

EXHIBIT 5

Narrative of History of Wild Horses on Mogollan Rim

As told to Dr. Pat Haight

By Jinx Pyle, Payson, Arizona

Descendant of Pioneer Pyle Family who were Among First Settlers of Mogollon Rim

Referred by Arizona Historian, Marshall Trimble

August 12, 2005

I spoke with Jinx Pyle by telephone. Jinx is 60 years old and has lived his entire life in the Mogollon Rim area. He gave me the following history of wild Spanish Mustangs on the Mogollon Rim in Arizona (Heber Territory):

The Pyle family is an Arizona pioneer family and has been in the Mogollan rim area since 1874 when his great grandfather settled under the rim. His grandfather, Floyd, was born under the Mogollon rim in 1890. They have been ranchers all of their lives in the Mogollon rim area (Heber Territory). One of his grandfathers was a guide for Zane Grey.

According to Jinx, the diaries of Father Kino describe the original establishment of the wild horses on the Mogollon rim and throughout Arizona. The horses were brought to Arizona when Father Kino and the Conquistadors accompanying him, traveled across Arizona. As they traveled, when they came to good areas that would sustain cattle and horses, they would leave a bull and several cows and a stud horse and mares in the area to breed and create herds for the Spanish to replenish their food and horses as they came back.

From these original horses of Spanish blood (Andalusian, Spanish Barb, Spanish Colonial Horse), the mustangs on the Mogollon Rim were established. Jinx says there were hundreds, perhaps thousands of Spanish mustangs prior to as late as 1911. At that time a large ranch was established in the Mogollon Rim area, the Hash Knife Ranch, and the cowboys rounded up most of the wild mustangs because they were excellent ranch horses and the cowboys enjoyed rounding up and being with wild horses.

Many of the ranchers, including the Hash Knife ranchers and his grandfather ran their mustangs and their quarterhorses mixed with wild mustangs on the Rim in the Apache-Sitgreaves area during the period 1914 to the 1930's and later. From time to time, the tamed wild mustangs and the quarterhorse/mustangs would get away and, while the cowboys were very good at getting them back, it is Jinx's contention that occasionally one of the stud horses and a mare or a few mares probably would stay loose and breed.

Thus, if people have been seeing horses in the Heber Territory, including the seven originally counted by the FS, there may be offspring of those original tamed wild mustangs who got away from the ranches among them and will definitely show the traditional characteristics of Spanish mustangs or Spanish mustangs mixed with quarterhorses.

Jinx did not really say if he thought the FS contention that they all are trespass horses from the White Mountain Reservation might be true but he did say that he thought some of them may be offspring of original wild mustangs who escaped over the years from 1914 on or offspring of wild mustangs or wild mustangs that were mixed with quarterhorses from the big ranches up through the 1930's.

Jinx did say that there also were herds of wild Spanish mustangs in the White Mountains at the same time they were on the Rim and the Apaches caught most of them because they valued the horses. There may be some ancestors of these wild Spanish mustangs on the White Mountain reservation if a few escaped the Apaches or got away or were mixed with other horses.

It is Jinx's contention that some of the 400 horses to be removed by the FS would be direct descendants of wild horses on the Mogollon rim and would have been in the Apache-Sitgreaves Forest prior to 1971 if some of them are offspring of horses that escaped from the big ranches. They will have the traditional Spanish mustang look he said. He says the cowboys favored the ones who were most like Paso Finos because they moved very quickly and sometimes they would mix the Spanish mustangs with Paso Finos and with quarterhorses to produce a horse that was very hardy, quick and agile. He believes it is possible that some of the horses may be offspring of these original ranch horses or of the Spanish mustangs that escaped.

Jinx said he would be happy to sit down and talk with me again if I would like to talk with him more about this.

He suggested the following references:

The Diary of Father Kino

The Hash Knife Cowboy, Stella Hughes