

THE HISTORY OF COOLIDGE
AND VICINITY

by
Arnold E. Kelm

A Thesis

submitted to the faculty of the
Department of History and Political Science

in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts

in the Graduate College
University of Arizona

1941

Approved: _____

Russell B. Quincy
Director of Thesis

Feb. 21, 1941
Date

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
LIBRARY

1954

Article A

admitted to the faculty of the

Department of Electrical Engineering



Department of Electrical Engineering

University of Arizona

Department of Electrical Engineering

1954

[Handwritten signature]

E9791
1941
36
cap. 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. INTRODUCTION.....	2
II. PIONFERING.....	10
III. SLOW GROWTH AND GOVERNMENT INTEREST.....	24
IV. THE SAN CARLOS PROJECT OFFICIALIZED IN 1924.....	35
V. EARLY DEVELOPMENTS IN COOLIDGE PROPER.....	51
VI. RECENT PROGRESS.....	63
VII. CONCLUSION.....	77
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	83
APPENDIX.....	89

MAPS

Coolidge City Plat Pocket
San Carlos Irrigation Project Map Pocket

THE HISTORY OF COOLIDGE

AND VICINITY

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Coolidge, Arizona, is a relatively small community in the south-central section of the state. It is located on the main line of the Southern Pacific Railroad, on a main transcontinental highway, state route 87, and is midway between Phoenix and Tucson, the two largest cities of the state.

The history of Coolidge is usually thought to cover only a contemporary period, while actually it extends back much further, being definitely entwined in the history of one of the oldest ruins in Arizona, namely, the "Casa Grande." For it is this ancient structure that looms up as a landmark in early southwestern history. Even today many of its secrets remain unknown and await the hands of archaeologists. Such men as James Fewkes, Andrew Douglass, and Harold Gladwin have solved part of the riddle and it is upon their work that some of the following history is based. For this purpose indication will merely be made of what manner of men occupied the scene before Coolidge arrived.

Archaeologists have tentatively estimated, through

the processes of dendrochronology,¹ pottery stratification, and general assumptions, that the Hohokams may have resided in this area from as early as 300 B.C. to approximately 1450 A.D.² In the light of the various objects found at Casa Grande, the inhabitants of the prehistoric settlement may be considered as people of the Stone Age.³ It has been further estimated that around 1300 the Saladons, a group of Indians from the east and northeast, joined the Hohokams and brought with them the idea of a high house.⁴

¹

Lockwood, F. C., Pioneer Days in Arizona, 7.

This scientific feat was accomplished by means of a calendar of the remote past, made from a series of tree rings extending over a period of 2000 years, that Dr. Andrew E. Douglass, of the University of Arizona, has constructed. By taking innumerable borings from trees and studying the rings with reference to climate, Dr. Douglass has been able to determine the exact year at which a given tree ring was formed. Reading the tree rings by means of borings taken from beams found in various prehistoric villages, he has provided an exact record of the year that a particular piece of timber was cut.

Through various theories archaeologists have also figured out a way of pottery stratification. Then by re-checking they have found that these two theories tie together.

²

Pinckley, F., Personal Interview, January 6, 1940.

³

Fewkes, J. W., Excavations at Casa Grande, Arizona, Bureau of American Ethnology, 28th Annual Report, 156.

⁴

Pinckley, F., loc. cit.

So it has been surmised that the "Great House" was built between 1300 and 1325 A.D.⁵ The trash mounds indicate that the Saladons and the Hohokams lived side by side until about 1450, when all pottery stops abruptly; and it is believed that both groups left this area, possibly going southward and eastward for a place where later similar evidences have been found.⁶ Why they left is unknown, despite the many theories that have been suggested. Fewkes's and Gladwin's excavations both show that as early as the beginning of the Christian era canals were built, and even today such evidences can be noticed. The pieces of pottery found in the ditch excavations give evidence as to time.

It is interesting to note that irrigated agriculture was the chief industry of these early tribes, for this gives the people of modern Coolidge a chief industry that is common with that of their predecessors.⁷

The period from 1450 to 1694 appears to be unaccountable, for even the Pima and Papago Indians that Spanish

5

Gladwin, H. S., Excavations at Casa Grande, Arizona.

6

Steen, C. R., Polychrome pottery starts about 1300 and lays side by side with the red-on-buff. Polychrome is the characteristic pottery of the Saladons while red-on-buff is that of the Hohokams.

7

The cultural center at that time was one mile north of its present location, and the Coolidge site of today may then have been used for agricultural purposes.

explorers met knew nothing of the early inhabitants of the Casa Grande.

The first white man known to visit Casa Grande was the intrepid Jesuit Father Eusebio Francisco Kino. In November 1694, Kino found Casa Grande to be as reported by the Indians.⁸ Three years later, Kino, accompanied by Mange,⁹ again visited the Casa Grande, and Mange wrote a full account of it.¹⁰ Other Spanish military men and missionaries frequently came here and have left accounts of their visits.¹¹

The first Anglo-American visitors to the Gila-Salt River Basin appear to have been trappers, who found beaver fairly abundant, especially on the river and its tributaries.¹² In 1826 James O. Pattie and his son were in the neighborhood of Casa Grande, and Pauline Weaver, a trapper, is said to have inscribed his name on its walls in

8

Bolton, H. E., Kino's Historical Memoirs of Pimeria Alta, 127-129.

9

Mange, Juan Matheo, or Manje was a Spanish militaryman sent along to protect the Kino entourage.

10

Bolton, H. E., Rim of Christendom, 37C.

11

Font, Pedro; Anza, Col. Juan Bautista de.

12

The Gila and Salt Rivers start in the mountains of south-central Arizona, and join near the city of Phoenix. The area around and between the rivers is described as the basin.

1832.¹³ One of the most renowned of all the pathfinders and explorers of the West, Kit Carson, led a party of Americans from New Mexico to California in 1829-30. It may be safe to say that every traveler who rested a time at or near the neighboring village of Blackwater visited Casa Grande. These earlier visitors left only meager records referring to the ruins. The most important accounts of Casa Grande in the middle of the nineteenth century are found in the official reports of the expedition to California led by General Stephen Watts Kearny in 1846, at the time of the Mexican War.¹⁴

Other travelers frequently stopped in and often aided the rapid deterioration of the building. Eventually the United States Government became interested in the ruins and in 1891 proclaimed it a government reservation.¹⁵ Today it stands as a reminder of the people of an ancient civilization, who tilled the soil as the residents of modern Coolidge now do.

¹³ Pattie, J. O., Personal Narrative, in Thwaites, R. G., Early Western Travels, XVIII, 119; Woodward, A., "Pauline Weaver of the Restless Feet," The Desert Magazine, March 1938, 4-6.

¹⁴ Gibson, G. R., Journal of a Soldier Under Kearny and Doniphan, in Bieber, R. P., Southwest Historical Series, Vol. III.

¹⁵ 25 Stat. L. 961.

Up until the middle of the nineteenth century there had been no agricultural or irrigational developments in this region by white people. The first attempt at any small scale irrigation in the Gila Valley was made under the direction of Amie W. White, who, in 1864, while acting as Indian Agent and trader on the Gila River Reservation, took up land in the vicinity of Adamsville and sent Mexicans to construct the first ditch. This early irrigation was carried on chiefly by digging small canals directly from the river.

Within a few years after such small scale diversions by white settlers the two earliest settlements in this vicinity were founded. These were Adamsville and Florence. Without these two villages pioneering in the utilization of the waters of the Gila it is doubtful if Coolidge and its history would exist. Then too, settlers in this area would have been much more scarce had not the proximity of these two towns offered support and enthusiasm.

Both of these cities appeared about the same time after the Civil War, when adventure and making a livelihood again occupied the American mind. Because Adamsville is today a "ghost town" it is mentioned first. The Arizona Miner of 1871 said that,

At a spot in the valley of the Gila, situated between Florence and Sacaton, some five years since, a pioneer named Charles

Adams located a piece of ground, erected a shanty, and proceeded to divest his property of the offensive shrubbery, preparatory to the sowing of a crop of grain. The location was in the midst of a large tract of land, and soon a thriving settlement sprang up, in the center of which Mr. Adams remained. At the solicitation of his neighbors he laid out a townsite on his property, gave lots to all who wished to build, and with one accord the whole community agreed that the town should be named Adamsville.¹⁶

This site is significant in early history, for here was the first modern flour mill created in the territory.¹⁷

The history of Florence is important for its part in the organizations that made it possible to provide this locality with water. Therefore only brief mention will now be made of its political history, while the water development will be treated in more detail later, for it is this that made Coolidge.

The first house, an adobe structure, was erected in Florence in 1866.¹⁸ Whether Charles G. Mason or Mr. Chase was the first settler seems to be a matter of dispute. Regardless of who the first settler was, a Mr. Levi Ruggles actually began surveying and laying off part of the Chase

¹⁶

Farish, T. E., History of Arizona, VI, 46-7.

¹⁷

Ibid., 48.

¹⁸

Gressinger, A., Unpublished History of Florence. MS.

ranch into town lots in about 1868.¹⁹ A patent to the townsite was granted directly to the occupants of the land in 1882.²⁰ The town of Florence was located about half a mile from the Gila River and was in the center of a very rich agricultural country, which, like the Salt River Valley, would grow almost anything with irrigation.²¹

The beginning of irrigation in this area by the people of Adamsville and Florence showed the potentialities of the surroundings. The people were quick to see that with sufficient water unlimited development was possible. Water then was and still is the problem.

So from the middle of the 1860s, when modern irrigation first appeared here, until the development was climaxed by the completed Coolidge Dam and the San Carlos Irrigation Project in 1930, there existed a continuous struggle for new plans and organizations to attempt to supply water. Because of the fact that without this irrigational evolution this area would probably be unpopulated and barren, an extensive history of the development seems necessary and proper.

¹⁹

Grossinger, A., op. cit.; Farish, T. E., op. cit., 51.

²⁰

Ibid.

²¹

Farish, T. E., op. cit., VI, 57.

CHAPTER II

PIONEERING

Almost every community has some basis for its existence, and so it is with Coolidge, Arizona. The fact that it is one of the youngest towns in the state makes one wonder, even more, why it was founded. For it is realized in these modern times that the spirit of adventure is only evident when it is seen that the end will justify the time and effort spent. Therefore, going back to the subject of irrigation, and with its complement, namely, agriculture, the reason for the existence of Coolidge becomes clearly evident.

As was previously stated this subject has an early history for the locality. Even in the early nineteenth century the use of the ancient canals was sufficient to satisfy the desires of the early pioneers. However, with the end of the Civil War the augmented desire for land and livelihood plus the more modern methods of production taxed the available facilities beyond their capacity. This left only the avenue of expansion, and, later, modernization to alleviate the shortage. Consequently, there existed much strife and turmoil over organization and administration of the water supply. Herein lies a

wealth of color, including the sacrificed lives that were then thought necessary to justify the right. But for this story a summary of the modern irrigation developments will suffice.¹ The reason for this summary is twofold: First, as was already mentioned, irrigation is the basis for the existence of Coolidge; and second, the number of people employed by the Irrigation and Indian Services make these two organizations vital factors in Coolidge Industry.

Of utmost importance in the consideration of the irrigation developments are the factors that today constitute the San Carlos Project. The most important of these factors is the Gila River. The river rises in the mountains of east-central Arizona and western New Mexico, and, winding its way westward down the mountains, reaches a vast lowland, comprising over 100,000 acres, which is known as the Gila Valley. Approximately fifty miles west and north from the valley the Gila joins with the Salt River to flow on into the Colorado River and finally the Gulf of California.

The Gila Valley includes the cities of Florence, Coolidge, Casa Grande, and the Sacaton Indian Reservation, with Coolidge occupying the hub position.

¹ Towards the end, to summarize, and to secure a technically correct interpretation of the developments, the records of the San Carlos Irrigation Office have been used as a basis unless otherwise stated.

The arrangement of these cities in proximity to the river is as follows: The city of Florence is located along the Gila, about 15 miles south and west of the point where the river emerges from the mountains; old Adamsville is down the river about five miles from Florence; and Coolidge is down about five more miles but slightly south and off the river. There are also three other developments: the Picacho Reservoir, Casa Grande, and the Sacaton Reservation. The Picacho Reservoir, (almost fifteen miles south of the city of Florence) is a lowland used for the purpose of holding flood water for the Casa Grande region, which is roughly five miles directly west of the reservoir. Casa Grande, the irrigated area furthest removed from the Gila River, is about twenty-two miles west and south of the river at Coolidge. The last irrigated area of the valley is the Sacaton Reservation located about fifteen miles west along the river from Coolidge. In other words, as one comes down the river, the towns met, in order, would be: Florence, Adamsville, Coolidge, and the Sacaton Reservation, with Casa Grande twenty-two miles west and south of the river on a parallel with Coolidge.

