familiar?

### 2019

100 years later, beginning in late 2019 (December 31<sup>st</sup> actually), a novel coronavirus pandemic now impacts all our lives. The 2019 pandemic was caused by a new strain, SARS-CoV-2, that originated in China in the Winter of 2019 before spreading to the rest of the world. By January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus a global emergency. In the U.S., between January 21<sup>st</sup> (the first confirmed case) and June 14<sup>th</sup>, the CDC estimates that we now have approximately 2,063,812 cases with over 115,270 confirmed deaths; 7,835,340 cases with over 431,140 deaths globally ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us)).

Mortality is higher in people aged 65 years and older, people who live in a nursing home or long-term care facilities, prisons, and people of all ages with underlying medical conditions (such as chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, diabetes, and those who are immunocompromised), particularly if not well controlled. While the 2019 Covid-19 virus



[www.covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america](http://www.covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america)

has been synthesized and evaluated, the properties that make it so devastating are not yet well understood.

With no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 (but with antibiotics to lessen secondary bacterial infections), control efforts worldwide are limited to interventions such as “shelter-in-place” and “stay-at-home,” quarantine, wash your hands, disinfectant wipes, social distancing, face masks, and limitations on public gatherings, all of which are being applied unevenly. In essence, this is simply 21st-century lingo for 1918 control efforts and not much more!

So what can we learn from our history? First, containment. The attempt to limit the spread of a virus or even eliminate it failed in 1918 as it has failed in 2019—from Spain to the world, from China to the world. ✓ Didn’t learn much here!

Second, compliance. If most people followed most of the advice constantly reiterated most of the time it would reduce the spread of the disease: isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and limitations of public gatherings—or—in today’s lingo, social distancing, staying home when sick, washing hands, disinfectant wipes, masks, and limited public gatherings to flatten the curve. True in 1918 as it is true 100 years later, timing and compliance play a crucial role. For this to work, we have to comply and to sustain that compliance. The importance about compliance is that it can buy us time to prepare our healthcare systems and to develop therapeutic drugs and vaccines. In 1918 and 1919, cities and state agencies imposed restrictions, lifted them too soon, then reimposed them. The Spanish Flu pandemic has shown us that the “second wave” of a virus can prove just as deadly, if not more so, than the first. Well, we need to wait and see about the “wave” thing, but Covid-19 cases/deaths are rising nationwide. In fact, as of June 14<sup>th</sup>, Arizona is truly on an upward surge of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths ([www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/national/coronavirus-cases-deaths](http://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/national/coronavirus-cases-deaths)).

This year as of Memorial Day weekend, all 50 states have reopened to some degree. We might not be learning from the 1918/1919 pandemic, but I guess it can be like watching your favorite TV horror program for a second time or rereading your favorite not-so-happy-ending book—we can watch this happen all over again! According to [www.endcoronavirus.org](http://www.endcoronavirus.org), as of June 14<sup>th</sup>, of the 50 states meeting national guidelines for reopening—Hawaii, Montana, Wyoming, and West Virginia—meet all criteria; 40 states, including Arizona, do not. ✓ Didn’t learn much here!

In terms of lessons we could learn from history, the third, is truth. In an article by John Barry, “The Single Most Important Lesson From the 1918 Influenza” (*New York Times*, May 17, 2020), he makes another point about learning from history: not telling the truth is deadly. “In 1918, pressured to maintain wartime morale [remember WWI?], neither national nor local government officials told the truth. ‘This is ordinary influenza by another name.’ As this proved false, trust in authority disintegrated, and, at its core, society is based on trust. Not knowing whom or what to believe, people also lost trust in one another.”

On March 9<sup>th</sup> the American President tweeted that the coronavirus was not as perilous as the flu: “So last year 37,000 Americans died from the common flu. It averages between 27,000 and 70,000 per year. Nothing is shut down, life and the economy go on. At this moment there are 546 confirmed cases of Coronavirus, with 22 deaths. Think about that!” On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Dr.

#### A Little Recent History

##### 2020 COVID-19

##### Confirmed cases

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| January 21 <sup>st</sup> —1      |
| March 2 <sup>nd</sup> —100       |
| March 10 <sup>th</sup> —1,000    |
| March 19 <sup>th</sup> —10,000   |
| April 11 <sup>th</sup> —500,000  |
| May 19 <sup>th</sup> —1,500,000  |
| June 10 <sup>th</sup> —2,100,000 |

Anthony Fauci, National Institutes of Health, stated: “This is 10 times more lethal than the seasonal flu.” On March 13<sup>th</sup>, the American President declares a state of emergency.

Looking at 2020, even from my perspective here in Bisbee, Arizona, I believe trust in government by the society it governs is greatly diminished, no matter from which side of which aisle you look.

✓ Didn’t learn much here!

What have we learned on a national level? Apparently not much! But we can watch it happen again so maybe next time....

