

Bob Ring Biography

Professional

I was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut in 1940. In 1951, the family moved to Louisville, Kentucky where I graduated from Eastern High School in 1958.

I graduated from Purdue University and the University of Michigan with degrees in Engineering before moving to San Diego, California in 1965 to work for General Dynamics Convair division. I worked on both large and small technical projects - mostly systems engineering and operation research applications to both manned space and military missile projects. Over the years, I managed both programs and groups of people. At other times, I was on staff to top management and did a lot of strategic, technology, and new business planning. The highlight of my aerospace career was leading two special projects, multi-General-Dynamics-division efforts, reporting to the Vice Chairman of General Dynamics Corporation.

In 1995 I was transferred from San Diego to Tucson to become part of the local Raytheon organization. I retired in 2000 as a Senior Fellow, after 35 years in the aerospace industry.

In retirement, sparked by family genealogy questions, I joined forces with my brother Al to conduct research and write on the history of Arizona and Tucson.

Beginning in 2000, we shared our research at eight Arizona History Conventions. We've written and presented papers ranging from - the history of Warren, Arizona, a suburb of the famous copper mining town, Bisbee - to the mining history of the Oro Blanco Mining District and the mining ghost town, Ruby.

From 2003 to 2007, we wrote a newspaper column, "Along the Ruby Road," for the *Green Valley News & Sun*. The column highlighted the colorful history of south-central Arizona mining.

In 2005, assisted by former Ruby resident Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon, we published our first book together, *Ruby, Arizona - Mining, Mayhem, and Murder*. This book details the 125-year-plus history of the Montana mine and its Ruby mining camp, including two infamous double murders in the 1920s.

Since 2006 we have shared our research and writing on our own website, <http://ringbrothershistory.com>.

In 2007 our second book was published, *Frontier Lady of Letters - The Heroic Love Story of Ines Fraser*. This personal memoir follows Ines Fraser's inspiring story from mining in Colorado and Arizona in the early 1900s to the beginning of the manned space program in the 1960s.

In 2008 Al and I, with my son Steven, published my great grandfather's memoir, *Detour to the California Gold Rush: Eugene Ring's Travels to South America, California, and Mexico, 1848-1850*. This book details the incredible tale of a young man's unplanned adventure that almost ended with his death.

From 2008-2014 I wrote a newspaper column, "Ring's Reflections," for Tucson's *Arizona Daily Star*. This resulted in two books published in 2015 - compilations of my columns (along with new material): *Tucson Reflections - Living History from the Old Pueblo* and *Arizona Reflections - Living History from the Grand Canyon State* - both dedicated to the fight against cancer.

In 2015 Al and I began writing a series of on-line articles on the history of the Tucson Fire Department (TFD). Those articles are posted on the TFD Archives website at, <http://www.tucsonfirefoundation.com/tfd-archive-down/>, under "Reflections on TFD History." The articles were the basis of a book published in 2017, *Tucson Fire Department - Est. 1881*, that can be purchased at www.tucsonfirehistorybook.org.

In 2018 I published the third book in my series of history "reflections" books, *Southeastern Arizona Reflections - Living History from the Wild West*, also dedicated to the fight against cancer.

Family

I grew up in Connecticut and Kentucky before moving to San Diego in 1965 to work for General Dynamics. That same year, I married Ann Benedict from Bradford, Pennsylvania and we had three wonderful sons together: John, David, and Steven. My grandchildren are David's son Clinton and his daughter Laila. Sadly, Ann contracted breast cancer in 1985 and died five years later in 1990.

A few months after retirement, in 2001, I met and began a relationship with the second love of my life, then recent widow Pat Wood, who grew up in a military family. Pat has one son, David, and granddaughters Sarah and Emily. Pat and I are currently enjoying a wonderful retirement together in Tucson, Arizona.