Shortly after the whites had constructed the first ditch near Adamsville, other small ditches were excavated on both sides of the river and gradual agricultural

development of the Valley took place. The pioneering movement was very slow; in fact, up to 1887 there was only 12 ditches in more or less successful operation in the Florence district, and these capable of irrigating only about 6,000 acres. The chief interests of the early pioneers were the mining area east of Florence and the Butterfield Stage, which served as their only means of contact with the rest of the country. Until the time of the railroads (1879) the stage route, because of water necessity, traversed this region and thereby served the countryside.

Little attention was paid to this immediate vicinity except that it was later crossed by freighters traveling between the Southern Pacific Railroad at Casa Grande and the Florence and Globe mining districts.² These freighters were large wagons, drawn by eight or ten mules, that carried supplies one way and ore the other between the closest point on the railroad, which was Casa Grande, and the mines.

The Casa Grande Ruins attracted some visitors but they seldom realized the potentialities of the surrounding land. The general area was all part of the Public Domain and was patented or homesteaded quite slowly, and then only

²

Stewart, Dougal, Personal Interview, April 16, 1940.
Graham, Bob, Personal Interview, May 6, 1940.

if the person foresaw some way of securing water, for the aridity of the soil made dry farming impossible.

A few settlers close to the Gila River were partially successful in raising crops such as wheat, barley, corn, and alfalfa. Some of the people were of the opinion that a large canal should be built that would begin where the river emerged from the mountains, extend to the city of Florence, go due west and south, make water available to the ruins vicinity, run to the Picacho Reservoir, and from here branch off into the Casa Grande region. Plans were soon under-way to incorporate into a company to facilitate this work. Then on October 3, 1885, one William S. Foreman made a filing in which he claimed to appropriate 100,000 miner's inches³ of water from the Gila River. This filing was granted to Ida M. Hurley on March 8, 1886. Mrs. Hurley and Doctor Hurley had recently arrived from San Bernardino, California, to speculate in land. That same day, March 8, 1886, Dr. James Hurley, David Thomas, and George Brown filed papers to incorporate into the Florence Canal and Land Company.⁴ Although this company was reorganized a number of times the canal was finally constructed as formerly planned and, when completed, was

³

One miner's inch is equal to 1.2 cubic feet per minute.

⁴

Office of Pinal County Recorder, File No. 5, Articles of Incorporation.

about fifty miles in length. Approximately sixteen miles of this distance was completed in 1887, while the remaining portion of the ditch was not constructed until 1889 and 1890. By 1887 then, the canal extended to the area soon to be known as Kennilworth and to the general vicinity of Coolidge.⁵

Any project of this type, which had the possibility of reclaiming part of the desert naturally aroused much interest. Thus, there occurred a gradual infiltration of adventurous men who visioned secret ambitions. Besides this, a few men of the locality became concerned and so picked out fertile areas that were to be watered by this project. One of these locations was a level district about one mile east of the present site of Coolidge which became known as Kennilworth.

Referring to Kennilworth, Judge Richard E. Sloan best tells of its inception in his own words:

About the time I settled in Florence (1886), a company was organized to construct an irrigation canal from the Gila River that should irrigate a considerable area of land lying southwest of Florence. Immediately all the public lands within the flow of the canal were filed upon by numerous entrymen under what is known as the Desert Land Act. I filed upon a very desirable section not far

⁵

Infra., 42.

from Casa Grande Ruins and next to a section filed upon by Thomas Davis, an acquaintance of some year's standing whose home was at the time in San Francisco.

When the canal was ready to deliver water to our lands, Davis and I concluded to combine our holdings and then operate the whole as one ranch under his management. The arrangement was made, and additional land was acquired and taken into the enterprise.

It was our plan that the land would be sufficiently improved by us to attract purchasers who should desire to farm it, and to that end we laid out a modest scheme of development. Davis was an Englishman by birth, having been born within a few miles of the old castle made famous by Sir Walter Scott, and on his suggestion we named the ranch Kennilworth. Before we fully realized what had happened, we found we had departed from our original intention and were engaged in an elaborate scheme of improvement. We had cleared, leveled, fenced, and ditched the more than 1700 acres which composed the ranch and had planted an orchard and vineyard, built barns, corrals, and a commodious dwelling house, as well as quarters for employees. To put through this project, we had not only spent our own money but in addition had borrowed a very considerable amount. It had become one of the show places of the Southwest and was without doubt one of the most beautiful places of its kind in the Territory. If any profit had come from the venture it would not have been so bad, but looking back I see now that the ranch was operated altogether too much like a gentleman's farm to admit of any such results.⁶

Sloan and Davis filed when the canal reached this fertile area. At this time, many others, independently of Sloan and Davis, also filed plats because of the arrival of the canal. It was not long until this vicinity was well

⁶

Sloan, R. E., Memories of an Arizona Judge, 65-66.

populated and became recognized as the Kennilworth District.

Another of the important early land holders was Doctor Hurley, who along with his wife, Ida Hurley, took out a number of land claims.⁷ He was one of the original owners of the old canal and so became interested in this new watered area. Consequently, he filed on six hundred and forty acres in the area then about to become known as the Kennilworth District. Bob Graham, who did some work for the Hurleys, believes this was the first land cultivated in the area (1889), even preceding that of Judge Sloan in 1890. The doctor's wife took out at least four hundred and eighty acres of what today is known as the Baughn Townsite, North Coolidge, and Old Coolidge. Ida Hurley had three hundred and twenty acres of this cleared in 1890 and expected to raise some crops on it, but the drought of 1893 made it impossible.

Another part of Coolidge, namely, the vicinity of the Allen Townsite, was patented by Will Graham in 1891. He farmed only a small amount because the canal was not well enough developed so far from the main channel to bring sufficient water.

The last two townsites of what today is Coolidge also had early histories. In the Seagoe Addition Captain J. D.

7

Graham, B., op. cit.

Keating patented three hundred and twenty acres in 1890; and then in 1896 he patented the one hundred and sixty acres today comprising West Coolidge.⁸

With the increasing population in this newly watered area there arose a demand for public education of the settlers' children. Being a public spirited citizen, Len Graham donated part of his claim of 1891 to the newly formed Kennilworth School District Number Six in 1895.⁹ The school building was of adobe, the enrollment was about twenty pupils, and it is said that a Frank Carpenter was the first teacher.¹⁰ Carpenter was one of the family of Oliver H. Carpenter, who in the early 1890's settled on the land directly across from the school.¹¹

As far as getting results from the land were concerned the settlers here raised such crops as alfalfa, barley, almonds, wheat, and grapes. The last were raised only during seasons of sufficient water supply, while during drought periods little or nothing was raised. In fact, when a drought seemed to be nearing, many of the people left the valley for a few years. Then with indications of the return of adequate rainfall a few old

⁸ Surety Title and Trust Company, Record of Titles.

⁹ Office of County Superintendent of Schools, Records.

¹⁰ Graham, B., op. cit.

¹¹ Ibid., May 6, 1940.

settlers returned, accompanied by new settlers who either seized relinquishments or secured patents on the public domain.

While most of these settlers were struggling to gain a foothold there developed a certain amount of uneasiness in their manner. As is frequent in frontier and adventurous developments there usually exists among some group the desire to gain quick wealth. Therefore, it is not strange that in the history of this region one of the greatest swindles ever attempted is encountered. This hoax came to light when James A. Reavis claimed to be in possession of the title to a grant of land consisting of 5,000 square miles, generally said to include the Gila and Salt River valleys and the upper Gila mining region.¹² Reavis attempted to prove that he had purchased the title from George M. Willing, who in turn had secured ownership from Miguel Peralta (in 1864), who supposedly inherited the grant from his father, Don Miguel de Peralta de Cordoba. The latter is said to have been granted this land by King Ferdinand of Spain in 1758 as a reward for noble work in behalf of the crown. Evidently James Reavis had spent a considerable number of years visiting Madrid, Mexico City

¹²

Johnson, R. A., Adverse Report of the Surveyor General of Arizona upon the Alleged Peralta Grant.

and Guadalajara, where he secured and replaced papers that would make his claim appear valid. This elaborate scheme leads one to believe that Reavis undoubtedly had accomplices in various key offices.

The claim first became public about 1882 and did cause considerable anxiety among the people of the disputed region for fear that they would lose their holdings. In fact Reavis was successful in extorting large sums of money from individual landowners in both the Salt and Gila valleys, and from owners of mining claims, who gladly paid if he would promise to overlook their holdings. This practice went on for a number of years while the Surveyor General of Arizona Territory was investigating the claim.

Apparently Reavis became frightened as to the validity of certain of his documents and attempted to strengthen his claim by marrying a girl said to be the great granddaughter, and the only living heir, of the old Don Miguel de Peralta de Cordoba. Instead of strengthening this no doubt weakened his claim in the eyes of the investigators, for this second claim actually exposed the first, because in the first claim Reavis based his title on the inheritance of the son Don Miguel and now in the second this great granddaughter was supposed to inherit it. Actually there were so many proofs of fraud and forgery that after the United States Court of Private Land Claims had tried

the case, the entire claim was thrown out of court and Reavis was imprisoned for six years.¹³ After his release from prison he wrote a complete confession of his guilt.

Besides this attempted swindle and the desirous effort of the farmers, there were personalities that added much to the local color. For example, there lived east of the ruins and near the river, in the 1890's, a Mr. Balluau, whose quaint ways made him a subject of interest.¹⁴ It is said that he was a man of small stature with a somewhat unusual appearance. This immediately caught one's eye for the plucked eyebrows and whiskers were a rare spectacle. Then too, in tending his cattle Balluau always rode a jackass, and if the sun shone too brightly he had a parasol to protect himself.

Around 1900 there moved into the vicinity of the ruins a man who had gained wide fame for his preeminence in military tactics. This was Colonel Ord, for the immediate preceding years an instructor in one of Old Mexico's Military Schools, and before that one of the Southwest's heroes of the Civil War.¹⁵ He was highly esteemed by local pioneers, each one of whom felt a tinge

¹³

Johnson, R. A., op. cit.

¹⁴

Pinckley, F., Personal Interview, January 13, 1940;
Graham, B., op. cit.

¹⁵

Angulo, Mrs., Personal Interview, May 4, 1940.

of pity for the old Colonel; for it is said he came here to provide a quiet place for his nephew who was afflicted with a mental disorder.

Perhaps the best known and loved of all the pioneers in this vicinity was Frank Pinckley. He came here from the east in 1900 and for some time resided with his parents, who ran the Blackwater store during the 1900's.¹⁶ Pinckley became quite well acquainted and was fortunate in having some connection in the Federal Land Office in Phoenix. Thus when the United States Government, in 1901, saw fit to appoint a custodian for the ruins, Pinckley was recommended and secured the position. Towards the end of perpetuating and organizing the Southwest's ancient monuments he worked incessantly. Consequently, when he died, in February of 1940, his dream had been realized and twenty-seven of the Southwest's most interesting monuments had become nationalized as the Southwest National Monuments of the United States Department of Interior, with headquarters at the Casa Grande ruins, and with Pinckley in charge of the entire group.¹⁷

The struggle of these early pioneers was reflected

¹⁶

The Blackwater store is located a few miles northwest of Coolidge, and was being used as early as the 1860's for a stage stop and trading post.

¹⁷

Steen, C. R., Personal Interview, May 25, 1940;
Pinckley, F., op. cit.

in the drought of 1903. This was the outstanding event of the early 1900's. As was before mentioned, whenever a drought occurred most of the settlers took their chattel possessions and left. Often they returned in a few years and usually found that a few newcomers had appeared during that time. To mention a few of the well known families of that time there were the Carpenters, the Whitlows, and the Van Dolsens, the last being remembered for their fine vineyard.

The fact that these early settlers were successful in raising a variety of crops when their limited artificial supply of water warranted mean't that a ray of hope existed for this barren desert. The persistency of these settlers frequently waned as they saw their efforts go unrewarded because their small scale irrigation system proved inadequate. The settlers, however, were not alone in their plight for the Indians of the Sacaton Reservation were also suffering. It was in the latter's behalf that the United States Government became interested in the region, and eventually was to provide a remedy.