## Bisbee 1918/1919

Let’s look at the Spanish Flu epidemic from a local perspective (reader beware, I just can’t help playing around with, from our 21<sup>st</sup>-century perspective, politically incorrect, and truly socially incorrect, ads of the time!). With the first case in the United States in March of 1918, there was a fairly long hiatus before the Spanish Flu hit Bisbee. As the Spanish Flu was apparently brought over from war-torn Europe, its first manifestations, or the “first wave,” in the Spring of 1918 hit primarily the military bases with soldiers returning from Europe. It wasn’t until October when the Spanish flu starts having a negative local impact.

In a “Just the Facts, Ma’am,” perspective, based on the 1918 1919 OK Livery & Undertaking, Robert Hennessy, Proprietor funeral records (*Dugan Funeral Records 1900-2004*, Valles Collection), 44 of the 55 October records list “pneumonia” and

**Eat More BAKED Beans**

**EAT** more baked beans. You'll see them recommended on every food conservation list.

Don't they look appetizing in their shining little dish, brown and flaky on top, just about bursting open with flavor? They're different from raw white beans.

"Cooked" tobacco is very different from "raw" tobacco, also—about ten times more appetizing. Try Lucky Strike Cigarette—it's toasted.

**LUCKY STRIKE CIGARETTE**

Open your package this way

Save the tin-foil from Lucky Strike Cigarettes and give it to the Red Cross

**It's toasted**

Manufactured by American Tobacco Co.



"influenza pneumonia" or "influenza floo" or "flue" as cause of death. This continues through November with 61 of 70 death records. A slight downturn in December (23 of 35 deaths recorded), continuing into January, 1919 with 20 of 29 recorded deaths. February again sees a downturn in recorded number of deaths to "pneumonia" and "influenza," with only 8 of 16 records followed by a final flare up in March with 14 of 24 death records. From this point onward, there are few pneumonia deaths cited. Based on the OK Livery & Undertaking dataset, Bisbee

lost 170 residents to the epidemic. Please note that there are a number of individual funeral records in which the "cause of death" line is not filled in and that this dataset is only from one funeral home; Bisbee had a second funeral homes—the Palace Livery & Undertaking Co., Bowen & Hubbard, Proprietors. The Museum does not have this dataset in its collections. What impressed me, however, is how "pneumonia" or "influenza floo and flue" sets the trend and are cited as the predominate cause of death in these records.

Just as an aside, reviewing the funeral home records for 1918 and 1919, often-cited causes of death are mining accidents (predominately from blasts), typhoid, Bright's Disease (a kidney disease), and stillborn, sprinkled with gunshot wounds and people being run over by automobiles.

Another snapshot is looking at the City of Bisbee burial permits (*Arizona Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Permit for Burial or Removal*, 1918 & 1919, City of Bisbee Collection). During the same time period cited above, 190 burial permits were issued with cause of death listed as pneumonia or influenza. Playing with history (Note: "playing" is my word since I rarely get to pursue my academic training as a Museum Director just for fun when I am dealing with budgets, paying bills, and trying to keep the Museum solvent during the COVID-19 epidemic) requires a rather creative perspective—we need to look at the overlapping trends and not get lost in the numbers. Small, but related, databases often give differing numbers! But what of the trends?

Significantly, October and November 1918 recorded 79% and 71% of the deaths due to pneumonia/influenza respectively. Note: our collections are missing the December burial permits. January—March 1919 also testify to a third "wave," with pneumonia/influenza averaging 57% to 65% of the cause of death listed in the permits, although the actual number of permits for October and November (120 cases) were less than January—March (37 cases).

In the Museum collections, we also have the *Copper Queen Hospital Patients' Register* (Phelps Dodge Henry Clark Collection). This is a more difficult database to add into the mix. According to the *Bisbee Daily Review* newspaper coverage, at-home deaths due to the Spanish Influenza/pneumonia were prevalent. The Museum also does not have the contemporary Calumet & Arizona Dispensary & Hospital patient records, Bisbee's second primary care hospital.

However, the overarching trends are still clearly visible, although only 41 recorded deaths are listed (Note: the December 1918 records are again missing in our Museum collections). In October and November, 35% and 30% of the recorded deaths were due to "influenza," "pneumonia," pneumonia influenza," and "Spanish influenza." Although the recorded number are much lower than the other primary data sources, March 1919 sees a true spike in the number of cases.

Okay, we've played with the primary data, but the best source of what our community was actually doing is our

\$845.00
\$845.00

# \$845

F. O. B. BISBEE



## CHEVROLET

THE WORLD'S LOWEST PRICED ELECTRICALLY EQUIPPED CAR

Has been reduced from \$975.00 to .....\$845.00

The finish and equipment of this famous automobile is first class. In order to appreciate the extraordinary value embodied in the Chevrolet, you will have to see and ride in it. Let me give you a demonstration of this wonderful car and be convinced. Call—

## W. L. SMART

LOCAL AGENT      PHONE 278

Need a data break or feeling bored staying at home? Let's spice this up a bit with a few historic ads! Tour around in your brand new Chevrolet for \$845! *Bisbee Daily Review* December 17, 1918.

