

It was during the 1930's that the lovely Rose Tree growing in the patio started attracting attention. Robert Ripley visited the Inn and was impressed with the bush. He wrote about it in his BELIEVE IT OR NOT column and called it the "WORLD'S LARGEST ROSE TREE". Articles about the Rose Tree appeared in newspapers and magazines and suddenly the Macias realized that the bush they had loved and enjoyed all these years was something very unusual. Today is it listed in the GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS and it has never been disputed as the WORLD'S LARGEST ROSE TREE.

The history of the bush is quite fascinating as well as romantic. A Scottish girl, who came, as a bride, to Tombstone, planted it in the spring of 1885. Arriving with her young mining engineer husband in the fall of 1884, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gee took lodging at the boarding house of the Vizina Mining Company. In charge at the time was Mrs. Amelia Adamson and the two women struck an enduring friendship. When Mary Gee's own house was built her family sent her a box of shrubs from her native Scotland. Several rooted shoots of the Lady Banksia Rose were in the box. One of these shoots she gave to Mrs. Adamson as a token of their friendship and together they planted it in the patio. Mrs. Gee was still living in Tombstone in 1919 when Mrs. Macia purchased the property and Mrs. Gee told the story of the planting to Mrs. Macia. It was Mr. Macia who devised the trellis system and as the years went by and the bush increased in size, more and more room was given to it and more and more pipe and poles were added. At the present time the Lady Banksia, with millions of white blossoms every April, spreads over 8,000 square feet of supports and is growing larger year after year.

Today the story of the Rose Tree Museum is the story of Tombstone and one family's dedication and devotion to the town they love and call home. ♥



**Rose Tree Museum**  
**4th & Toughnut Streets**  
**Tombstone, Arizona**  
**(520) 457-3326**

Open Daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.



# The Rose Tree Museum

In Historic

## TOMBSTONE ARIZONA



**Tombstone 1880's**  
**Museum and home of**  
**The World's Largest**  
**Rose Tree**

### History of The World's Largest Rose Tree and the Rose Tree Museum

Welcome to the famous Rose Tree Museum and the home of the World's Largest Rose Tree, the real "Shady Lady" of Tombstone.

The Museum is dedicated to one of the town's pioneer families, the Macias and operated by members of the family who have made the property their home for four generations.

The Macia family history is as old as Tombstone itself. S.C. Robertson and his bride, Alice, arrived in Tombstone on Christmas Eve of 1880. They had been married on October 19, 1880 in Leadville, Colorado and left that city three days later traveling by wagon train. They planned to start their married life in Tombstone where the rich silver mines offered hope of a prosperous future. They brought with them two wagons filled with furniture and household goods, most of which is in the museum today.

Ethel Robertson was born in Tombstone in August 1881; she was the oldest of the five Robertson children. Upon the death of her mother in 1895 Ethel became the mother of the household. Four years later her father was killed and she became the sole support of her brothers and sisters. She went to work in the Cochise County Court House, one of the first women to be so employed and it was here that her life of dedication to her town and her state started. Ethel lived her entire life of 83 years in Tombstone, the town she loved so dearly.

In 1904 Ethel Robertson married James

Herbert Macia who had arrived in Tombstone two years earlier to work as a mining engineer with the Tombstone Consolidated Mining Company. This marriage produced three children, Iris, Jeanne and James, Jr.

Deeply proud of her pioneer background, Mrs. Macia became one of the state's outstanding historians. She worked diligently for the Arizona Children's Home, the University of Arizona (which she attended) and the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society. She also served on the President's Coronado Commission as well as holding various offices in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, of which she was a life-long member. She served on school boards, civic committees including the first Tombstone Helldorado in 1929 and gave without reservation of herself at all times to her town and state.

In 1944 the Macia's youngest daughter Jeanne and her husband Burton Devere purchased the property from her parents and they, along with their five children as well as Mr. and Mrs. Macia made the "Rose Tree" their home. Thus it remained until the fall of 1964 when following the death of Mrs. Macia the family formed the museum, a memorial to the parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who were so important in the development of Arizona in general and Tombstone in particular!

In the museum visitors will see the furniture that Cris and Alice Robertson so lovingly brought to their new home. A bedroom set shipped from New York to the Tweed Ranch in the nearby Dragoon Mountains now stands in the large bedroom off the main lobby of the Inn. On the wall of the parlor hangs the famous Seth Thomas Clock that came as part of the original furnishings to the Oriental Saloon of which Wyatt Earp was part owner. Sitting throughout the museum are the cane-bottomed chairs that were purchased by Al Schieffelin for use in the Masonic Lodge Rooms when he built Schieffelin Hall.

Mr. Macia, an outstanding mining man in the southwest, had a very fine collection of minerals; specimens from his collection are on display, along with some of his assaying equipment. In addition the museum contains dioramas, one of the O.K. Corral gunfight and another of the Lucky Cuss Mine, Ed Schieffelin's big discovery.

The building was one of the first adobe structures on the town site of Tombstone and was built by the Vizina Mining Company for use as offices and as a boarding house. In the early years the building was not as large as its present size for each new owner made additions. With the closing of the Vizina Mine the property was sold and became a small hotel, named the Cochise House. Located only one block from the Court House it was one of the most popular stopping places for Cochise County residents in the town on legal business or court matters.

The turn of the century brought new life to the town. The Tombstone Consolidated Mining company set up business in Tombstone and the hotel not only had new owners but a new name, the Arcade. It was at this time that the Arcade changed in appearance. The outside walls were covered in tin to protect the adobe walls from the strong Arizona sun. The name remained the Arcade until 1935 when Mrs. Macia changed it to the Rose Tree Inn, honoring the large rose bush in the patio.

For many years, every author who visited Tombstone or wrote of this area found his or her way to the Inn, not only for the fine accommodations it afforded but to seek out Mrs. Macia's vast knowledge of the area's history. Here they heard some of the tales and met many of the people you read about today. The family continued sharing historical research and the family today maintains a fine historic library along with photos and files on the history of Tombstone and Cochise County.