CHAPTER III

SLOW GROWTH AND GOVERNMENT INTEREST

In conjunction with this rather gradual irrigational and pioneering development there occurred an increasing amount of interest by the United States Government concerning this locality. The most important reason for this governmental interest, which finally ended in the San Carlos Project, was that the Indians of the Gila River Reservation, centering at Sacaton, had been and were being deprived of their customary supply of water to a point where it became extremely difficult to make a living. Whether or not this factor was really so important is not known, but at least it was the argument that started the United States Government to make innumerable investigations and pass a number of acts that finally led to the present project. An example of this can be found in Carl Hayden's report to the sixty-eighth Congress.¹

The diversion of water above the Gila Reservation, by white settlers, started in 1873, and by 1896 had deprived the Pimas of much of their customary supply of

¹ Hayden, C., The Pima Indians and the San Carlos Irrigation Project, Information presented to the Committee on Indian Affairs, House of Representatives, 68th Congress, Sess. I, (1924).

water for irrigation. To correct this evil, investigations were started for storage possibilities on the Gila River. In November, 1895, the Secretary of the Interior instructed the Director of Geological Survey to conduct an investigation. Arthur P. Davis, hydrographer, who was assigned to this work, submitted his report in 1896.²

In furtherance of this investigation, the Act of July 1, 1898,³ appropriated \$20,000 for investigation by the Geological Survey at the Buttes Site.⁴ Other investigations and surveys followed during later years.

As long as the government had made no open declarations on their policy or any of their work the people were satisfied to continue their gamble on a sufficient supply of water as supplied by the Old Florence Canal. Due to the fact of a scanty water supply the population grew slowly. Even at that, however, there were enough people to demand another school for the region. This became known as the Casa Grande Ruins School, the first

2

Davis, A. P., The Report on Irrigation Investigations for the Benefit of the Pima and Other Indians on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona, Senate Document 27, 54th Congress, 2nd Sess. (1897).

3

30 Stat. L. 594.

4

This site is located about six miles above the Florence Diversion Dam and just below the entrance of the San Pedro River. Today it is being considered as the site of another dam.

official record of which appeared in 1911.⁵ Then, too, a branch railroad line had recently been completed from Phoenix to the Florence and Ray mining districts.⁶ The first local communication was through the utilization of the Old Silver King to Casa Grande telegraph system as a telephone line by a number of the local settlers.⁷

The one drawback to any rapid growth was the lack of water. The accumulation of silt in the Old Florence Canal from the flood waters of the Gila and San Pedro rivers made maintenance extremely expensive, reducing the capacity of the canal and making it impossible to serve adequately all the lands dependent upon the ditch. Besides this there existed a number of personal grievances. Finally after much discussion, a number of settlers organized into the Casa Grande Water User's Association for the purpose of opening a new and larger canal. This group organized on April 8, 1911, and planned to run a much larger canal almost parallel with the Old Florence Canal. Their aim was to provide much more water for the valley, particularly around Casa Grande, at a more reasonable rate.

Although there was considerable disagreement between the two companies, the latter did locate its diversion

⁵ Office of County Superintendent of Schools, Records.

⁶ Stewart, D., op. cit.

⁷ Pinckley, F., op. cit., January 20, 1940.

point just above the Florence Canal, and began construction on a large scale in April, 1912. Due to various reasons, among which was the lack of funds, they were forced to abandon the work on July 1, 1915, after partially constructing twelve of the twenty-two miles of canal. The Indian Service surveyed this canal in 1917 and the government took it over under an agreement dated March 16, 1920, between the Casa Grande Valley Water User's Association and the Secretary of the Interior and paid the association \$50,000 for the work that had been completed.

With the possibility of more water furnished by a new canal the population surged slightly upward. The desire to farm prompted some settlers to purchase or patent new land. Some of those families, whose places today remain as landmarks, were the Jimmy Jayneses, the Prices, the Shields, the Clemanses, the Shannons, and the Borees.⁸

Then, too, there came to Florence, in 1909, a person who was destined to play a large part in the development of this area. This man was Oliver J. Baughn, Superior Judge of Pinal County from 1914 to January 1, 1924.

Before going on it will be well to recapitulate a

⁸

Jaynes, J., Personal Interview, April 18, 1940.

moment, for the time had now arrived indicating that two major events were soon to take shape which greatly accounted for the development of Coolidge. Of course it should be borne in mind that the World War postponed any immediate plans for at least a few years. Nevertheless, preparation was being made for these events.

In the first place, since about 1895 a series of investigations, acts, and bills had been passed by Congress concerning the Gila River and the Pima Indians. In 1895, as mentioned above, the Secretary of Interior instructed the Director of the Geological Survey to conduct an investigation for storage possibilities on the Gila River. This report was entitled, "The Report on Irrigation Investigations for the Benefit of the Pimas and other Indians on the Gila River Indian Reservation, Arizona."⁹ From then on, every few years, more investigations were carried on to determine the feasibility of a storage dam to provide the Indians with water. The entire movement was stalemated in 1905 when the Salt River Project went through in spite of the Gila River investigations.

The Act of August 24, 1912,¹⁰ provided for investigation by a board of Army engineers of the feasibility of

⁹

Supra., 25.

¹⁰

37 Stat. L. 522.

building a storage dam on the Gila River near San Carlos. Their report considered the whole question of storage, diversion, and distribution, with a summary of all prior investigations of the San Carlos Project, and recommended briefly that the San Carlos dam be built; that a suit be instituted for the adjudication of water rights; that steps be taken to prevent the acquirement of further rights; and that in case the San Carlos dam was not built, a diversion dam be built in the reservation.¹¹

On August 1, 1914, another act was passed that provided for an even more elaborate investigation.¹² The report¹³ included a topographic survey of all lands which would possibly be irrigated along the Gila. An estimate of the amount of water available and of the cost of the project was also prepared. The report recommended that construction of the San Carlos dam be deferred; that the Florence and Sacaton diversion dams be constructed; that title to the San Carlos and other reservoir sites be retained by the United States; that investigations to

11

Langfitt, W. C., McKinstry, C. H., Burgess, H., San Carlos Irrigation Project, Arizona, House Document 791, 63rd Congress, 2nd Sess., (1914).

12

38 Stat. L. 937.

13

Olberg, C. R., Report on the San Carlos Irrigation Project, Hearings before the Committee on Indian Affairs, House of Representatives, 66th Congress, 1st Sess., (1919).

determine the effect of the irrigation above the San Carlos reservoir upon the flow of the Gila River be continued; and that \$1,361,177 be appropriated for the construction of the diversion dams and main canals.

The Act of May 18, 1916,¹⁴ was the beginning of the Florence-Casa Grande Project. By the terms of this Act \$75,000 was appropriated to begin the construction of the Sacaton diversion dam and bridge. An additional \$75,000 was appropriated for the Florence diversion dam. The Act further provided that the waters diverted from the Gila River should be distributed by the Secretary of Interior to the Indians and to privately owned lands in accordance with their respective rights and that the project should not be undertaken until the Secretary should be able to make the adjustments of water rights and lands to be included within the project. Also, the Secretary was to purchase the necessary property rights and declare the project feasible. Land Owners' agreements were signed, and on April 22, 1920, the Secretary of Interior designated 27,000 acres of land possessed by whites to be included in the project. Under authority granted by the Act, the Secretary included 35,000 acres of Indian land in the project.

¹⁴

39 Stat. L. 130.

The World War delayed the beginning of construction of the Florence Diversion Dam and it was not completed until 1922.¹⁵ The Sacaton Diversion Dam was started in May, 1922, and completed in June, 1925.¹⁶

The second event, of which very few people were aware, was the possibility and probability of this locality being crossed by a railroad line from Tucson to Phoenix. It is said that the railroad company had, around 1920, made at least two reconnaissance surveys, both near this vicinity.¹⁷

Three men merit recognition for their foresightedness and initiative in the development of Coolidge, they were Richard J. Jones, Clement Seagoe, and Oliver J. Baughn. In 1919 Jones and Baughn secured opposite quarters of the same section of land on which the original Coolidge site was platted.¹⁸ In 1920 Clement Seagoe made a deal with E. A. Rose for one hundred and sixty acres of land bordering and extending south of the Florence-Casa Grande

15

Infra., 40; (also called Ashurst-Hayden Dam).

16

Infra., 43.

17

Baughn, O. J., Personal Interview, May 4, 1940.

18

Surety Title and Trust Company, Record of Titles.

highway.¹⁹ It is upon this Seagoe land that the oldest house in Coolidge stands, supposedly having been built by a Mr. Gilbert who claimed the land before E. A. Rose transferred it to Clement Seagoe.²⁰

In spite of the potentialities, of which no one was sure, the fact remains that in 1919 the land was of little value. Attempts to raise crops on it proved almost hopeless, for the supply of water was insufficient.

Richard J. Jones at this time (1919) was in business in Phoenix. Clement Seagoe resided here and did some farming. Oliver J. Baughn was Superior Court Judge of Pinal County, and so watched carefully and with special interest all developments which might aid this locality.

The first movements of consequence were the aforementioned acts, by the government, regarding the Gila River. Hence, it was only natural that the people in the Gila River Valley would become aroused once they were shown its possibilities. This remained for Oliver Baughn to do. In 1919 he organized the San Carlos Association, was elected chairman, and immediately started action with congressional pressure. One of their first steps was to call a meeting of 4,000 landowners, each of whom donated fifty cents per

¹⁹

Surety Title and Trust Company, Record of Titles.

²⁰

Seagoe, Mrs. C., Personal Interview, March 29, 1940.

acre to fight for the dam.²¹ This pressure constantly grew and no doubt was one of the factors that led to the San Carlos Act of 1924 and the completed Coolidge Dam of 1929.²²

The second movement was also taking form. The Southern Pacific was now definitely contemplating the extension of the route from Picacho to Phoenix and later to the west coast. Two or three surveys had been made, one had been about two miles west of what is now Coolidge and one immediately over this vicinity. Whether or not the railroad company decided immediately is not known. However, Baughn set about to secure a right of way through this area and was successful in securing fifty-seven tracts of right of way, extending from Picacho to the Pima Indian Reservation, for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company.²³ For this service he was to be rewarded by having the first switch and later the depot on his land.

This fact was later instrumental in the location of Coolidge. Another switch, whose location bears signifi-

21

Baughn, O. J., op. cit.; Office of Pinal County Recorder, Miscellaneous Records, Vol. 17, pp. 93-98, Docket No. 1022 E-40.

22

Infra., 35.

23

Baughn, O. J., op. cit.

cance, had been placed about six miles south. Immediately a group of men purchased the surrounding land with the idea of building a town at this point. There was considerable land speculation for some time. In fact a post office and some store buildings still remain as reminders of a development which failed to materialize. The only two known reasons why the town, later named Randolph, did not flourish are its location at the bottom of a wash, and the unsuitability of the land for farming.²⁴

Oliver J. Baughn's prognostications for the importance of this vicinity were soon to be realized. Towards that end he secured an option on much of the land in the vicinity and attempted to secure moneyed backing. He states that his failure to do so was caused by the inability of potential backers to see what could evolve at the juncture of a giant reclamation project and a main line railroad.

²⁴Baughn, O. J., op. cit.

CHAPTER IV

THE SAN CARLOS PROJECT OFFICIALIZED IN 1924

The giant reclamation project for which the people clamored and which was to serve as the backbone for the entire Gila Valley, was the San Carlos Project. The innumerable congressional investigations, acts, and appropriations eventually materialized into such a gigantic project that its part in the history of the area cannot be neglected.

Although the completed San Carlos Project was effected by legislation from as early as 1895, to as late as 1938, the one date that remains outstanding is the year 1924. On June 7, 1924, the United States Congress passed the San Carlos Act,¹ which definitely authorized the construction of the San Carlos Dam; later named the Coolidge Dam.² In spite of the fact that this project had been previously contemplated, few people were willing to speculate on any land venture to be included in the project and so anxiously awaited the official sanction of Congress. Thus, with this official sanction there soon developed much

¹ 43 Stat. L. 475-476

² Infra., 40.

interest in the land that was to be irrigated by this project. This will be shown in the following chapter. For the present it is necessary to show the developments and inclusiveness of this giant piece of reclamation.

In the first place the dam was constructed for the purpose of providing storage for both Indian and white lands. In the formulation of the San Carlos Project to include 50,000 acres of land owned privately, or by whites, and 50,000 acres of Indian land under the provisions of the San Carlos Act, landowners' agreements with the Secretary of Interior were signed by individual owners of private lands.

Then as the project developed the government authorized the consolidation of the Florence-Casa Grande Project with the San Carlos Project.³ This consolidation naturally made it necessary to reconstruct parts of the distribution systems of the two projects. For this purpose, appropriations were made in the following amounts: \$485,000 for the fiscal year 1929, \$500,000 for the fiscal year 1930, \$600,000 for the fiscal year 1931, and \$450,000 for the fiscal year 1932.

