

## Shared history

U.S. monument is at home — in Mexico

By Richard Zidonis  
Special to the Green Valley News

**D**riving south on the interstate, I pass the Tubac exit doing 75 miles per hour. Nogales, on the border, is not too many minutes away.

I try to imagine it's 1854, the year the U. S. Senate ratified the Gadsden Treaty. I would be on horseback, then, and Nogales would be a day's ride.

Put my Blazer 4x4 on a forest service road in the Santa Rita Mountains along the Santa Cruz Valley, and I instantly transform into an Arizona Territory pioneer, expecting a nomadic Apache warrior to rise up from the

next arroyo. But pioneer I am not. I understand that the Wild West is, well, history. The year is 2010, and I am merely a snowbird tourist who occasionally thinks himself to be an adventurer.

One would assume, though, that in 1864, almost 150 years ago, the phrase "a tourist" could not attach itself to anyone giving Southern Arizona a go. Yet J. Ross Browne uttered those words.

In his book "A Tour Through Arizona - 1864," Browne writes that he "should have risen to the dignity of an original explorer, instead of rambling over the trodden paths of the western world as I now do, a mere every-day tourist, in the footsteps of those giant old freebooters."

J. Ross Browne really knows how to hurt a guy.

But I heal quickly, and despite Browne's stinging rebuke of my modern sense of adventure, I, we, can still allow our imagination to run free, and, as you will read, each of us can still touch the past that touched J. Ross Browne and others like him.

### A pile of stones

The Gadsden purchase, the last major

territorial acquisition within the continental United States, was needed to establish a transcontinental railroad along a southern route. Ten million dollars later, the almost 30,000 square miles of present Southern Arizona, along with a sliver of New Mexico, became the property of the USA.

Properties come with borders, and borders need to be surveyed. West Point graduate Major William H. Emory left his mark



RICHARD ZIDONIS | SPECIAL TO THE GREEN VALLEY NEWS

**OBELISK 122:** A piece of American history can be found on the other southern side of the U.S.-Mexico border.

on the Southern Arizona border within reach of each of us. In 1855, when Emory departed his Boundary Headquarters at the Grove of Walnuts — also known as Nogales, he left behind a pyramid of stones known as boundary monument 26.

When that "every-day" tourist Browne passed through the border area, he wrote first about how pleasant was the boundary area of Southern Arizona with "grass up to our horses' shoulders." He tells us also how

he "stopped awhile at the boundary line to examine the monument erected by Colonel Emory nine years earlier in 1855." He was referring to boundary monument 26, and he added that "very little of it remains save an unshapely pile of stones."

Unshapely or not, the stones were the border, and the border brought men who were busy being men. The Grove of Wal-

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## Is it Alzheimer's disease or just routine aging process?

By Ellen Sussman  
Special to the Green Valley News

*"The normal adult forgets, remembers that she forgot and later may remember what she forgot. An Alzheimer's patient forgets, forgets that she has forgotten and couldn't care less five minutes later."*

Dr. Dan Blazer, Duke University

Forgetting where you put the car keys, showing up on the wrong day for an appointment or not being able to balance the checkbook — is it a sign of Alzheimer's disease, another form of dementia or a senior moment that comes with normal aging?

Debra Anderson of the Desert Southwest Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association spoke to an audience of about 75 at Quail Creek and

started with a quip: "I'm delighted with the turnout. You all remembered to come."

"Denial and acceptance are the two biggest hurdles," she said. "Understanding dementia makes it easier to cope with."

An Alzheimer's Association pamphlet states that memory often changes with aging, but memory loss that disrupts daily life is not a typical part of aging. Dementia is a slow

decline in memory, thinking and reasoning skills. The most common form of dementia is Alzheimer's disease, which accounts for 70 percent. It's a progressive degenerative disease that causes death of nerve cells in the brain.

"At age 85 and beyond, there's a 50 percent

SEE **ALZHEIMER'S**, PAGE C4

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