A HISTORY OF MESA

by

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CHAPTER I

DEVELOPMENT OF MESA PRIOR TO 1900

Mesa is sometimes called the "Gateway City" because it is the first city in entering the Salt River Valley irrigated area from the East. It has grown to be a thriving community with an exceptionally industrious and sturdy stock of people settled there. Unlike many other Arizona centers of population there has not been such a large number of health seekers. Many of the people came because of a desire to participate in the economic privileges of this community. Many of the Mormons came in order to be close to their relatives and friends. On the whole the population seems to be of an especially progressive and enlightened type.

Around Mesa today one finds many agricultural staples grown making it a substantial and solid community. Lettuce, cotton, cantaloupes, oranges, grapefruit, dates, and alfalfa are grown in abundance. The citrus industry has had a rapid growth in recent years, until today, east and southeast of Mesa one can see vast fields of beautiful orange and grapefruit trees. They represent enormous outlays of capital and are a steady reminder of the substantial nature of the community.
Mesa depends on irrigation water from the Roosevelt Dam. This famous engineering feat has had many other dams added to it. Stewart Mountain Dam, Mormon Flats Dam, Granite Reef Dam, and Horse Mesa Dam are all a part of this project.

The early settlers came in order to take up new lands. They had prepared the Indians for their coming by sending missionaries to them from 1855 to 1875. So when they came the Indians were found in a friendly mood. They were pioneers eager and willing to face the rigors of a new country. There were three migrations of settlers. The first came in the year 1875. Daniel W. Jones and party visited the Salt River Valley which doubtless led the Mormons to arrange for making a settlement the following year. Early in 1877 Daniel W. Jones, P. C. Merrill, D. J. Merrill, Thomas Merrill, S. A. Merrill, George Steele, Thomas Riggs, Ross R. Rogers, H. C. Rogers, Joseph McRae, Issac Turley, and A. O. Williams and their families, numbering seventy-one in all, were organized into a company by President Brigham Young at St. George, Utah, and started for Arizona, D. W. Jones in charge. They crossed the Colorado River at Stone's Ferry and arrived at

1- When this group were ready to leave St. George to come to the Salt River Valley, H. C. Rogers asked President Young how they would know where to settle. President Young did not answer him, but a vision appeared to Mr. Rogers, showing him a horse tied to a dead log by an old adobe house. This was sufficient answer. When they reached the valley they found a horse tied to a log by an old adobe house just as he had seen, and they settled there. (Interviews with J. N. Lesueur and J. C. Anderson.)
where Lehi is now located in the Salt River Valley, without serious mishap, on March 6. They selected a site some eighteen miles above Phoenix, and on March 6, 1877, work was commenced on a ditch, which they named the Utah ditch. Ross R. Rogers surveyed or leveled it with a straight edge and a spirit level. Several Indians were employed to work on the ditch. This was the first start toward settlement above Phoenix and Tempe. The place was called Jonesville in honor of D. W. Jones, its main founder, but its name was afterwards changed to Lehi.

At first the people of Salt River Valley were pleased to have the Indians locate around them as these Pimas and Maricopas were friendly and industrious, and they were a great protection against hostile Apaches; but as the country became settled their fears of the Apaches were lessened and they wished to crowd the Pimas and Maricopas back. Mr. Jones stood up for the Indians, protecting them in their rights and sent their case up to Washington. President Hayes declared all the Salt River Valley an Indian reservation. This was considered a huge joke, but it had the effect of turning things wonderfully in favor of the Indians, and President Hayes soon modified it by giving the Indians only the land they occupied. Under Mr. Jones' management a school house was built and the Indian children were taught by Susan

2- The Fish Documents.
Savage, Susanna Brady, and Mrs. Harmon. Several of the colony became dissatisfied with Mr. Jones, and in August P. C. Merrill, his sons and some others left the place and moved to San Pedro. He did not remain there very long but went to Tonto Basin where his wife was killed when a shed fell on her. He then went to Mexico and finally drifted back to Utah and then came again to the Salt River Valley. Many of these people of Lehi helped in the settlement of Mesa.