Soon after the project was completed an examination was made of the greater part of the soils under the con-

³

45 Stat. L. 210.

structed canals on the Gila Reservation. This survey indicated some 16,282 acres non-irrigable and 4,780 acres temporarily non-irrigable within the Indian part of the project. Suggestions were then made for revamping the project so as to include an equal area of better lands in other sections.

Also, after completion of the San Carlos reservoir, funds were appropriated and authority given the Superintendent of the Gila River Reservation to level and prepare for irrigation allotted lands of the Pimas that were irrigable from constructed works of the San Carlos Project. This work was carried on in 1932 and again in 1933 and continued in 1936 under an allotment of Public Work Funds. Under this program 10,604 acres of tribal land were leveled and bordered, farm laterals constructed, and the land seeded to alfalfa. This land has since been farmed by the Pima agency. Approximately eight hundred Pima Indian families have houses on project lands and receive part or all of their income from farm operations.

The water supply for the San Carlos Project comes from the Gila River, its tributaries, and from irrigation wells. The principal tributaries of the Gila are the San Carlos, San Francisco and San Simon rivers that enter the Gila above the San Carlos reservoir from a drainage area of 12,900 square miles, and the San Pedro river that enters the Gila below Coolidge Dam. The San Pedro is a

flashy stream, records of which show that the average annual discharge into the Gila River is approximately 118,000 acre feet. This flow varies greatly from year to year and coming as it does, frequently in floods that cannot all be taken into the main canals of the project, causes an average loss of approximately 55,000 acre feet passing over the diversion dam. This amount could be reduced by the construction of a storage reservoir of a large capacity on the Gila River below the mouth of the San Pedro River. The flood peaks from that stream could then be held back for future use and practically all of the water that now passes project diversion points could be saved. Much action has recently taken place on this project and there is reason to believe that plans will soon become definite. The supplemental supply pumped from project wells is estimated to be about 50,000 acre feet annually. This supply of pumped water serves to make up the deficiency of gravity water. In recent years when the gravity water supply was deficient, over 100,000 acre feet per annum has been pumped from project wells. There has, however, been a lowering of the underground water table which indicates that the use is exceeding the recharge. Project wells have been drilled in all parts of the irrigable area of 100,000 acres, and discharge into project canals and laterals. Eighty-one wells are equipped

and operating and others have been drilled and equipped ready for operation as soon as power can be connected. The average static water level is approximately fifty feet. Pumping began in 1934 and since that time the average change in static head has been eleven and seven-tenths feet.

Water rights of project lands have been adjudicated and the adjudication confirmed by the Federal District Court.⁴ This decree defines all water rights on the Gila River from its headwaters to its junction with the Salt River. In brief the decree provides a water right with immemorial priority for 35,000 acres of Indian lands within the San Carlos Project; a water right for 1,000 acres in the San Carlos Reservation, with a priority second only to that of the 35,000 acres of Pima lands; water rights with varying priorities from 1868 to 1921 between privately owned lands in the San Carlos Project and the so-called upper valleys; and a right with priority of June 7, 1924, to the San Carlos Project to store 1,285,000 acre feet in the San Carlos reservoir at all times. This decree also provides for the diversion of the natural flow of the Gila River at Ashurst-Hayden Dam, between Indian- and White-

⁴

The United States of America v. Gila Valley Irrigation District, In Equity No. E-59-Globe, Document 176, U. S. District Court.

owned lands.

The San Carlos Project consists of a number of works, the most important of which are: the Coolidge Dam, the Ashurst-Hayden Diversion Dam, the Main Canal, the Pima lateral, the Old Florence Canal, the Picacho Reservoir, the Northside Canal, the San Tan Canal, the Casa Blanca Canal, the Southside Canal, the Southside Stormwater Channel, and the Sacaton Diversion Dam and Bridge.

The Coolidge Dam ranks first in the project. It is a concrete structure across the Gila River about twenty-four miles southeast of the city of Globe and just east of the boundary of the San Carlos Indian Reservation. This dam forms the San Carlos Reservoir, which has a capacity of 1,200,000 acre feet. It is said to be the world's largest multiple dome type, having three domes supported by two main buttresses and by the end abutments. The height of the dam is two hundred and fifty feet and the overall top length is nine hundred and twenty feet. There are two spillways which have combined capacity of 150,000 second feet and a power plant of 12,500 kilowatts is housed under one of the domes. There is a camp above the dam where employees quarters are provided.

Second, is the Ashurst-Hayden Diversion Dam. This structure, built in 1922, on the Gila River, twelve miles east of Florence, provides for the diversion of water into

the main canal of the project.

Within the distribution system the Florence-Casa Grande Canal ranks largest. This canal, known as the Main Canal, begins at the Ashurst-Hayden Dam and extends twenty-one and five-tenths miles to Picacho Reservoir. The canal extension continues on above Picacho Reservoir to a point about five miles southeast of Casa Grande where it joins the Casa Grande Canal. Headings for Pima lateral, and for cross-out canals to the Old Florence Canal and the Old Casa Grande Canal, take out of this main canal at intervals to supply the project distribution system.

Second in the distribution system is the Pima lateral. This is the main lateral taking off from the Main Canal to serve white-owned lands near Coolidge and to deliver water to the Indian lands. This lateral ends at the Sacaton dam across which there is a conduit to feed the north side canal. The total length is twenty-three miles.

Thirdly, the Old Florence Canal, which is fed from the Main Canal at mile three, and the Old Casa Grande Canal, which heads at Picacho Reservoir, are the original canals built by landowners to serve the districts of the same name, before the San Carlos Project was taken over by the government. These canals have been improved and provided with concrete structures for the operation of the canal and to turn water into the lateral distribution systems.

From these canals, eighteen lateral systems take out water for the Florence-Coolidge district and eighteen lateral systems take out for the Casa Grande district.

The Picacho Reservoir was constructed in McClellan Wash⁵ by landowners in 1890 and was taken over by the project. The embankment was strengthened and a small concrete spillway built at the south end. An earth dike 8,000 feet in length forms the reservoir. A concrete outlet structure provides for water to be taken from the reservoir into the Old Casa Grande Canal. The reservoir receives water from the Main Canal and from the end of the Old Florence Canal. Floods in the Gila River are carried through the Main Canal to this reservoir and storm water from the desert watershed above enters the reservoir through the spillways in the main canal. Silting has now considerably reduced the capacity of this reservoir. Its water can be used only in the Casa Grande district.

The Northside Canal, east of Florence towards the diversion dam, receives its name because it is located and supplies the north side of the Gila River. It diverts from the Florence Canal at mile one and five-tenths, is taken across Gila River in a concrete pipe under the river bed, and continues down the north side of Gila River ap-

5

This Wash is located south and continues westward around the environs of Coolidge.

proximately fifteen miles to the boundary of the Gila River Reservation.

Also serving the Indian section on the northwest side of the river is the San Tan Canal. This canal, originally built by the Reclamation Service, and the old San Tan Indian Canal, serve the San Tan district of the Indian part of the project. The San Tan Canal heads the Pima lateral at the Sacaton Dam. The Old San Tan Canal, which was built by the Pima Indians before the project started, and which formerly took out of Gila River, now takes out of the new San Tan Canal at mile one and five-tenths.

One of the canals on the south side of the river, in the Indian reservation, is the Casa Blanca Canal. This canal is a prolongation of the Little Gila Canal which heads in Pima lateral one mile south of the Sacaton Dam.

Then there is the chief Southside Canal. This canal heads in Pima lateral close to the reservation line and is twenty-four miles in length. It serves the newly developed tract of tribal lands known as the Southside Area of which approximately 10,000 acres are now in cultivation and 9,000 acres remain to be brought under irrigation in the future.

The Southside Stormwater Channel, within the Indian part of the project, has been constructed along the upper side of the Southside Canal to protect it and the irrigable

lands of the Southside Area and the Casa Blanca district from floods that come from the Sacaton Mountains. This channel has a length of twelve miles.

Culminating the Indian part of the Project works is the Sacaton Diversion Dam and Bridge. This is a concrete structure about 2,000 feet long, located on the Gila River about four miles east of Sacaton. It was built in 1925 to serve the San Tan and Casa Blanca districts of the Indian project. On account of the great loss of water in the gravelly bed of the Gila River, plans were changed and water is brought through Pima lateral to the reservation canals. State Highway No. 87 crosses the river on the bridge. The old headgate of the San Tan Canal can be used for diversion of occasional flood waters which pass the Ashurst-Hayden Dam. A concrete conduit was built in 1928 on the water cushion of the dam and carries water from the lower end of Pima lateral across Gila River to the head of the San Tan Canal.

The above resume includes only the chief carrying canals, the units that carry the water from these canals to the utilizing areas comprise the lateral distribution system. This consists of approximately five hundred miles of open ditches of varying capacities and approximately sixty miles of concrete pipe lines buried in trenches.

The project headquarters for the San Carlos Irrigation

District and the Indian Service are located at Coolidge. Their machine shops and garages are located at the Coolidge standby power plant.

In the main the power system consists of two large units a hydro-power plant at Coolidge Dam, and a standby power plant at Coolidge. The hydro-power plant at Coolidge Dam is capable of producing approximately 10,000 kilowatts at a maximum head of two hundred and five feet; but with moderate head produces approximately 5,000 kilowatts. The plant has two units of equal size. Water is released from the dam only as required for irrigation. The diesel electric standby power plant near the town of Coolidge has a maximum capacity of 1,864 kilowatts in two units of nine hundred and thirty-two kilowatts each. This plant was constructed in 1935 and has been operated in conjunction with the hydro-power plant to meet the demands for power used on the project and sold to customers. The plant has been enlarged by the addition of another unit that has a normal capacity of approximately 1,893 kilowatts.

Transformer stations are located at Coolidge Dam, Hayden, Christmas, Florence, Coolidge, Arizola, Sacaton, Casa Grande, and at Schultz. Then too, there are many other small substations where power is delivered to project works and to customers. There are over four hundred and

twenty five miles of transmission lines carrying various electrical loads.

The cost of this gigantic structure has been carried by the government with, however, the assumption that eventually this will be repaid and the project will take care of itself. A public notice issued by the Secretary of Interior on December 1, 1932, announced the per acre construction cost of the San Carlos Project as being \$95.25, including the operation and maintenance costs for the calendar year 1933. The date when a reasonable supply of water was actually available for lands in private ownership was declared to be December 1, 1932. The limitation on expenditures for construction, except for drainage, was set by the Act of June 7, 1924,⁶ at \$9,556,313.77 and confirmed in this notice. Disposition of the revenues from sale of power as provided by the Act of 1924 was confirmed and quoted as follows:

The net revenues from such and all sales of power at that plant shall be devoted, first, to reimbursing the United States for the cost of developing such electrical power as that cost shall be determined by the Secretary of the Interior, second to reimbursing the United States for the cost of the San Carlos Irrigation Project, third, to payment of operation and maintenance charges, and the making of repairs and improvements on said project: Provided, further, that reimbursements to the United States from power

⁶
Supra., 35.

revenues shall not reduce the annual payments from landowners on account of the principal sum constituting the cost of construction of the power plant or the project works until such sum shall have been paid in full.

By Act of Congress June 5, 1934,⁷ the terms of payment were revised to provide for payment over a period of forty years without interest, the first payment to be made on December 1, 1935. Subsequent acts of Congress giving relief to landowners of federal irrigation projects have been taken advantage of to postpone payment of construction charge assessments.

Operation and maintenance charges against private lands, white-owned, are collected by the County Treasurer, with city, county and state taxes, and turned over to the San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District by whom the part payable to the government is paid to the project collection officer. No operation and maintenance charges are as yet assessed against Indian landowners but the payment for such charges against Indian lands is made by the Superintendent of the Gila River Indian Reservation from revenues derived from sale of hay and pasture on the area of tribal lands which are irrigable under constructed works.

A basic charge is fixed annually to be paid by each area of land irrigable under constructed works whether

⁷
48 Stat. L. 891.

water is used or not. For payment of the basic charge the owner is entitled to the delivery of two acre feet per acre. The landowner is obliged to pay in advance for additional water delivered at the rate of fifty cents per acre foot for the third acre foot per acre, and at the rate of one dollar per acre foot for all water delivered in excess of three feet per acre. The basic charge has generally been about one dollar per acre.

By recent order of the Secretary of Interior the Irrigation District, which has been operating the distribution system serving non-Indian lands for many years, took over, on July 1, 1938, the maintenance of that distribution system.

