

# 1980 Brooks Family Reunion

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## The History Behind Harold Bell Wright Estates.

(Posted on June 28, 2010 by Nick Labriola)

The 1980 Brooks Family Reunion took place in Tucson, Arizona. The address was 6311 E. Brian Kent. You can bring up the Google Map by [CLICKING HERE](#). This was the home of Nancy & Carl Wiese. It is located in the Harold Bell Wright Estates section of Tucson. As can be seen on the sign above, it is now a Historic District.

The Harold Bell Wright Estates, located near Speedway Boulevard and Wilmot Road in Tucson, is steeped in local history. But who was Harold Bell Wright and why does his name grace this neighborhood? Harold Bell Wright was an early 20th century fiction author. He wrote 19 novels between 1903 – 1942. He is said to be the first American fiction author to sell over 1 million copies. 21 movies were based on his stories including [The Shepherd of the Hills](#)

(made into a movie starring John Wayne), and *The Winning of Barbara Worth* (one of Gary Cooper's first movies).

Wright suffered from tuberculosis and came to Tucson for his health, as so many people did. After living near the downtown area, he purchased a 160 acre parcel of land near Speedway & Wilmot in 1920. Wright liked the desert and wanted to get away from the city. After extensive planning, his home was finished in 1922. In the 20's his home was 5 miles away from the edge of town. At the time grass lawns were all the rage, and the desert was thought of as a wasteland. Wright nixed that notion and purposely maintained the natural desert landscaping around his home. He even brought in many new species of cacti into his garden for display.

Wright was an important figure in Tucson, committing his time and money to local causes. He even persuaded Hollywood to have the movie premier for '*The Mine With the Iron Door*' at the Rialto Theater in downtown Tucson.

Wright moved to California in 1935 and sold his Tucson Estate in 1936. Wright passed away in 1944 in California. In 1950, the land was subdivided and turned into the Harold Bell Wright Estates. The land was divided into approximately 1/2 acre parcels and the streets were named after people or places in his books.

Now, the Harold Bell Wright Estates neighborhood is highly sought after due to its large lots, natural desert landscaping and convenient location in the middle of town. Wright's

home is still standing in the center of the neighborhood. There is a small neighborhood park at the south west corner of the neighborhood that has a playground, benches & plenty of grass for soccer or tossing a frisbee.

Below are several photos of Mr. Wright's home.





253 HOME OF HAROLD BELL WRIGHT, NEAR TUCSON, ARIZONA.

104287



PATIO, HAROLD BELL WRIGHT HOUSE TUCSON, ARIZ.



HAROLD BELL WRIGHT HOUSE TUCSON, ARIZ.



HAROLD BELL WRIGHT HOUSE TUCSON, ARIZ.



# Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

The Arizona Sonora Desert Museum is a 98-acre zoo, aquarium, botanical garden, natural history museum, publisher, and art gallery founded in 1952.

Wikipedia Address: 2021 N Kinney Rd, Tucson, AZ 85743

Opened: September 1, 1952

Area: 21 acres

Hours: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Phone: (520) 883-1380

Exhibits: Walk-In Aviary, Cactus Gardens, Cat Canyon, and [More](#)





Old Tucson is a movie studio and theme park just west of Tucson, Arizona, adjacent to the Tucson Mountains and close to the western portion of Saguaro National Park.

Wikipedia Address: 201 S Kinney Rd, Tucson, AZ 85735

Phone: (520) 883-0100











# SANTA CATALINA MOUNTAINS

Located on Tucson's north side, the rugged Santa Catalina Mountains in Coronado National Forest are Tucson's most prominent range with the highest average elevation. The highest point is Mt. Lemmon at 9,147 feet, noted as the southernmost ski destination in the United States. A trip from the Tucson valley to Mt. Lemmon takes you from 2,000 to about 9,000 feet, with scenery that resembles a trip from the Mexican to the Canadian border. It is located in the Coronado National Forest north of Tucson, Arizona. Mount Lemmon was named for botanist Sara Plummer Lemmon, who trekked to the top of the mountain with her husband and E. O. Stratton, a local rancher, by horse and foot in 1881. It is reported that Mount Lemmon Ski Valley, on the mountain's northeastern side, receives 200 inches (508 cm) of snow annually.

Summerhaven is a small town near the top of the mountain. It is a summer residence for many but there are some year round residents. There are many small cabins most of which were rebuilt after the Aspen Fire of July 2003.

The Catalina Highway, also called the Mount Lemmon Highway, as well as the Hitchcock Highway (after Frank Harris Hitchcock) runs up the Santa Catalina Mountains from the east side of Tucson up to Summerhaven, at the top of Mt. Lemmon. The beautiful, curving road is a favorite drive for tourists, for locals escaping summer's

heat and cyclists, and has been recently designated as the Sky Island Parkway, part of the US National Scenic Byway system.



The Catalina Highway



The Rock