## HOW TO USE VICK'S VAPORUB IN TREATING SPANISH INFLUENZA

The Influenza Germs Attack the Lining of the Air Passages.  
When VapoRub is Applied Over Throat and Chest the  
Medicated Vapors Loosen the Phlegm, Open the Air Passages  
and Stimulate the Mucous Membrane to Throw Off  
the Germs

In Addition, VapoRub Is Absorbed Through and Stimulates the Skin, Attracting the Blood to the Surface and Thus Aids in Reducing the Congestion Within

**CALL A PHYSICIAN—GO  
TO BED—STAY QUIET—  
DON'T WORRY**

There is no Occasion for Panic—Influenza Itself Has a Very Low Percentage of Fatalities, Not Over One Death Out of Every Four Hundred Cases, According to the N. C. Board of Health. The Chief Danger Lies in Complications Arising, Attacking Principally Patients in a Run Down Condition—Those Who Don't Go to Bed Soon Enough, or Those Who Get Up Too Early

**NO OCCASION FOR PANIC**  
Spanish influenza, which appeared in Spain in May, has all the appearance of grip or la grippe, which has swept over the world in numerous epidemics as far back as history runs. Hippocrates refers to an epidemic in 412 B. C., which is regarded by many to have been influenza. Every century has had its attacks. Beginning with 1831, this country has had five epidemics, the last in 1889-90.

**THE SYMPTOMS**  
Grip, or influenza, as it is now called, usually begins with a chill, followed by aching, feverishness, and sometimes nausea and dizziness, and a general feeling of weakness and depression. The temperature is from 100 to 104, and the fever usually lasts from three to five days. The germs attack the mucous membrane, or lining of the air passages—nose, throat and bronchial tubes—there is usually a hard cough, especially bad at night, often times a soar throat or tonsillitis, and frequently all the appearances of a severe head cold.

**THE TREATMENT**  
Go to bed at the first symptoms, not only for your own sake, but to avoid spreading the disease to others—take a purgative, eat plenty of nourishing food, remain perfectly quiet and don't worry. Quinine, Aspirin or Dover's Powder, etc., may be administered by the physician's directions to relieve the aching. But there is no cure or specific for influenza—the disease must run its course. Nature herself will throw off the attack if only you keep up your strength. The chief danger lies in the complications which may arise. Influenza so weakens the bodily resistance that there is danger of pneumonia or bronchitis developing, and sometimes inflammation of the middle ear, or heart affections. For these reasons, it is very important that the patient remain in bed until

his strength returns—stay in bed at least two days or more after the fever has left you, or if you are over 60 or not strong, stay in bed four days or more, according to the severity of the attack.

**EXTERNAL APPLICATIONS**  
In order to stimulate the lining of the air passages to throw off the grip germs, to aid in loosening the phlegm and keeping the air passages open, thus making the breathing easier, Vick's VapoRub will be found effective. Hot, wet towels should be applied over the throat, chest and back between the shoulder blades to open the pores. Then VapoRub should be rubbed in over the parts until the skin is red, spread on thickly and covered with two thicknesses of hot flannel cloths. Leave the clothing loose around the neck as the heat of the body liberates the ingredients in the form of vapor. These vapors, inhaled with each breath, carry the medication directly to the parts affected. At the same time, VapoRub is absorbed through and stimulates the skin, attracting the blood to the surface, and thus aids in relieving the congestion within.

**HOW TO AVOID THE DISEASE**  
Evidence seems to prove that this is a germ disease, spread principally by human contact, chiefly through coughing, sneezing or spitting. So avoid- ing crowds—common drinking cups, roller towels, etc. Keep up your bodily strength by plenty of exercise in the open air and good food.

**KEEP FREE FROM COLDS.**  
Above all, keep free from colds, as colds irritate the lining of the air passages and render them much better breeding places for the germs. Use Vicks VapoRub at the very first sign of a cold. For a head cold, melt a little VapoRub in a spoon and inhale the vapors, or better still, use VapoRub in a benzoin steam kettle. If this is not available, use an ordinary tea-kettle. Fill half full of boiling water, put in half a teaspoon of VapoRub from time to time—keep the kettle just slowly boiling and inhale the steam arising. **NOTE:** Vick's VapoRub is the discovery of a North Carolina druggist, who found how to combine, in salve form, Menthol and Camphor with such volatile oils as Eucalyptus, Thyme, Cubeb, etc., so that when the salve is applied to the body heat, these ingredients are liberated in the form of vapors.

VapoRub is comparatively new in New York state and New England and a few western states, where it is just now being introduced, but in other sections of the country it is the standard home remedy in more than a million homes for all forms of cold troubles. Over six million jars were sold last year. It is particularly recommended for children's croup or colds, since it is externally applied and therefore can be used as freely as desired without the slightest harmful effects. VapoRub can be had in three sizes at all drug stores.