The Water Users' Organization of the San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District was organized July 31, 1938. The district lands include approximately 50,000 acres of privately owned lands. Lands privately owned and not included in the Irrigation District which receive water from the project include 477.08 acres of Florence-Casa Grande Project lands, 796.5 acres belonging to the State of Arizona and used for State Prison farm, and 464.17 acres in the townsites of Florence, Coolidge and Casa Grande.

The San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District executed a repayment contract with the United States, approved

by the Department of the Interior June 8, 1931. This contract provided for collection by the District of construction and operation and maintenance assessments against district lands, described the project, fixed the construction costs and the terms of repayment, and described methods of assessment and collection of operation and maintenance costs for the entire project. The contract provided that public notice of construction costs should be issued on December 1, 1931, later changed to December 1, 1932. Construction repayments were to begin three years after the date of the public notice. The annual rate of payment was set at five per cent of the construction cost, with four per cent on deferred payments.

Privately owned lands of the project have been designated by the Secretary of the Interior in 1928, 1934, 1936, and 1937. The Indian lands of the project have not been fully designated. On account of changes in the irrigable area, due to elimination of lands under construction works and on account of unfavorable soil conditions for satisfactory cropping, it has been necessary to revise the boundaries of the project and the final revision is not yet definitely made. There are also lands that are being irrigated which are detached from the main body of Indian land but on which Indians are living and which they strenuously object to abandoning. It is not desirable to include

many of these tracts in the project but they apparently must continue to be served with water for irrigation until the Indians consent to move to other lands within the project area.

The Maricopa-Pima Indian Tribal Council acts on all matters in connection with the Irrigation Project that affect the Indian portion. Meetings of the council are held each two weeks on some part of the reservation. All action taken by this council is referred to the Superintendent of the Gila River Reservation for approval before being put into effect on the Irrigation Project.

The project as planned by the San Carlos Act of 1924 was immense. The inclusiveness of the set-up could hardly be realized by most of the people. In fact, when the Act became official, only a few people had the foresight to become deeply interested in some of the area to be benefited.

CHAPTER V

EARLY DEVELOPMENTS IN COOLIDGE

Although extensive irrigation improvements had been taking place since the early 1900's there was as late as 1925 only one house on the present townsite of Coolidge. This was occupied by the Clement Seago family. Then, with the completion of the Southern Pacific railroad in 1924-25, and the signing of the San Carlos Dam Act in 1924, the stage was set for the founding of Coolidge.

The foresightedness and initiative of Richard J. Jones caused him, on June 2, 1925, to plat out eighty acres of land comprising the original townsite of Coolidge.¹ Within three months Clement Seago had platted out his land, followed by Oliver Baughn in 1927. In 1928, Harry M. Kennedy filed his plat for North Coolidge; it was also in this year that Richard J. Jones established an addition (the Richard J. Jones Addition). The Dr. William Jackson Addition was platted and filed in 1929, other additions somewhat removed from the central part of the townsite, were later laid out.²

¹ Surety Title and Trust Company, Record of Titles.

² Ibid.

At the time the first land was platted out, by Richard J. Jones in 1925, the Attaway and Campbell Ginning Company erected the first structure in Coolidge.³ As is natural, there immediately was built a real estate office to sell the newly platted sites.⁴ The second building in the new venture, brought to Coolidge its first family Mr. and Mrs. William E. Nutt.⁵ Nutt was the manager of the real estate office. His home was their car and it was in this that they left, for a short while, only to return and find that the second family had moved in on the townsite near the gin. This was Hubert A. Odom family. It is probably significant to mention that in 1926 Nutt converted this land office into the first United States Post Office of Coolidge, with his wife as postmistress, the first piece of mail being sent out August 20, 1926, to Mrs. R. J. Jones of Phoenix, Arizona.⁶

The naming of Coolidge is here given as told by Myrtle Jones:

It was on a Sunday in the early part of 1925 while we were sitting with Mr. and Mrs. Clement Seago in their home on their ranch just south from the townsite we were contemplating surveying, when the discussion of the

³ Jones, M., Scrap Book. MS.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

name of the venture came up. After several names had been mentioned, my husband thought of the name "Coolidge" in commemoration of the man whose signature made possible the Coolidge Dam. The name was quite agreeable to all so it was from this little chat that the name of Coolidge originated.

Usually when one thinks of a new town in the West one immediately pictures a boom town. This was really not the case with Coolidge, although, as will be shown later, the newspapers tried to make it so. Nevertheless, there were certain incidents in the early life of Coolidge that could easily have made it a boom town. For instance, had an adequate permanent water supply been made available at a certain date this would probably have been true.

The two ventures about to be mentioned, although not taking place in this immediate townsite, did no doubt effect the growth of Coolidge. For these ventures opened the eyes of many people to the potentialities of the location. The first venture was a fig project. A group of California brokers secured some land west of Coolidge and northeast of Casa Grande, and did raise a wonderful crop of figs. Owing to elaborate advertising and publicity many people became convinced that this was the new Utopia. It is said that some miners of the Globe and Miami district willingly paid \$250.00 per acre for this desert land.⁷

7

Pinckley, F., op. cit., January 13, 1940.

Perhaps even this was not bad, for the figs did grow, but, when the purchasers of the land had reaped their golden harvest they found it impossible to sell their goods. Somehow, the closely organized California Fruit Growers' Association had obtained control of the market, so that the Arizonans were left with an abundant harvest but no market. The second venture came a little later but was of much the same type as the first. This time brokers bought up 3000 acres near Casa Grande and proved that a fine variety of grapes could be grown there.⁸ Again some of the people were taken in, only to find themselves with a fine crop but no market. In spite of the fact that the ventures failed they did reveal the potentialities of the vicinity and they did give this valley a great deal of publicity that undoubtedly brought inquisitive and adventurous settlers.⁹

During the latter part of 1925 a mercantile company was opened by George C. Davis. After a short time he sold out to Edward T. Clark.¹⁰ This, added to the previously constructed Cotton Gin and Real Estate Office, constituted the Coolidge that on December 25, 1925, saw its first Christmas tree at the valley church.

⁸ Pinckley, F., op. cit.

⁹ Arizona Republic, (Resource edition) 1931.

¹⁰ Jones, M., op. cit.

With the new year the growth of Coolidge was indicated by the number of immigrants. The first daily mail schedule over the newly opened main line railroad paved the way for better communication. Then such organizations as the Community Church and the Coolidge Community Club (later changed to Coolidge Womens Club) began functioning and further united the populace. The year 1926 saw the first public utilities installed by Richard J. Jones, who later (1929) sold out to the Arizona Edison Company.¹¹ Then on May 27, 1926, the first Coolidgean was born and was christened Joe Calvin Bond; the Calvin being in honor of Calvin Coolidge. With the fall of the year came the first session of school held in Nutt's building (Main and Central) with Edna Mae Wilson as the first teacher.¹² Then too, there was held a great Arizona pageant, at the Casa Grande ruins, which further added to the publicity of this newly organized venture. It should be added that through the gratuity of Richard Jones both the school and church were presented with convenient sites entirely free.

The years 1927-28 and '29 saw the community growing, for now this great savior of the desert, the Coolidge Dam, was nearing completion and its potential effects were

¹¹

Jones, M., op. cit.

¹²

Ibid.

becoming quite obvious. Within these years the population increased immensely, and such enterprises as a garage, lumber yard, ice plant, pool hall, auto court, hotel, hospital, money exchange, drug store, dry goods store and various civic organizations added greatly to the growing city. After a bakery had been totally destroyed by fire the Chamber of Commerce, backed by Jones, ordered a village fire fighting outfit so as to modify or prevent any similar occurrences in the future.¹³

The year 1930 is probably the epochal year in the history of Coolidge. For it was on March 4, 1930, that ex-President Calvin Coolidge dedicated the dam which he made possible and which today bears his name. Undoubtedly most of the newspapers in the nation carried some mention of this feat and its accompanying factors.¹⁴

The first newspaper printed in Coolidge, Arizona, namely the Coolidge Examiner with Ted Healy as editor and Jones as owner, had special pre-publication editions ready for March 4.¹⁵ The first number off the press was presented

¹³

Coolidge News, October 5, 1929.

¹⁴

Arizona Republic, March 4, 1930.

¹⁵

Coolidge Examiner, First Edition, March 7, 1930;
Ibid., Second Edition, March 14, 1930. (The Coolidge News was actually the first Coolidge paper but it was not published in Coolidge, April 19, 1928.)

in person by Jones to Calvin Coolidge at the dedication ceremonies. The second copy went to Charles Stauffer, publisher of the Arizona Republic. Will Rogers was also handed a copy of this first publication at the dedication.

The second great event of 1930 was the opening of the Coolidge-Picacho link of the Tucson-Phoenix highway.¹⁶ The opening of this road was an important development for the state generally as well as for the towns located directly on the improved roadway. It afforded an almost direct route over an improved highway from Phoenix to Tucson. The highway itself was invaluable to Coolidge. Then, as usual with public works, there came into play a considerable amount of politics, each of the dissenting groups wishing the road to benefit only themselves. Much log-rolling took place. However, through the tireless efforts of a few citizens, the roadbed was extended through Coolidge. Even so there was enough opposition to prevent the road from running directly through town as many wished. Instead it was laid almost one quarter mile west of the business district.¹⁷ Today, May, 1940, the stakes have already been driven for a new roadbed that will eliminate some of the excess curves which resulted from political

¹⁶

Arizona Republic, March 4, 1931.

¹⁷

Jones, M., op. cit.

bickerings.

Another advancement for the town of Coolidge was the installation of a switchboard at the local station of the Mountain States Telegraph and Telephone Company.¹⁸ The changeover to this station took place in June of 1930.

An indication of the progress of a community is its educational development. In this aspect Coolidge was and still is a leader in Pinal County. As has been previously mentioned the first school opened in 1926, as part of District 21, commonly known as the Ruins District. Then in 1929 the increase in school population forced the citizens to erect a two-room school building.¹⁹ This was done on the gratuitously donated land of Richard J. Jones. By 1930-31 the expanding population again demanded a revision. This time the county stepped in and revised the districts so that Number 21 was now elaborated into the Coolidge School District.²⁰ The fact that these steps merited effort and recognition is shown by the following quotation:

¹⁸ Coolidge Examiner, May 30, 1930.

¹⁹ Jones, M., op. cit.

²⁰ Office of the County Superintendent of Schools, Records.

Construction of the new \$60,000 grade school at Coolidge is regarded by citizens of the state's youngest town as one of its greatest forward strides. During the first term enrollment has increased so rapidly it has been necessary to add two additional members to the faculty. The present enrollment is 370 with a daily attendance averaging 350. Full attendance fills it to capacity.

The school was made possible only after a strenuous campaign on the part of leading Coolidge citizens with the interest of the city's educational facilities at heart.

Believing a larger school would provide better training on a more economical basis than the system prevailing, efforts were made to merge two adjoining districts with the Ruins District. The merger failed in a special election. But this failed to halt the campaign to improve the school system and persistency was rewarded when a revision of the districts in Pinal County was effected with portions of the adjoining districts being added to the Ruins area. (This was subsequently changed to the Coolidge School District.)

With this work completed the district quickly approved a \$60,000 bond issue for the construction of the school. A site as large as a full city block was obtained and provides an ample amount of room for playground and recreational facilities.²¹

Coincidental with this merited struggle it was just five years later that the establishment of a high school was to again cause much trouble.

March 4th, 1931, again brought Coolidge into the headlines, for now the test of one years' benefit of the Coolidge Dam was to be publicized. The Arizona Republic ran a special Coolidge edition, in which are found the following

21

Arizona Republic, March 4, 1931.

headline and excerpts:

COOLIDGE MARKS PROGRESS

Residents Celebrate Tonight

The events to be celebrated are:

- Construction of a \$60,000 schoolhouse in Coolidge.
- Construction of a \$17,000 railroad depot in Coolidge by the Southern Pacific.
- Construction of a new highway between Picacho and Coolidge to form a link in the Phoenix-Tucson highway.
- Celebration of the anniversary of the dedication of Coolidge Dam which has made possible the irrigation of thousands of acres of land in the vicinity of Coolidge.

Located in the geographical center of the San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District is Coolidge, one of the state's fastest growing towns, which was made possible by the multiple-domed Coolidge Dam on the Gila River.

Ten years ago its population was ten persons, while today, on the first anniversary of the dedication of the Dam, the residents of Coolidge number 1000. Its atmosphere of steady progressiveness is convincing and genuine, and it really is a "new" town. New land is being broken and prepared for crops constantly.

Coolidge is but one mile and a half from the site of one of the oldest cities in America, the Casa Grande National Monument, and is 100 miles from the Coolidge Dam.

