

HORSE SHOE MOTEL

1136 E. Main (Hwy. 84) Currently Jimmie Kerr Blvd.

Initially owned and operated by Ernest and Ann Kobema, this typical 1940's roadside motel was originally named the Horse Shoe Lodge. Located on the highway to Tucson this was a popular motel located east of downtown Casa Grande. Mr. Kobema passed in 1964 and four years later Mrs. Kobema sold the lodge.

Originally advertised as clean, modern, air-cooled units, panel ray vented heat and car ports, it's known to be one of the first motels in Casa Grande to install air-conditioning.

In the late 40's newspaper articles indicated that winter guests who had stayed there for a month were returning home. The motel changed owners a couple times after the Kobema's sold. Lynda Williams purchased the property at auction in 1989 at a time when the motel was requiring some tender loving care. The motel was given a facelift and a beautification award was given on January 20, 1990. Lynda learned that her favorite uncle, Ed Dixon, had laid all the blocks for the motel in the 40's. "No wonder there were no two rooms that were the same or actually even square." Lynda jokingly reported that she didn't think Uncle Ed ever owned a leveler or a tape measure.

During the seven years that Boomer and Lynda Williams owned the motel she was constantly reminded by patrons who stopped in that they had fond memories of the good times they spent there either on a honeymoon, trip or other celebrative occasion.

Sadly, during the seven years after the Williams' sold the property newspaper articles reported frequent yard sales, complaints and patron arrests. This historic motel was demolished in September 2004 by the City of Casa Grande. The City saved the neon sign and the Museum of Casa Grande was given the awnings.

The awnings were repurposed by Casa Grande Main Street in 2006 during the Alleyway Project and again in 2013 for the Doors to the Past project. Back in the day the motel awnings were painted red and white. Hence, the Horse Shoe Motel door in the door project represents the true colors of the motel, signage and awnings.

Prepared by Marge Jantz 1/22/15

Source: Dispatch, Casa Grande Main Street, Marge Jantz, Lynda Williams