The second migration started in 1877. One party came from Bear Lake County, Idaho. They were joined by a second group from Salt Lake County, Utah, traveling the entire distance by wagon. They used the Lee's Ferry route. From Lee's Ferry they covered the distance to about where Winslow is now and there they crossed the Little Colorado. Then they went to Camp Verde, a little northeast of what is now Prescott. Camp Verde was a soldier post at the time right on the Verde River. Then they came on down the Black Canyon Road (a little east of what is now the Wickenburg road) to Mesa. This general route was taken by all the groups.

Before the main party had covered this distance a party of scouts had been sent ahead. Their New Year dinner was taken with Mr. Jones of the first group, who extended them all a welcome at Lehi. It was proposed that the newcomers settle upon land adjoining that of the first party, but

3- Ibid.
4- Personal Conference with Isaac Dana.
because of crowding in the relatively narrow river valley, and because there were attractive possibilities lying along the remains of an ancient canal shown them by Mr. Jones, they decided not to stay. Legal appropriation of land at the head of this old water way was made and Crisman was left behind to start work on the new irrigation project. Crisman made location of land near its head and thus made his interests separate from those of the main party. Later, he started a water-power grist mill on the Grand Canal, east of Phoenix. He had rights to a large share in the canal as well as to lands on the mesa. These he later sold.

A third migration included a strong party from Montpelier, Bear Lake County, Idaho. The family heads were: John Hibbert, Hyrum S. Phelps, Charles C. Dana, and John T. Lesueur, William Lesueur, John Davis, George C. Dana, and Charles Warner. They came on January 17, 1879 with about fifty-one people in their party. Charles Crisman, Jr., Joseph Cain, and William Brim were from the Salt Lake section. The settlers generally were fairly well-to-do considered in a frontier way, and were people of education.

Nothing short of providential was considered the finding of the canal dug by a prehistoric people into the edge of the mesa, which it gradually surmounted. This canal, in

6- Personal Conference with Isaac Dana.
all probability, had been cut more than 1000 years before. It could be traced from the river for 20 miles, maintaining an even gradient, possibly as good as they could have laid out with a modern level, and with a number of laterals that spread over a country about as extensively cultivated as at the present. A lateral served the Lehi section and other ditches conducted water to the southwest, past the famous ancient city of Los Muertos (later explored by Frank H. Cushion), and then around the southeastern foothills of the Salt River Mountains to points not far distant from the Gila River. The main canal cut through the tableland for two miles, with a top width of even fifty feet and a depth of twelve feet, chopped out in places, with stone axes, through a difficult formation of hardpan, "Caliche". The old canal was cleaned out for the necessities of the pioneers, at a cost of about $48,000 including the head, and afterward was enlarged. At the time there was an estimate that its utilization saved at least $20,000 in cost of excavation. There were 123 miles of these ancient canals. The old Montezuma canal is still used today for a distance of about fifteen miles.

The canal undertaking was a difficult one with only about eighteen workers including boys. Without the old

9- J. C. Anderson
channel it would have been almost impossible. A small 
stream was led to the townsite in October 1878, and in that 
month they began building homes. One engineer had told the 
early settlers that this canal could not be made to work. 
(Hancock was his name). When they made it work the Indians 
declared that the Mormons were making water run uphill. 

An early settler wrote:

"We were about nine months in getting a small 
stream of water out at an expense of $48,000 in 
money and labor so that we could plant gardens and 
set out some fruit trees. A man was allowed $1.50 
and a man and team $3 per day for labor. Our ditch 
rained through some formation that would slack up like 
lime, and as whole sections of it would slide, it 
kept us busy nearly all the following year enlarging 
and repairing the canal. Our labors only lessened 
as our numbers increased, so that today (1894) we 
have a good canal carrying about 7000 inches of 
water."

The costs of this canal were entirely labor costs. 
Since the pioneers had little capital or money they were paid 
by shares in the canal. They got their supplies and materials 
from Hayden's store in Tempe. Some of the early settlers 
worked at freighting for the Tempe store to pay for the 
things they bought, while the others worked on the canal. 
In this way they kept things going for a while.

A tremendous amount of optimism, energy and self-re-
liance lay in the leaders of the small community, in digging

Conference with F. T. Pomeroy. 
11- Personal conference with F. T. Pomeroy and with Isaac Dana. 
13- Personal conference with F. T. Pomeroy and with Isaac Dana.
through the bank of a stubborn cliff, in building a rude dam across a great flood stream, and in planting their homes far out on a plain that bore little evidence of agricultural possibilities beyond a growth of creosote bush. There were easier places where settlements might have been made, at Lehi or Tempe, or upon the smaller streams, but there must have been a vision rather broader than that of the original immigrant, a vision that later has merged into a reality far larger and richer than had been the dream.

