

Adopted name Sif Vaya

Description a small village near lat. 32°37' N., long. 112°07' W., sec. 25, T. 9 S., R.2 E., ~~Sif Oidak~~ district, Papago Indian Reservation, Pinal County, Ariz.

Sif Vaya is a Papago name that means "bitter well." (Not Siyvaxia nor Bitter Well.)

Names

Authorities

Bitter Well	1912 - New Trails in Mexico, by Carl Lumholtz, p.378, map.
Siyvaxia(Bitter Well)	1912 - Map showing Papago rancherias, pub. in "New Trails in Mexico."
Bitter Well	1917 - U. S. Corps of Eng., Prog. Mil. Map, sheet 195 N., Gila Bend
" "	1921 - G.L.O., map of Arizona
" "	1922 - U.S.G.S., W. S. Paper 490 D, pl. 24.
" "	1923 - U.S.G.S., Map of Arizona
" "	1924 - Geol.Map of Arizona, by Ariz.Bur.Mines & U.S.G.S.
" "	1925 - U.S.G.S., W. S. Paper 499, pp. 228, 303, 307, 319, 395, pl. 3.
" "	1931 - U.S. Ind. Irrig. Service, map of Papago Reser.
Bitter Wells	1933 - G.L.O., Map of Arizona
Bitter Well	1935 - Standard Oil Co. of Calif., Road Map of Arizona
" "	1935 - Rand McNally, Com. Atlas

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 Card by GCM

Decision of Executive Committee
Sif Vaya
W.H.S. G.C.C. K.T.A.

Bitter Well	1935 - Rand McNally, Road map of Arizona & New Mexico
" "	1935 - Arizona Place Names, page 49
" "	1936 - Ann. Rept., Supt. Sells Agency for 1935/36.
" "	1937 - U.S.Bur Pub.Roads, Ariz.Trans.Map, sheet 11.
Bitter Wells	1937 - Ariz.Hwy.Dept., Road map of Arizona.
Sif Vaya	1938 - Soil Cons. Service, Map of Papago Ind. Res.

Local usage

The recommended name is the traditional name for this village, and it is widely used and understood by Papagos. The only alternative name, either Papago or English, is the English translation, "Bitter Well." As in the case of all translations, the Papagos consider the use of the unfamiliar translation instead of the familiar Papago name a rather senseless procedure, and they cannot be persuaded to follow it. Since the village of Sif Vaya is usually an entirely Indian settlement, the Indian name should be retained. (Off. Ind. Aff., 9/8/39)

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Bitter Well, whose name is a translation of the Papago Sivvaxia, is a small rancheria with a dug well 12 feet deep in an open valley between the north end of the Vekol Mountains and a few detached buttes that are sometimes called the Little Table Top Mountains.

(U.S.G.S., W. S. Paper 499, p. 395.)

"Bitter Well," Rancheria. In Papago Sivváxia. (Siv, bitter; váxia, well, waterhole, also spring.) Two miles east of the Vekol mine. Four to five families are said to live here.

(New Trails in Mexico, p. 378.)