NEW BUILDING WILL BE READY BY JUNE 15

By June 15th there will be completed in Coolidge a new Indian Irrigation Service building to cost probably \$11,000 un-equipped. This is one of several buildings planned or underway.

It will serve as headquarters for the government offices which have charge of the San Carlos Project distribution system and Indian lands below the Dam.²²

The closing of bank doors throughout the nation in 1932 caused an apparent lull in the developments of Coolidge. One event of interest was the opening of the Loma Verde Cia ranch a few miles west of Coolidge. Major R. C. Woodruff was responsible for the development of a fine herd of thoroughbred animals here. In conjunction with this a Miss R. N. White, possessor of an excellent string of racing and polo ponies, gained publicity for this vicinity by her repeated performances in the sports world.²³

The next spring brought with it new indications of expansion. The local paper expressed it, "Building Boom Hits Coolidge," and proceeded to list six new brick buildings that were about to go up.²⁴ For various reasons a petition, drawn up by businessmen, was sent to Washington requesting a change in the location of the post-office. The Coolidge Examiner stated, "As a result of this contemplated change in the Postoffice location a general business and building boom is announced by several local property owners."²⁵

The opening of the Coolidge Clearance Exchange, June 1, 1933, made added conveniences available to the local merchants.²⁶ A new building spree was commencing. The

²³

Coolidge Examiner, June 17, 1932.

²⁴

Ibid., May 19, 1933.

²⁵

Ibid., April 27, 1933.

²⁶

Ibid, June 2, 1933.

people again thought of their civic pride and consequently new organizations were formed, among which was the Coolidge Brass Band, and the Coolidge Civic Club.²⁷ In November another convenience was added when the Greyhound Bus Company opened its first bus depot in Coolidge.²⁸

In the year 1934, Coolidge progressed still further. In May, the Valley National Bank took over the Coolidge Currency Exchange, and promptly started the erection of a new building. The unemployment situation was somewhat relieved when a number of men became employed by two important projects: the laying of gas lines in Pinal County and the drilling of forty-eight wells for the San Carlos Project.²⁹ Another work project was the beginning of the new Jones Block. The local paper showed:

PROSPECTS LOOKING GOOD FOR COOLIDGE

Coolidge is starting the new year with bright prospects for a large growth during 1935. Finishing touches are being put on the new brick and cement courtroom and jail, financed by the county.³⁰

²⁷ Coolidge Examiner, May 26, 1933.

²⁸ Ibid., November 24, 1933.

²⁹ Ibid., December 5, 1933; January 26, 1934.

³⁰ Ibid., December 28, 1935.

CHAPTER VI

RECENT PROGRESS

The year 1935 will stand out as a memorial year in the history of Coolidge. This year marked the most progress Coolidge has ever seen, first because of commercial growth, and second because of rapid expansion, for this was the heavily publicized tenth anniversary year.

On March 15, 1935, the Coolidge Examiner stated:

COOLIDGE BUILDING PROGRAM MOVES ONWARD

There is no boom or undue excitement in Coolidge, but development continues to go steadily forward at a rate which is most unusual for towns under present general conditions, and we cannot account for it in no other way except natural advantages to be found here.

Buildings completed, under construction and planned to start soon, will estimate about \$100,000 since the first of the year, which is a record not equaled by towns many times the size of Coolidge and under favorable conditions.

A significant event was near, one that was to be postponed for over a year and cause considerable trouble. A dispute was started because of the fact that the secondary education of this locality was under the jurisdiction of the Florence District. The history of Coolidge Union High School began in the latter part of March 1935, when petitions were circulated for Coolidge, Kennilworth, and

MacDowell to withdraw from Florence and to form a separate high school district. The petitions met with approval, and on March 28, 1935, they were filed with the County Superintendent of Schools, John J. Bugg.¹ On April 22nd and again on May 4th, the people voted favorably for the plan, and on May 24th, the union with Florence was dissolved. Then the Kennilworth district, fearing a high tax rate, decided they would remain with Florence.² Here the situation became complicated. It was realized that a new high school district had been legally created and it was not within the power of either or both to set it aside. After legal advice and research it was found necessary to institute before the court a friendly suit involving some technicality. This was done, and it was then necessary to start over as though nothing had ever been done. Petitions were again circulated and on June 7th, the people voted on the organization of a new high school district.³ In the meantime the local people were growing anxious lest the case be delayed too long to secure P.W.A. help. Now that

¹ Office of the County Superintendent of Schools, Records.

² Coolidge Examiner, May 31, 1935.

³ Ibid., June 14, 1935.

the road was clear P.W.A. help was immediately solicited. On September 6th, 1935, bonds were voted. Then, as was feared, when the P.W.A. administrators were apportioning their funds, they apparently overlooked Coolidge. There was great dismay.⁴ For a while it looked as if Coolidge would have no building, but Howard Reed, the P.W.A. administrator for Arizona, strongly approved this project and worked diligently to obtain the necessary funds.

In the meantime an important question had arisen: Should the students be sent to Florence by bus, or should they remain in Coolidge in temporary quarters? On July 12, 1935, a number of parents and businessmen met with the school board and decided to keep the students at home. Arrangements were immediately made for housing facilities in the Woman's Club, the Masonic Temple, and the American Legion Hall.⁵ A principal and a teaching staff were soon chosen.

The new year brought with it new hope, for on January 3, 1936, the board learned that Reed's efforts had not been in vain, and that a grant was forthcoming. By April the ground was broken and by September the school was

⁴ Coolidge Examiner, October 4, 1935.

⁵ Ibid., July 12, 1935; September 9, 1935.

ready for occupancy.⁶

On May 31, 1935, the Phoenix Gazette carried the caption, "Revival of Casa Grande Agricultural Empire Imminent," and then proceeded to tell about the potentialities of the Casa Grande Valley. It showed that if the rural electrification program of the government went through it would increase the acreage under cultivation as well as modernize the farms. The region had already been divided into three electrical districts comprising more than 400,000 acres. The report further showed the progress of private business in Coolidge, and mentioned four new buildings then under construction.

By June work had already commenced on a \$289,000 diesel plant which was to serve as a standby power unit for the San Carlos Project.⁷

Through such gigantic leaps and bounds the business of Coolidge expanded enormously, and with it emerged a proud citizenry. So proud, in fact, that they set aside September 14th and 15th to tell the nation that they were celebrating the tenth anniversary of the founding of Coolidge.

6

Coolidge Examiner, April 10, 1936;
Phoenix Gazette, September 26, 1936.

7

Ibid., June 28, 1935;
Ibid., September 16, 1935.

The various presses blazed forth the glory of Coolidge. Its spectacular rise from a barren place on the desert to a city of 2000 was phenomenal.⁸ The fact that Coolidge was located in the center of this vast 100,000 acre agricultural empire meant that its potentialities were practically unlimited. The federal government had already spent \$11,000,000 to make this great valley a land of plenty for both the Indian and White settlers.⁹ Moreover, it was considered amazing that the government was here reconstructing canals and ditches that the Indian tribes had used 1000 years before.¹⁰

The fiesta days of September 14th and 15th were well advertised. Phoenix, as well as other cities, organized a large delegation to travel to Coolidge to help the citizens celebrate.¹¹ The local paper carried the complete story of Richard J. Jones as founder of Coolidge in 1925.¹²

The speakers on the program emphasized the progress Coolidge had made and predicted a population of 25,000

⁸ Arizona Republic, September 14, 1935.

⁹ Phoenix Gazette, September 16, 1935.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Arizona Republic, September 11, 1935;
Phoenix Gazette, September 13, 1935.

¹² Coolidge Examiner, September 14, 1935.

within another ten years.¹³ Charles Moody, engineer for the Indian Service, pointed out the vast extent of the San Carlos Project. Emphasis was further made that Coolidge's development would follow in the expansion of the farming district.

The Arizona Republic of September 14, 1935, summed it up as follows:

WEST'S NEWEST TOWN IS HELD GREAT SYMBOL OF PROGRESS

The hub of a fertile 100,000 acre agricultural district, the city of Coolidge celebrating its 10th birthday anniversary tomorrow symbolizes "Progress," for in ten years it has mushroomed from a handful of pioneering residents to a community of 1500. The townsite plat became a matter of record in 1925. In November, 1927, a mid-western newspaper pictured Coolidge's population: 'The entire population (12) of the newest town in the West getting morning mail at the post office.' The populace did not even have to enter the post office, mail being distributed from a window fronting on Coolidge Avenue.

A barren spot in the desert in 1925, Coolidge was made possible through the completion of the Coolidge Dam in 1930. It is the largest multiple dome dam in the world, and provides irrigation for the great San Carlos Project----100,000 acres of fertile soil, rich in the production of cotton, alfalfa, lettuce, peas, other agricultural products, and live stock.

Situated within a mile of the famous Casa Grande National Monument, Coolidge is in the path of considerable tourist traffic.----The post-office probably was the center around which the development of Coolidge is most marked. Coolidge avenue boasts 275 feet of new business frontage completed during 1935. ---More than 900 feet of old business frontage repre-

13

Arizona Republic, September 15, 1935.

sents 25 firms, and within a distance of a single block, on parallel or side streets, are some 20 other businesses. More development has been assured for the future.

Articles such as these showed the spirit of the banner days of Coolidge in 1935. That fall, with the cotton season in full swing, saw boom conditions in Coolidge. The county deputies, in a check up, revealed there were seven hundred and fifty automobiles (probably 3,500 people) that visited Coolidge on a typical Saturday of November 10, 1935.¹⁴ Rapid increases in post-office business forced the postmaster to ask the government for more space. The opening of a new filling station, a new cafe, bar and pool room, and preparations for a new drug store were developments of the week of November 15, 1935.¹⁵ The latter part of the month saw the opening of a packing firm, and then on Christmas eve the first gas was delivered to Coolidge.¹⁶

Irrespective of the outstanding events of 1935 it cannot go down as the peak year in Coolidge history, for the developments and modifications that were to follow must go down as factors that make for a well balanced

¹⁴ Coolidge Examiner, November 15, 1935.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid., November 29, 1935; December 27, 1935.

community. First, was the completion of a new high school such as any city would be proud to possess.¹⁷ Second came the fruitless attempt to locate the county hospital in Coolidge. Thirdly, the federal government stepped into the vicinity and secured an option on 7,000 acres of land that was to serve as a basis for a resettlement project.¹⁸ By June approximately three hundred men were employed on this job.¹⁹ Then, too, an estimated \$250,000 was waiting to be spent in this district as soon as the rural electrification issue became official.²⁰

In conjunction with new developments, interests demanded that the location of the post-office be changed. Two reasons were given; one, that the new location be nearer the center of population; and, second, that it would be on a slightly higher level in order to better facilitate drainage, where, it was presumed, the substantial buildings of a future Coolidge would be built.²¹ Much dispute later centered about this point.

¹⁷
Coolidge Examiner, July 31, 1936.

¹⁸
Ibid., June 12, 1936.

¹⁹
Ibid., June 19, 1936.

²⁰
Ibid., June 12, 1936.

²¹
Ibid., October 23, 1936.

Two indications of increasing business were, the increase in postal receipts over the previous year, and an almost completed \$1,500,000 cotton harvest.²²

The process of rounding out the community was well carried forward in 1937 by the many non-commercial activities. Approximately five hundred men were now employed at the resettlement project erecting scores of homes.²³ Within Coolidge itself the local paper proclaimed, "Building Boom Still Continues" chiefly because of the erection of so many private dwellings.²⁴ A 100,000 gallon water reservoir was being erected for the public welfare.²⁵ Also the high school enrollment showed a ten per cent increase over the previous year.²⁶

On the commercial side, cotton prospects for the year looked good.²⁷ Postal receipts again showed a gain,²⁸ and many new lots were being sold.²⁹

²²

Coolidge Examiner, November 6, 1936; December 31, 1936.

²³

Ibid., January 28, 1937.

²⁴

Ibid., June 17, 1937.

²⁵

Ibid., February 4, 1937.

²⁶

Ibid., September 16, 1937.

²⁷

Ibid., June 24, 1937.

²⁸

Ibid., April 15, 1937.

²⁹

Ibid., September 30, 1937.

If 1937 is remembered for its civic growth then 1938 will go down as a year of great commercial expansion. In the first place, such new enterprises as chain stores, transfer companies, a jeweler, and beauty shops added to the completeness of a village's enterprises. Then the organization of farmers cooperative gins, the opening of a large theatre, the elevation of the high school into the North Central Association, and the ranking of the post-office as a second class institution, were factors that proved the growing quantity and quality of the populace.