Sorry, couldn't resist! I didn't even know that Vicks VapoRub existed in 1918 (*Bisbee Daily Review* December 12, 1918). I simply remembered when I was a little girl my mother trying to rub this smelly stuff on my chest when I had a cold!



hometown newspaper of the time: the *Bisbee Daily Review*. Note: The "Warren District" replaces "Bisbee" in the local papers, which includes Old Bisbee, Lowell, Warren and their satellite communities. This is an interesting broadening of "Bisbee" as it reflects today's Bisbee since its reincorporation in September, 1959.

It's really interesting reading our newspapers of 100 years ago then comparing this to how we receive our news today. Today's news is nonstop, 24/7, loud, and in-your-face—although they all come with volume control, an "off button," or "unsubscribe" option. We get our news through television, our computers and smart phones, news magazines, and the endangered newspaper—all with a staggering array of chosen coverage, biases, and perspectives. 100 years ago? Newspapers brought news into our grandparents' homes (radio broadcasting wasn't in common use until the 1920s). The *Bisbee Daily Review* was our community's primary newspaper.

As the main source of news, the *Review* 100 years ago was so different from our community papers today. In the early months of the Spanish Flu in Bisbee, American soldiers were still fighting in WWI in Europe. Troop movements and Liberty Bond drives—***Buy Bonds To Keep The Huns Away and Women's War Parade a Great Success***—dominated the news in October, 1918, along with wonderful ads, such as "Grapenuts: The Food for Workers," "Even Bread and Butter and Jam Don't Tempt Me Says Bobby So Long as I Can Have Post Toasties," and "Toverea's & Johnson's Meat Co. Saturday Specials: Beef Tenderloin... 35¢ the pound, Prime Rib Roasts ... 22½¢ the pound."

Though not making the headlines, and rarely considered front-page news, the Spanish Flu epidemic is now introduced in our local news. October 3<sup>rd</sup>: ***Influenza Wave Continues to Cause Worry***, while on page 8 of that same paper:

#### ***Kissing Barred While Influenza is Lurking About***

"A ban has been placed on kissing. From the office of the state board of health, of which Dr. O.H. Brown is the director, comes the sober and serious order. It makes no difference whether people are engaged to be married or have a perfect right to display affection in this manner, it must not be indulged in, either upon the lips or the hand, unless they are willing to run the risk of contracting the Spanish influenza, which is making serious headway throughout the country.

"In a determined effort to prevent the influenza from spreading through Arizona, Dr. Brown gives this advice:

Here are some of the preventive measures by the director of the state board of health:

Wash hands after shaking hands with another person. Don't startle that person by running right off to a wash-bowl, but get one as soon as you can, when that person is not looking.

Be careful not to be in front of a person sneezing or coughing.

Use your own drinking cup. Carry it with you. Wash the cup frequently.

Sterilize your dishes. Keep clean in every way and keep everything about you clean.

Do not spit on the sidewalks or in public places." *Bisbee Daily Review*, October 3<sup>rd</sup> p.8

October 4<sup>th</sup>: ***Epidemic Now Rages Over Land; In Arizona 60 Cases...***

October 5<sup>th</sup>: ***Influenza Wave Breaks Out in Warren District.***

"The health officers so far have taken no definite action in regard to the matter of placing quarantine regulations, but should the epidemic begin spreading there is a possibility that some such steps will be taken." *Bisbee Daily Review*, October 5, 1919 p.2

This outlook changed the following day:

#### ***Health Officers Take Drastic Steps***

"The city and county health officers yesterday at a meeting held in the office of the Warren District Commercial club, took decided steps to try and prevent the spread of influenza in this district. The matter was thoroughly discussed and as a result orders were issued last night to close all the theaters, public schools and churches; that no lodge meetings be held; that all dances and other public meetings be discontinued, and that all places are fumigated. Street cars will be allowed to carry only seating capacity. The mines will also endeavor to assist. The change rooms are to be fumigated daily and instead of nine men going down the cages only five men will be allowed and they will be required to stand back to back so that none of them will be breathing in the other's face. The soft drink places will be allowed to remain open but no one is allowed to be seated. Drink and move on is the order." *Bisbee Daily Review* October 6, 1918 p. 1.

Remember, this is during Prohibition so the soft drink places have replaced the bars!

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, over 100 cases are reported. October 10<sup>th</sup>, Frank Tracey is Bisbee's first reported death due to the Spanish Flu epidemic. October 11<sup>th</sup>, 200 cases are reported, with Bisbee's second death reported on October 12<sup>th</sup>. October 15<sup>th</sup>, 400

## **INFLUENZA WORSE THAN HUN BULLETS**

**Claiming More Victims Than  
Battle Fronts of Europe;  
Disease Can Be  
Avoided**

According to carefully compiled statistics it is an indisputable fact that the Spanish influenza epidemic which is now sweeping all parts of the country is daily claiming far more victims than German bullets on the battle fronts of Europe. Although civil and military authorities have succeeded in checking the disease in some localities, it is growing worse in others and continues to spread at an alarming rate. That the disease can be avoided there is no longer any doubt. According to leading authorities the powers of resistance of the human system can be so perfected that that it can throw off almost any infection, not even excepting Spanish influenza, which is one of the most contagious diseases known.