It is often said that the evolution of a country is by the 'breaking' of from three to four sets of immigrants. In Mesa the original settlers and their stock generally still hold to the land.

The Pomeroy family erected the first house on the mesa. This house was built in Mexican fashion being held on a foundation by poles. John H. Pomeroy, Theodore Sirrine, and Charles H. Mallory were the first to move their families onto the mesa. By the end of November, 1878, all the newcomers had moved onto the mesa. The Mallory home was built where the L. B. Johnson home is now.

The Pomeroy home became a sort of Community center. It was a sort of brush shed about 22 by 30 feet with a dirt floor, and walled on three sides with interwoven arrow weed. The posts and heavy timbers supporting the roof had been taken

14- McClintock.
15- Ibid.
16- Personal conference with F. T. Pomeroy and Isaac Dana.
from Ft. Marysville, built by the soldiers years before on the north side of the river on the old McDowell road. Here were held the first dances. Later school was held here.

The first school building was built where the Salt River Valley bank now stands. Mr. Noonan built a house here at one time and sold mutton. After the first year school was held here. It was bought by A. F. MacDonald in 1882. He ran a postoffice in the building. In 1882 an old adobe building was constructed where the Lincoln Building now stands. It was about 20 by 30 feet.

The first depot in Mesa was built where the park is now located. The first railroad was completed to Maricopa in 1879. Mesa products had to be taken and goods received here. The railroad did not reach Mesa until 1895. Mesa was on a branch of the Maricopa Phoenix Railroad, owned by the Southern Pacific. Below this the Santa Fe came in. At one time a road ran around the city. This was moved to the southern edge of town after the Southern Pacific took it over.

Among the early buildings were the Zenos Co-operative store where the Pay N'Takit now stands, which was one of the most important early stores; the LeBaron store and the Mets building, built about 1886 in the middle of the block on the south side about where the Elite is now; a hardware store was started about where the west room of the Stapley building now stands with about two or three paces between it and the Mets building; the stage station was just west
of the Mets building; and Samuel Badley had a saloon on the corner where the root beer stand is now. The Mets property was later sold to B. M. Johnson and after that to L. B. Johnson. W. B. Lang established a building approximately where the Crescent Drug Company has been. Adjoining this was the Mesa City Bank where Jarrett's store now stands.

Mr. Hakes brought a building which he bought up at the old mining town of Pinal down to Mesa and placed where the Plaza Court is now. This was the first building on the north side of the street.

The first hotel in Mesa was the G. W. Sirrine home. This stood on the southeast corner of the block where the El Portal is now. It was an extended one-story building. Approximately 1892 W. A. Kimball, a son-in-law of G. W. Sirrine, had located on the corner where the Dobson building now stands. He traded properties with G. W. Sirrine and built a hotel just west of the old building on block three. This building burned about 1895.

John H. Burnett became Postmaster in the 80's and in the old Noonan building. He established the first Drug Store in Mesa. A two-story building was soon established where the National Bank now stands.

The Maricopa Stake built a big Bowery shed in the 80's where the San Tan Apartment House is now. This was an adobe

17- F. T. Pomeroy.
building about 30 by 60 feet. Here they had all their public gatherings except during cold weather when they held them in the school house. They had an early dramatic organization in the 80's. Some of the plays given were: Faust, Avguila, The Silver King, Under the Laurels, The Hermit, and Above The Clouds.

The first Stake building was built across from what is now the F. T. Pomeroy home, in 1897. In 1893 a red frame theater building was built back of the Elite parlors. The stage was set in the south end. Between 1893 and 1898 this building was used for a theater and then was changed into a warehouse. Then the Majestic was built there.

In 1906 the Coliseum was the name of the building put up where the Nile is now. The corner building was sold to the First National Bank. John T. Lesueur and his sons bought out the old Zenos Co-operative store and started a grocery and dry goods store there. The Mesa Milling company was started in the 80's as a cooperative project by the citizens, located where the mill is now, but they soon sold out to the present company.