Needless to say, the newspapers carried evidence of the continuing growth:

GROWTH OF COOLIDGE IS INDICATED BY GAS SERVICE
CONNECTIONS

Coolidge is still reported to be the fastest growing community in the United States. That it is growing fast is well substantiated by the figures of the Natural Gas Service Company's "Hook-Up" figures. Coolidge boasts of a 89 per cent gas service connection, since the service came here three years ago. The company reports that gas meters have been installed the past year in an average of ten homes per month.³⁰

Furthermore, the enrollment in the Coolidge School District number twenty-one jumped from sixty-six in 1925 to eight

30

Coolidge Examiner, June 16, 1938.

hundred and eleven in 1938, an almost unbelievable increase.³¹ On December 22nd the postmaster reported that United States Money Orders in an amount exceeding \$10,000 had been purchased at the local post office since December 1st, indicating a considerable amount of money circulating in the vicinity.³² Then, a survey of five local gins showed that an estimated \$1,000,000 worth of cotton had already been ginned and still the season was not to close until February 1, 1939.³³

31

Coolidge Examiner, September 22, 1938.

Statistical report of the enrollment and attendance in the Coolidge School district number 21:

Year	Enrollment	Av. D. Att.
1921-22	32	19
22-23	32	17
23-24	37	21
24-25	66	39
25-26	92	39
26-27	84	40
27-28	118	41
28-29	288	89
29-30	562	244
30-31	671	312
31-32	576	278
32-33	546	342
33-34	606	no data
34-35	621	361
35-36	808	434
36-37	843	539
37-38	811	586

32

Ibid., December 22, 1938.

33

Ibid.

Years of such commercial expansion could only be counterbalanced by spasmodic efforts to develop civic improvements. As usual with a rapidly developed community there existed a definite cultural lag with civic improvements. Hence, it was and still is in 1940, a common project for the various organizations to promote community developments. It was along this line that attempts were inaugurated to provide street lights, and somewhat later, a group of petitions were circulated to authorize a vote on the consideration of a modern fire department.³⁴ Then, too, through a continuous civic drive the state finally appropriated \$60,000 for a modern six way pavement extension of highway number eighty-seven through the city.³⁵ This was completed in the fall of 1939. Along with this the Southern Pacific inaugurated an over-night freight service to the coast.

Developments such as these were somewhat augmented commercially by completion of plans for a \$60,000 addition to the grammar school;³⁶ by the movement of the Irrigation shops to the environs of Coolidge;³⁷ and by the announce-

³⁴ Coolidge Examiner, April 6, 1939; July 6, 1939.

³⁵ Ibid., June 8, 1939.

³⁶ Ibid., March 23, 1939.

³⁷ Ibid., May 11, 1939.

ment of the United States Farm Security Administration that a \$300,000 migratory farm labor camp was to be erected within close proximity of the city.³⁸

The next spring was to witness the occupation of the new grammar school as well as the opening of the migratory workers camp.³⁹ The citizenry felt quite proud when the national commander of the American Legion stopped in to break ground for a new legion hall. Then the center of interest became focused upon the decennial census taken by the government. Speculations varied greatly, until the suspense of waiting was finally relieved by the following notice:

COOLIDGE MAINTAINS THE TITLE AS FASTEST GROWING
TOWN IN STATE

Coolidge showed the largest population increase in this district with a preliminary count of 2,017. (Ten years ago it showed 510.) These figures are preliminary and subject to correction, according to the statement made by Perle S. Ankam, the census Supervisor of this district.

All census numerations west of highway 87 and east of the track, which has been platted to the town of Coolidge has not yet been added to the census list.⁴⁰

³⁸ Coolidge Examiner, May 4, 1939.

³⁹ Ibid., January 25, 1940; March 21, 1940.

⁴⁰ Tucson Daily Citizen, May 10, 1940; May 16, 1940.

This latter fact immediately aroused much agitation which was to increase after a citizen received a letter, from the census supervisor, containing the following:

"Coolidge which was enumerated lies between Highway 287, the Southern Pacific Railroad, McClellan Wash, and Highway 27, the remainder will be reported in rural enumeration."⁴¹

Therefore West Coolidge, Seagee's Addition, Stoeger and Baughn's Addition, East Coolidge and North Negro town, are all considered in the rural district and will be so enumerated.⁴²

Whether or not the population of all the Coolidge additions will be included as part of the final Coolidge census remains to be seen. It is believed a conservative estimate of all the additions would run around 3,000.

41

Coolidge Examiner, May 30, 1940.

42

Ibid.

CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION

The unusual, rapid, seemingly sound development of Coolidge makes it difficult to establish any definite conclusions. The fact that there was no real boom, in spite of the city's growth being stimulated by the Coolidge Dam, is reason to believe that the future will see greater developments for this area. As one of the fundamental factors in the development of a community consists in the people, an analysis of their characteristics will herewith be attempted.

In considering the people it is necessary to say again that the type of development of the city, plus the economic conditions of the country at large, will no doubt cause differences of opinion with the following brief. In the first place there is a sociological theory that states that the emigration to a new area takes place by the consecutive invasion of different types of people. That is, first the adventurous person comes; he is really a pioneer, stays for only a short time, tends to bring civilization there, and then he moves on. Second, there is the type that stays a little longer; which believes in getting rich quickly and usually in the easy way and

often may possess the false-front stores. As a man of this type sees the town has lost its frontier spirit he moves on, for things have become too tame for him. Thirdly, we have the group that comes to erect homes and plans to stay permanently. This group is the backbone of the community; the erection of schools, churches, and the betterment of a locality are its chief concerns. Today Coolidge wishes this latter group to predominate. That this is not true is due to the presence in Coolidge of a new "John Steinbeck" type, driven there by unfavorable economic conditions elsewhere.

Therefore, in the analysis of the people it is necessary to say that a large percentage of the populace is probably below what the middle class consider as average. On the other hand, the middle class remains in control and it is probably growing faster than the below-average class.

Along with its people, industry is a vital part of every community. The industry of Coolidge concerns chiefly two things, retailing and agriculture. The city itself acts merely as a supply depot for the producers in the agricultural surroundings. However, it is highly probable that certain light industries may develop here. For example, the nearness to cotton would facilitate the

establishment of such related light industries as would utilize cotton by-products. One light industry, mattress-making, dependent on cotton, has already been started in Coolidge. Then too, a packing plant would not be entirely new to the city nor without reason. It is more probable, however, that industry will concern itself chiefly with distribution of goods to the farmer.

It is the farmer who stands as the backbone of the community. For him the government has built this gigantic irrigation system, and with it a network of rural electrification lines that carry electricity to the remotest farm lands of the district, furnishing power for pumping and for domestic purposes at a minimum rate. As a result of this the farming area produces tons of cotton, alfalfa, cantaloupes, lettuce, asparagus and small grains. The products of poultry raising and dairying also find a ready market.

In conjunction with retailing and farming, at Coolidge are located the headquarters for the Southwestern National Monuments, the United States Indian Irrigation Service, the San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District, modern schools, hotels, churches, agricultural implement houses, general stores and banks.

Furthermore, an elevation of 1400 feet, in a dry

desert area, affords a climate favorable for the cure of tuberculosis. This too may eventually ripen into an industry.

In considering the social aspect of Coolidge it again becomes difficult to present a well balanced picture. The fact that economic conditions and the type of development Coolidge passed through resulted in the existence of a populace representing all classes from the middle group down, makes it definite that the majority of people do not enjoy the advantages of the upper groups.

The immediate exceptions of course are the churches and the schools. The schools are no doubt ahead of the other cultural advancements. The fact that after fifteen years this still remains a relatively new town perhaps accounts for the excess number of churches striving to gain a permanent foothold. Consequently, they have been the recipient of criticism directed by those who believe that too many churches cause none to become outstanding or to thrive.

Again it should be noted that the various clubs, lodges, social groups, civic groups and service clubs have a tendency to draw only from the average family. Therefore, the social life can hardly be called well balanced. One group complains of too much activity while the other apparently has little or no real social life.

In the field of recreational activities the line of demarcation between the two groups is not quite so plain. Nevertheless, it is an accepted fact that one group can and does participate much more than the other. Examples of activities offered to all but accepted by the few are as follows: swimming, golfing, dancing, theatre, plays, concerts, bowling, and riding.

On the whole the average person seems content with the activity and social life offered in Coolidge. A few occasionally become bored with the "goings on" and thus seek relief in the larger cities.

Within the bounds of civic developments lie the vulnerable points of Coolidge. Perhaps these faults can be attributed to the newness of the town, the economic conditions, or again to the type of development through which the municipality passed. Regardless of where the faults lie one must admit that they exist. The fact that opposing factions within the town are slow in compromising has no doubt had its effect. Whether good or bad it has caused the town to become disunited. This in itself, no doubt, causes hinderance in improvements. Furthermore, factional disagreements are given as one of the reasons for not incorporating the community; of course there are more potent reasons, as the high tax rate, possibilities of graft and others.

As the situation now stands it remains for the service clubs and the chamber of commerce to make what few improvements they can. The latest developments along this line have been the purchase of a modern fire fighting unit, and the erection of street signs.

In conclusion, the problem of most vital concern and of common interest is that need of water the satisfaction of which first made this district habitable. If a regular, adequate supply of water could be secured the potentialities of this region would be almost unlimited. The latest step along this line has been the application of pressure upon Congress for the establishment of another dam on the Gila at what is commonly known as the Twin Buttes site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

I. DOCUMENTS, OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL

A. Statutes

The Statutes at Large of the United States, XXV, XXX, XXXVIII, XXXIX, XLIII, XLV, XLVIII, Washington.

B. Court Reports

1. Reports of the United States District Court

The United States of America v Gila Valley Irrigation District, In equity No. E-59-Globe, 1925, Document 176, District Court, Tucson, Arizona.

C. Congressional Documents

1. Congressional Reports

Davis, Arthur P.

Report on the Irrigation Investigations for the Benefit of the Pimas, Senate Document 27, I, 54th Congress, 2nd Session, Washington Printing Office, 1897.

Langfitt, W. C., McKinstry, C. H., Burgess, Harry
Report on the San Carlos Irrigation Project, Arizona, To the Secretary of War, House Document, No. 791, 63rd Congress, 2nd Session, Washington Printing Office, 1914.

2. Congressional Hearings

Olberg, C. R.

Report on the San Carlos Irrigation Project, Hearings before the Committee on Indian Affairs, House of Representatives, 66th Congress, 1st Session, Washington Printing Office, 1919.

Hayden, Carl

The Pima Indians and the San Carlos Irrigation Project,
Information presented to the Committee on Indian Affairs,
 House of Representatives, 68th Congress, 1st Session,
 Government Printing Office, Washington, 1924.

D. Administrative Reports

Johnson, Royal A.

Adverse Report of the Surveyor General of Arizona Upon
the Alleged Peralta Grant, Arizona,
 Gazette Book and Job Office, Phoenix, Arizona, 1890.

E. Office Records, Unpublished and Unbound

County Recorder's Office, Pinal County,
File No. 5, Articles of Incorporation, Florence, Arizona.
Miscellaneous Records, Vol. 17, pp. 93-98, Docket No.
 1022 E-40.

County Superintendent of Schools, Pinal County,
Office Records, Florence, Arizona.

Gressinger, Al.

Unpublished History of Florence, Florence, Arizona.

Pinal County Engineer's Office,

County Plat and Early Gila River Records, Florence,
 Arizona.

San Carlos Irrigation Office,

Records and History of the San Carlos Project, Arizona,
 Coolidge, Arizona.

Southwest National Monuments, Headquarters Office,

Records on the Casa Grande Ruins, Coolidge, Arizona.

Surety Title and Trust Company,

Records on the Titles to Land in the Coolidge District,
 Florence, Arizona.

II. PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

Angulo, Mrs.

May 6, 1940. Florence, Arizona.

Baughn, Oliver J.

May 4, 1940. Phoenix, Arizona.

- De Vine, Mrs. Ed.
April 23, 1940. Florence, Arizona.
- Foulton, Richard
April, 1940. Florence, Arizona.
- Graham, Bob
May 6, 1940. Florence, Arizona.
- Gressinger, Al.
February 9, 1940; May 29, 1940. Florence, Arizona.
- Jaynes, Jimmy
Coolidge, Arizona.
- Jones, Myrtle
May-June, 1940. Coolidge, Arizona.
- King, W.
January, 1940, Casa Grande Ruins Archaeologist,
Coolidge, Arizona.
- Loucks, Paul
January-June 5, 1940, Coolidge, Arizona.
- Martin, C. H.
February 23, 1940. Florence, Arizona.
- Moody, C. J.
April, 1940, Chief Engineer United States Indian Service,
Coolidge, Arizona.
- Nefzziger, Mr.
April, 1940. Kennilworth, Arizona.
- Pinckley, Frank
January, 1940, Formerly head of Southwest National
Monuments, Coolidge, Arizona.
- Seago, Mrs. Clement
March 29, 1940. Coolidge, Arizona.
- Slater, Fred
April 18, 1940. Coolidge, Arizona.
- Steen, C. R.
June, 1940. Casa Grande Ruins Archaeologist, Coolidge,
Arizona.
- Stewart, Dougal
April 16-June 4, 1940. Florence, Arizona.