It is persons who are suffering from lowered vitality, who are weak and rundown and who have not the strength to throw it off who are the earliest victims. Persons who have bad colds, who are suffering from catarrhal troubles, or inflammation of the mucous membranes are especially susceptible, as the inflamed mucous membrane linings of the nose and throat are an open door to the germs. This condition is almost always accompanied by a weakened condition of the system.

If you are suffering from any of these symptoms; nothing on earth will build you up and strengthen you like Tanlac, which contains the most powerful tonic properties known to science.

This statement is easily proven by the fact that Tanlac is now having the greatest sale of any system tonic in the history of medicine. In less than four years' time over Ten Million Bottles have been sold and the demand is constantly increasing. Thousands are using it daily for the above troubles with the most astonishing and gratifying results.

*Bisbee Daily Review* March 1, 1919  
Ad for Taniac tonic!

cases and 9 deaths are reported. Amidst this onslaught of influenza cases, a lovely effort to help appeared in our local newspaper, an effort I truly admire 100 years later, the establishment of the:

**Warren District Relief Association,  
Headed by Mrs. Esther Cummings,  
General Secretary, Offers Relief for  
Desolate Suffering from Influenza.**

This was a wonderful group of local women who saw a need and came together to fulfill that need. Remember, WWI was still ongoing and the Red Cross was mainly involved in the war effort.

But back to the Spanish Flu epidemic.

October 25<sup>th</sup> page 1:

### ***Influenza is Gaining Still in This County***

*Little Hope for Lifting of the Quarantine  
Here or Elsewhere in State for Considerable Period*

"It would be a hopeful person who, in view of the statement of Dr. C.H. Hunt, county health officer, late yesterday, could see a hope for the early raising of the quarantine regulations in the Warren district. First in interest comes the statement that local physicians are treating approximately 200 new cases of influenza daily, while it is a matter of general knowledge that there are many cases in which a doctor is not called, so-called "home remedies" being depended upon."

The Spanish Influenza hit Bisbee hard and fast.

### ***Pity Poor Doctors and Put Calls in Early for Services***

*Warren District Medicos Overworked as Result of Influenza  
Epidemic and Unless in Emergency, Public Should Be  
Considerate*

"Which is the most overworked class in the world?

That's easy: the doctors during the present influenza epidemic. Therefore it is requested that the general public, even though ill and a trifle unreasonable, have mercy on them." *Bisbee Daily Review*, October 25, 1918 p. 6.

Finally, a very recognizable report that is so important, and yet so controversial, today:

### ***Masks on People Brave Influenza***

"The influenza mask has made its appearance in the Warren district.

Following the example of people in numerous other cities, several residents of this city yesterday went on the streets with cloth protectors over their nostrils and mouth as a preventative against contracting germs of the Spanish influenza so prevalent in this city and which are most readily acquired through the breathing.

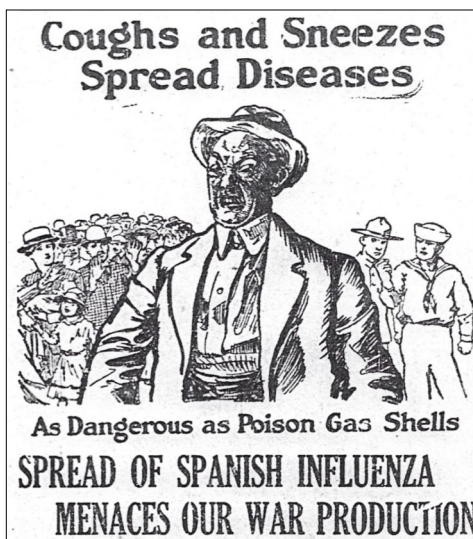
"The influenza masks wearers were pioneers yesterday but without a doubt, it will be a common sight by today."

*Bisbee Daily Review*, October 30, 1918, p.8.

I also find that going back through the newspapers of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century can lead to smiles, albeit somewhat less than cheerful, on an otherwise horrendous topic! So...

### ***\$500 Per Sneeze***

"New York, October 11 [1918]—Dr. Herman M. Briggs, state commissioner of health, was directed by the public



*Bisbee Daily Review*, October 15, 1918

health council of the state department at a meeting here today to take charge of the Spanish influenza in the state.

"The council adopted a rule making it a misdemeanor for any person to cough or sneeze in a public place anywhere in the state without covering the mouth or nose. Punishment will be a \$500 fine or one year in prison or both." *Bisbee Daily Review* October 12, 1918 p.4

Back to Bisbee... I have spent a lot of this newsletter on October 1918, but this is when the Spanish Flu epidemic really began to impact Bisbee, and in a very severe way.

The Spanish Flu epidemic continues in its severity through November. Dominating the news is the continued war in Europe, now winding down with Armistice Day (November 11<sup>th</sup>) and the signing of the

Peace Accords followed by demobilization. November's newspaper coverage of the Spanish Flu epidemic see-saws in the declaration that the "apex" was reached (November 1<sup>st</sup>); modification of the quarantine ban "in order to hold peace demonstrations" (November 12<sup>th</sup>); a surge in cases and reinstatement of quarantine ban (November 16<sup>th</sup>) with its continuation through the end of the month.