- Truman, Mrs. J.
May 3, 1940. Florence, Arizona.
- White, John
May 26, 1940. Florence, Arizona.
- Whitlow, Mrs. C.
March 29, 1940. Florence, Arizona.

III. Books

- Adams, W. R.
History of Arizona, I, II,
Record Publishing Company, Phoenix, Arizona, 1930.
- Bancroft, Hubert H.
History of Arizona and New Mexico,
The History Company, San Francisco, 1889.
- Bieber, R. P.
Southwest Historical Series, III.,
A. H. Clark Company, Glendale, California, 1935.
- Bolton, H. E.
Rim of Christendom,
McMillan Co., New York, 1936.
- Bolton, H. E.
Kino's Historical Memoirs of Pimeria Alta, I, II.,
The Arthur Clark Co., Cleveland, 1919.
- Parish, T. E.
History of Arizona, I, II, VI.
Filmer Brothers Electrotpe Company, San Francisco,
California, 1915.
- Fewkes, James W.
Casa Grande, Arizona, in Bureau of American Ethnology,
Twenty-Eighth Annual Report,
Government Printing Office, Washington, 1912.
- Gladwin, H. S.
Excavations at Casa Grande, Arizona, 1927; Southwest
Museum Papers, No. 2, Southwest Museum, Highland
Park, Los Angeles, California, September, 1928.

Gregg, Josiah

Commerce of the Prairies, Reprint edition, Southwest Press, Dallas, Texas, 1933. First publication in 1844.

Jones, Myrtle

Scrap Books, Unpublished M.S., Coolidge, Arizona, 1940.

Lockwood, Frank C.

Pioneer Days in Arizona, MacMillan Company, New York, 1932.

Mindeleff, Cosmos

The Repair of Casa Grande Ruins, Arizona, in 1891, in the Fifteenth Annual Report, of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1897.

Russell, Frank

The Pima Indians, in the Twenty-Sixth Annual Report, of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1908.

Sloan, Richard E.

Memories of an Arizona Judge, Stanford University Press, California, 1932.

Thwaites, R. G.

Early Western Travels, XVIII, First edited by T. Flint in 1833; The Arthur Clark Company, Cleveland, 1905.

IV. PERIODICALS

Woodward Arthur

"Pauline Weaver of the Restless Feet,"
The Desert Magazine, March 1938, Desert Publishing Company, El Centro, California.

V. NEWSPAPERS

Arizona Republic, 1930 to June 11, 1940, Phoenix, Arizona.

Casa Grande Dispatch, 1930, 1931, 1935, Casa Grande, Arizona.

Coolidge Examiner, March 4, 1930 to June 5, 1940, Coolidge,
Arizona.

Coolidge News, April 14, 1928 to June, 1940, Casa Grande,
Arizona.

Phoenix Gazette, 1930 to June 5, 1940, Phoenix, Arizona.

Tucson Daily Citizen, 1930, 1931, 1935, 1940, Tucson,
Arizona.

APPENDIX

The following is a transcription from the records of Mrs. R. J. Jones' listing of some of the first happenings in Coolidge:

- First family to live on the Townsite, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Nutt and daughter Jessie, who came August, 1925, but left soon after in their built-up house on their car. Upon returning that fall, they found Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Odom, bride and groom, were living on the Townsite near the Gin.
- First cotton gin, A. C. Ginning Company, 1925.
- First building erected, A. C. Ginning Company office, 1925.
- First real estate office, erected by Conrad-Healy, Phoenix, with Mr. W. E. Nutt as manager, 1925, on the site of the present Post Office grounds. The building was later converted into the Post Office by Mr. Nutt, 1926.
- First general store, Coolidge Mercantile Company, 1925. It was opened by Mr. G. C. Davis who later sold to Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Clark.
- First Christmas tree for Coolidge at Valley Church, 1925. All the children of Coolidge, which were three, Jessie Nutt and Talbert and Eugene Pruitt, were presented with bags of candy and nuts by Mr. Carl Douglas who had opened up the first service station, 1925.
- First church, Presbyterian, called Community Church. Dedicated March 7, 1926. Held first meeting February 7, 1926. Reverend J. W. Henderson first pastor.
- First postmistress, Mrs. W. E. Nutt, 1926.
- First piece of mail sent out, August 20, 1926, to Mrs. R. J. Jones, Phoenix, Arizona.

First day scheduled for mail to go over new main line Railroad, November 15, 1926.

First child born in Coolidge, Joe Calvin Bond, May 27, 1926. Named Calvin in honor of Calvin Coolidge, President who signed the Congressional bill authorizing the building of the Coolidge Dam that blocks the Gila River at San Carlos, Arizona, so that the flow may be stored for agricultural uses on the lands in the center of which is Coolidge, Arizona.

First lunch counter and ice cream parlor, Mr. Dave Kinney, May, 1926. Mr. R. J. Jones rounded up all people in Coolidge and treated them to ice cream.

First Woman's organization, Coolidge Community Club, September 7, 1926. Name changed to Coolidge Women's Club, November 30, 1926.

First utility, water and lights installed February, 1926, by Mr. R. J. Jones and sold to Arizona Edison Company on February, 1929. The town rejoiced at the coming in of the first water and then more rejoicing when Mr. Jones sunk the second well the last of 1927 and brought in soft, pure water.

First school, Fall, 1926, held in Mr. Nutt's building, Main and Central.

First teacher, Miss Edna Mae Wilson.

First pageant, Arizona Pageant, November, 1926, at Casa Grande National Monument.

First oil company, Shell Oil Company, March, 1926.

First restaurant, Mrs. Ella Greenleaf on Highway across from Gin, 1927.

First circus in town, February, 1927.

First garage, Layman's, 1927. Now called Valley Garage, owner Mr. Fred Slater.

First lumber yard, P. W. Hamilton Lumber Company, October, 1927. Sold October 11, 1938.

First county fair entered, Pinal County Fair, November, 1927, at Casa Grande. Returned home with the blue ribbon for having the best booth.

- First factory, Coolidge Ice Plant. Wheels began turning July 2, 1928. The first ice was turned out July 6, 1928. Owned by Dr. W. Jackson and Mr. R. J. Jones. The owners gave a big watermelon feed a few days after the first ice was turned out. Round 300 participated in this celebration. Ice plant was sold to Arizona Edison Company, February, 1929.
- First blacksmith shop, McLean Brothers Blacksmith Shop, 1928.
- First hotel, San Carlos Hotel, by Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Markham, July 5, 1928.
- First County Fair held in Coolidge, Fall, 1928.
- First electrical shop, R. H. Ferrell, September, 1928. Property now owned by Dr. H. B. Steward. It was the first two-story building in Coolidge.
- First doctor, Dr. H. E. Pinkerton. Built the first hospital, Coolidge Hospital in November, 1928.
- First building opened for public activities, Coolidge Women's Club. Work started June 2, 1928. House warming Friday evening, October 12, 1928. They met in the various homes until club was built.
- First Pool Hall built by Fred Elledge, March, 1927. This building was also used as Recreation Hall and was the first dance hall in Coolidge. The first Women's Club box social was held her Spring, 1927.
- First Auto Court by Charley Glaubig, November, 1927. Later taken over by H. L. Nash, then sold to Bill Spruell.
- First Beauty Parlor opened by Mrs. S. C. Burt, December, 1928, in back of Burt's Barber Shop.
- First Moving Picture Show, "Abie's Irish Rose" November 2, 1928, at club house by Mr. Mauk.
- First sworn deputy, Mr. Asa Gardner, November 20, 1928.
- First hardware store, Davis Hardware by Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Davis, December, 1928.
- First barber shop, Mr. S. C. Burt's, December 17, 1928.

- First bank, Arizona Southwest Bank, January, 1929, Mr. Sam Langford, Cashier.
- First drug store, Hines Drug Company by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Hines, February, 1929.
- First dry goods store, Mandell and Bloch, February, 1929. Mr. Bloch, manager. This store was followed by Popular Department Store, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cohen in charge.
- First American Legion organized in Coolidge, 1929. American Legion Auxiliary, April 15, 1930. Mr. A. J. Germaine, first Commander. Mrs. L. S. Craig, first president of Auxiliary.
- First Lions Club, March, 1929. Dr. H. E. Pinkerton, first president.
- First Pay 'n Takit, October, 1929. Mr. A. J. Dunaway, manager. Mr. S. W. Bate, manager of meat department.
- First paper printed in Coolidge, Coolidge Examiner by Ted Healy, R. J. Jones, owner. March 7, 1930. There were a few special pre-publications of this edition put out March 4, 1930--the first number off the press was presented in person by Mr. R. J. Jones to Mr. Calvin Coolidge at the Dedication of the Coolidge Dam, March 4, 1930. The second copy going to Mr. Charles A. Stauffer, publisher of the Arizona Republican. Will Rogers was also handed a copy of this first publication at the Dedication of the Dam. The Coolidge News was the first Coolidge paper, but it was not published in Coolidge. First issue, April 14, 1928.
- First fraternal organization, Masonic Lodge, February, 1930. Mr. R. J. Jones, first Worshipful Master.
- First Masonic Temple erected, 1930. Foundation laid March 18, 1930.
- First Eastern Star, Instituted December 10, 1930. Constituted March 17, 1931. Mrs. R. J. Jones, first Worthy Matron.
- First Telephone Exchange, July, 1930.
- First grain office, Pinal Feed and Seed Company, August, 1929. Mr. R. L. Bollin, manager.

First school building erected by County in Coolidge, 1930-31. Citizens of Coolidge erected a two-room school building to take care of the overflow of children, 1929. Buildings erected on site given to school by Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Jones.

First Phoenix-Tucson Highway through Coolidge opened, 1930.

First implement store, E. C. Grasty Implement Company, March, 1930. Had big opening dance.

First government building, Indian Irrigation Service Building, June 15, 1931.

First real depot, February 1, 1931. Southern Pacific Depot, Mr. M. L. Durham, agent. A box car had answered this purpose previously.

First Parent Teachers' Association, February, 1931. Mrs. J. J. Jones, first president.

First 5, 10 and 25 cent store, March, 1933. Henry's. Henry Robberson.

First Coolidge Civic Club, May 12, 1933. Dr. W. Jackson, president.

First Bank Exchange, June 1, 1933. Mr. Sam Langford, Cashier. Building north of Masonic Temple. Foundation laid, May 15, 1933, by R. J. Jones.

The official lighting of the "Coolidge Currency Exchange" was turned on by D. S. Davis and William Hamilton.

The Coolidge Currency Exchange was turned into real bank, May 28, 1934, and named "The Valley Bank and Trust Company." Later it was changed to "The Valley National Bank."

At the opening of the Valley Bank and Trust Company, May 29, 1934, the Coolidge Civic Club gave a feast of sandwiches, salad and tea. The Phoenix Valley Bank officials were guests of honor. A number from Florence besides most of Valley farmers participated. Sam Langford was made cashier.

The foundation for a new Valley National Bank building was started by Sam Langford, April 6, 1935, on the northwest corner of same lot-Lot 1, Block 4. Jones Building was started December, 1934.

First Theatre Building started April 7, 1935, by George Mauk.

First show to be held in new theatre building, September 6, 1935. Dan Dulen moved into new safe south from Pay 'n Takit, May 1, 1935. Sam Langford moved bank into new building at corner of Main and Central, June 24, 1935. Mr. R. S. Fisher opened Variety Store in Jones' Building, July 27, 1935. Coolidge Development Co. moved offices into building formerly occupied by the Valley National Bank building, north from Masonic Temple, July 24, 1935.

130649
In POCKET
2 maps

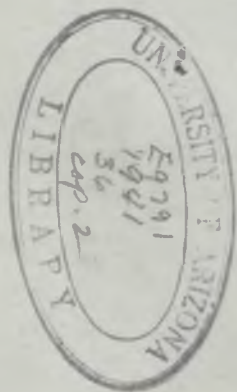
EPH
1941
36
cop. 2

E9791. 1941 -36 C2



a39001 001284242b





City Plot