### ***Influenza Epidemic Improving in the Warren District***

*Fewer Cases Reported in  
Past Four Days; Quarantine  
May Be Lifted in Ten  
Days*

"The influenza epidemic in the Warren district, judging from report of cases to the local health officers, has reached the apex and the officials now look for a gradual reduction in the number of cases.

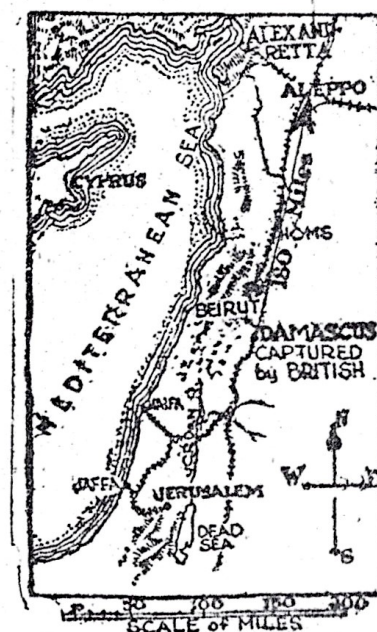
In regard to lifting of the quarantine Dr. Hunt, the county health officer, stated last night that he could not see where it would be safe to lift it for another week." *Bisbee Daily Review*, November 1, 1918 p.6, followed by...

### ***Restrictions Are Modified in the Quarantine Ban***

*Billiard Halls and Soft  
Drink Stands Allowed to  
Open as Usual Last  
Evening*

"County Health Officer Hunt yesterday issued orders modifying the quarantine restrictions in the War-

### **ALIENBY ON WAY NORTH TO ALEPPO**



General Allenby, in command of the allied army in Syria, has left Damascus far behind in his pursuit of the Turks. He is following the railway from Damascus to Aleppo. By capturing the latter city he will cut the railroad running from Constantinople to Mesopotamia and thus isolate the Turkish Mesopotamian army.

The sheer joy of reading through old newspapers! This notice harkens back on my first career as an archaeologist working in the Middle East + I loved Laurence of Arabia, both the book, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Laurence, and the movie with Peter O'Toole! *Bisbee Daily Review*, October 15, 1918



ren district. The order applied to the holding of public dances, the opening of soft drink parlors and the billiard and pool halls.” *Bisbee Daily Review*, November 12, 1918 p.8.

### ***Bisbee Wildly Celebrates End of World War***

#### ***Miners Start Big Day by Impromptu Parade Which Ends in War Work Demonstration and Public Dances***

“Thousands of residents of the Warren district celebrated the signing of the armistice with Germany throughout yesterday. Soon after daybreak, hundreds of men gathered in the streets of Bisbee, Lowell and Warren. Within a few moments they had secured bells, horns and flags and an impromptu celebration started.

Businesses in the Warren District stood at a standstill throughout the day. When the miners going on shift at daybreak heard the news they threw their hats in the air and their diggin’ clothes on the floor of the change houses.

During the day celebrations of every character were in progress throughout the city. Plans were made for half a dozen dances and similar entertainment all for the benefit of the united war work campaign. Parties in automobiles drove about the streets of the district shouting, blowing horns and displaying the colors of the United States and other nations at war.

During the morning the prisoners in the city jail were released and told to go have a good time assisting in the celebration.

More than 4000 persons stood in front of the Phelps Dodge store at the opening of the celebration and this audience had been swelled by one to two thousands more before it closed. The streets on all sides of the corner were filled with men, women and children. If the mass started to move every man and woman and child had to move in that general direction so thick was the crowd. Never in the history of the district has there been so spontaneous and tremendous a celebration.” *Bisbee Daily Review*, November 12, 1918, p. 1-2.

Having researched the local newspapers and feeling the joy in the celebration, I still can’t help adding my own somewhat cynical wording here: Wait for it... Wait for it....

### ***Heavy Increase in Influenza in Warren District***

“The quarantine in the Warren district, imposed on account of the epidemic of influenza, will not be lifted today nor tomorrow. At least ten days must pass before it is lifted and the removal of the ban then will be attended by extreme precautionary measures.

#### ***Sudden New Outbreak***

The physicians were unanimous in their opinion that the quarantine should be maintained at least ten day longer, or until conditions justify it being lifted. This opinion was based upon the very sudden increase in the number of cases since the partial lifting of the quarantine a few days before, in order that the peace demonstrations might be held.

#### ***Sweeping and Deadly***

It was agreed by the doctors that this was the most sweeping, deadly epidemic ever known in this country or district. The general opinion expressed was that while the quarantine might work a hardship on a few persons, yet the majority of the people would benefit in a manner which would far overbalance any such loss or inconvenience.” *Bisbee Daily Review*, November 16, 1918 p.1.

### ***The Quarantine***

“This day will prove whether or not there is virtue in the influenza quarantine, was a remark made several times Monday in various languages. Events did come forward to offer proof and by reason of the alarming increase in the number of cases of influenza and pneumonia, with the additional feature of the disease having attacked women and children with more frequency than had been the case before the celebration, it was shown conclusively that the danger of a more terrible epidemic than has been experienced was present.

The public of the Warren district must be circumspect in its goings and comings, it must safeguard itself in every way, else it must suffer.

Figures which were well calculated to frighten any sane individual into the exercise of care, were quoted by the doctors. Dr. Bledsoe said that according to the ratio observable elsewhere, 40 % of the population was subject to contracting the disease upon exposure to it. There has been but 2500 cases here, so if this ratio was retained in the Warren district, more than five thousand persons face the danger. You and I may be one of that five thousand, you know.” *Bisbee Daily Review* November 17, 1918 p. 4

November 30th: ***Ten Days Quarantine is Decided Upon*** with 110 deaths determined from October 9th through November 30th. This was considered at the time a “low death rate.” However...

“It was the opinion of the doctors that the situation in the Warren district had shown marked improvement in the last week.... This, however, did not apply to the Mexican residents, as it was shown that the disease had just begun to make its inroad in that section of the population. One doctor of the C.&A. staff visited 15 cases of pneumonia in Tintown yesterday.” *Bisbee Daily Review*, November 30, 1918 p.1.

The Spanish Flu epidemic continues in Bisbee through March 1919; but it is really the consequences of the actions taken locally in October and November that I truly wish we could have learned from and applied to our decision-making today. Establish the quarantine (the equivalent of the stay-at-home/shelter-in-place actions today), ease restrictions, celebrate Armistice Day, then, oops, bring that quarantine back again! In 2020, we established the stay-at-home/shelter-in-place orders in March, we lifted them in May, then we celebrated Memorial Day, oops.... Guess what? It’s back! A Déjà vu moment....

However, we can’t let November 1918 pass into our newsletter without a few smiles, however droll! Our lovely ladies of the Warren District Relief Association are in action helping the “destitute” of the district. You can get a “Madam Clark Clairvoyant Reading from 10 am to 8 pm at the Golden Hotel, Room 15. But you can only buy 2-lbs of candy per person per purchase! Wrigley’s gum is apparently scarce at home, but... “Be Patient Here, Our Boys Are Getting Wrigley’s Over There!” And then there’s one of my favorites:

### ***Whiskey Is Issued to “Flu” Patients in Capital City.***

***By Order of Board of Health Maricopa County Sheriff Is Giving Out Whiskey to Patients on Orders from Physicians***

“Several hundred gallons of intoxicating beverages, seized by Sheriff W.H. Wilky and his deputies during the past few months, are now subject to consumption by the sufferers of this county by reason of recent health order. But one must assuredly be a sufferer before he can be taken into consideration at dispensing bureau at the sheriff’s office.”

*Bisbee Daily Review*, November 9, 1918 p.6.

Bisbee, December 1918... Let's go shopping! The *Bisbee Daily Review* is crammed with ads for Christmas shopping and after-Christmas shopping! JC Pennys Co., Phelps Dodge Mercantile Co., LL Gilman, Mrs. J.E. Norris, the Fair-Frankenberg Bros. & Newman, and Watkins & Bergquist Quality Jewelers are all offering merchandise to suit your Christmas shopping list! Central Theater, Lyric Theater, Grand Theater, and the Eagle Theater are operating full tilt!

Underneath the marketing to "shop-till-you-drop," our lovely ladies of the Warren District Relief Association are still working hard.

### ***Nurses Needed to Assist with Influenza Cases***

*Pitiable Condition Exists in Many Homes in District Through Inability to Get Necessary Help.*

"Have you had nursing experience? Do you wish to play a part of the Good Samaritan, right here in Bisbee?"

Volunteer nurses, who are willing to take care of influenza cases are needed badly and at once, not in one home but in many in the Warren District.

Appeals for nurses had been found vain and time and again the doctors found themselves [having to] stop long enough to straighten up furniture, clean up the house, attend the immediate wants of several patients and to find them food. But for the ministrations of the doctors, it is highly probable that deaths due to inattention and lack of care would have been multiplied." *Bisbee Daily Review*, December 6, 1918 p.6.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, ***Influenza Ban Lifting Gives City New Lift.***

"The lifting of the influenza ban in Bisbee yesterday, acted much in the same manner as the kiss upon the lips of the fabled sleeping beauty.

Pool balls clicked in the 'pocket billiards' parlors along Brewery Avenue and Main street, soda fountains did a fine business, everything considered, while the first timid pioneers of returned normality visited the movies. The businessmen who have been nursing a grouch came out from behind the clouds and wore a smile." *Bisbee Daily Review*, December 10, 1918 p.2.

January through March, 1919 witnesses essentially the third, though lessor, wave of the Spanish Influenza epidemic. Very little is reported in the local newspaper, and that confined mainly to individual funeral or death notices in "Tips of the Town," usually on the last page or so of the newspaper.

## **GRIP, INFLUENZA**

**Hamlin's Wizard Oil a Reliable, Antiseptic Preventive**

During influenza epidemics spray the nose and throat several times a day with one part Wizard Oil and two parts water, using an atomizer. If you haven't an atomizer, gargle the throat and snuff the mixture up the nose. This treatment sets up an antiseptic wall of defense against "Flu" germs.

Chest colds and sore throat lead to grip. Stop them at once with Wizard Oil before they can develop into dangerous influenza.

Get it from druggists for 30c. If not satisfied, return the bottle and get your money back.

Ever constipated or have sick headache? Just try Wizard Liver Whips, pleasant little pink pills, 30c at druggists. Guaranteed.

*Bisbee Daily Review January 1, 1919*

**THIN PEOPLE  
SHOULD TAKE  
PHOSPHATE**

Nothing Like Plain Bitro-Phosphate to Put on Firm, Healthy Flesh and to Increase Strength, Vigor and Nerve Force.

*Bisbee Daily Review March 1, 1919*

### ***Warren District Greet New Year in Real Abandon***

"Firing of guns, the ringing of bells, and tooting of whistles and the unlimbering of all other known noise making instruments marked the arrival of the New Year in the Warren district. Along the street of Bisbee hundreds of persons who were awaiting the hour of celebration rang cowbells, shouted and cheered." *Bisbee Daily Review* January 1, 1919 p.1.

January 9th, the quarantine is partially back, but confusing. On page 4 of the *Bisbee Daily Review*, is the article ***Quarantine Goes on Dances Here*** opposite the ad ***Dance Every Wednesday & Sunday, Brophy Hall, Lowell.***

The Peace Conference, the League of Nations and "Mary Pickford's New Picture is a Delightful One" capture the readers imagination. One fun fact in January: ***Burro Police Round up Animals for the City*** certainly brought a smile to my face.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, the dance quarantine was lifted and the US began preparing for the US 1920 census. The oddity in the monthly reporting is that the cost of dying was more expensive in Bisbee than Douglas (\$30 in Douglas and \$32.50 in Bisbee), but the cost of dying from contagious diseases was the same at \$50. In March, 1919 Women's suffrage comes into local, state, and national discussion and the Dolly Sisters and the "Million Dollar Dollies" at the Grand Theater are hot topics!

## **Bisbee 2020**

As of June 14<sup>th</sup> Bisbee has less than 10 confirmed cases and one death. All those early 19<sup>th</sup>-century control efforts, even transcribed in our 21<sup>st</sup>-century lingo, are working! Harkening back to John Barry's "The Single Most Important Lesson From the 1918 Influenza" (*New York Times*, May 17, 2020), most of us are sheltering-in-place and staying-at-home, most of us are quarantining when needed and washing our hands. When we can't purchase disinfectant wipes, we make our own solutions. Most of us social distance, most of us wear cotton face masks, and most of us limit public gatherings to under 10, often with a public gathering of two! We have learned from history, even if we weren't aware of doing so! And this is what makes Bisbee such a wonderful place to live!

✓ Yep, I think we here in Bisbee, Arizona, have learned from our community history, even if we didn't know it!

*Writer's note: This has been an interesting exercise for me, being given more time (due to the Museum shut down amid the coronavirus pandemic) to pursue research-based history rather than prioritizing coping with the nuts-and-bolts of running a community history museum—you know... plumbing, paying bills, heating/cooling systems maintenance, electrical systems that really haven't aged well over the past 120 years, etc.. I've been out of my academic past for quite a while now, but I have the advantage to add my last couple of decades as your Museum Director to bring in the element of hands-on history, that messy public history that is made by you and me, by all of us, into my interpretive mix. Venturing away from the confines of pure academic writing, into the world of real people, our journalists, who chronicled our history and not just the academics who write about it, I have had a blast researching this newsletter and determining how to transcribe raw, primary data in disparate, apples-and-oranges datasets into a story that I hope catches your interest as it has mine. Finally, a 'thank you' to Mike Anderson for sharing his Bisbee Daily Review research on the Spanish Flu epidemic.*

Carrie Gustavson, Director

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Les Johnson Bequest  
Alice Metz Bequest  
Sylvia Iriarte & John Albert Riddle Bequest  
Renette Gerdes-Saba Bequest  
Joy & John Timbers Bequest

We would like to thank the following for their wonderful support

Let's say your annual gift to the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum is \$500, the entry level into our Heritage Keeper membership status. A bequest to us of just \$10,000 can be endowed so that it distributes approximately \$500 each year (5% of the principal) to support our work. Even a small bequest, when endowed, can have a significant impact on funding our important programs. Ask us about the many endowment opportunities available to you and how you can create a meaningful legacy through a well-planned charitable bequest. For further information, contact Carrie Gustavson, Director, at (520) 432-7071 #3 or by email at [carrie@bisbeemuseum.org](mailto:carrie@bisbeemuseum.org) for details and references.

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**If We Choose to Listen!**