The Washington Hand Press was the first newspaper in Mesa. It was operated by Schuman and Martin. F. T. Pomeroy and Haines took it over in 1898. Mr. Haines soon left and Mr. Pomeroy hired others to run it. They soon incorporated

18- Personal Conference--L.B. Johnson and F.T. Pomeroy
19-20--Personal Conference with F. T. Pomeroy.
and took in Kingsbury and partners of Tempe. They employed G. W. Irwin.

The trip down and conditions after they arrived were hard. Mary Jane Standage tells of the trip and her arrival. Chaparral-and-mesquite-covered land offered but little promise to the nineteen year old girl. There were but three others girls in the town of her own age. No amusements and lots of hard work were all that could be seen. The first winter she worked in Phoenix and two years later married Joseph R. Standage. They moved to Stringtown (now Alma) and lived there approximately twenty-five years before moving in to town to their present home.

As Mrs. Standage looks back to the hardships of coming from Utah, crossing the Colorado River and clearing land for homes she sees many weary hours of trouble and work. She is not sorry she left Utah and by merit of her work became one of Arizona's pioneers but neither would she again undertake so much. She would gladly returned to Utah one week after arriving here if there had been no Colorado River.

Crossing the river in small skiffs, she remembers seeing her mother and father nearly capsize. Living in an adobe and brush house until a better one could be built, carrying water from the river, waiting for it to settle and hanging it in an "olla" to cool were all a part of Mrs. Standage's

21- Personal Conference with F. T. Pomeroy.
memories of the first years here. She recalls the work of clearing the land of chapporal and other brush and planting the first alfalfa, which grew so abundantly and quickly that her father had to burn part of it to get rid of it.

Francis M. Pomeroy was the moving spirit in the settlement of Mesa. He came with the second group. He was a large man of tireless energy, and his experience with the pioneers of Utah and Idaho made him a very valuable man for the task before the early settlers here. It took his company five months of hardships and trials to make the trip down from Idaho to the Salt River Valley. Crossing the Colorado was their biggest problem. He and G. W. Sirrine improvised a surveying outfit composed of a spirit level and a straight edge for working on the canal.

The first well was dug by George W. Sirrine the second year after their arrival. Ditch water had been used for domestic purposes. Drinking water was cooled in an "olla" and often filtered or boiled to make it pure.

Something can be seen of living conditions a little later in Mesa from an article reprinted in the Free-Press from the World's Fair edition of the Arizona Gazette on September 28, 1893:

Today Mesa city is a neat little town of 1000 inhabitants in the midst of a thickly settled agricultural community. The townsite embraces
a square mile. This area is a veritable garden. Nearly every home has about it a few hundred fruit trees and an acre or so of grape vines. Flowers and vines embower every cottage, while under foot the evergreen alfalfa contributes a pleasing carpet.

The streets are laid off regularly. They are exceptional in width, bordered by lines of mulberry and cottonwood trees. Small irrigation ditches fringe either side. Upon Main Street are several pretentious buildings, the Co-operative store being the most important. Business industries are fairly represented, there being half a dozen general merchandise stores and a sprinkling of stables, blacksmith shops, drug stores, butcher shops, millinery shops, restaurants, etc. There are two hotels to welcome the wayfarer.

Pride is taken in the local schools. The main building has been but lately occupied. It is a brick structure set up well from the ground and presenting a very neat appearance. Its cost has been about $18,000. There are five rooms, each well filled with the rising generation, the total enrollment being about 170. An academy is also maintained by the Latter Day Saints, with about sixty in attendance. On the western edge of the townsite is another excellent school building, erected by the residents of the Alma district, at a cost of $7,000. Here is an attendance of 100. Lehi district, a short distance to the north, has an enrollment of 100 also. Several other schools in the neighborhood have also good quotas of pupils and provide ample educational facilities, conveniently situated.

The largest church congregation is that of the Latter Day Saints, though several evangelical churches hold Sabbath services in the halls of the town. The Baptists have laid the foundation for a good structure and the Methodists announce their intention of also constructing a house of worship.

A newspaper has lately been gotten under way, the Mesa Weekly Free-Press, and well serves the interests of its constituency. Another material addition is the Mesa City Band, lately organized.

In the way of manufactures there is a well-arranged creamery and cheese factory in the eastern part of
town. Its output is of superior quality and finds a ready sale.

B. F. Johnson, Sons and Company, have been running a cannery for the past season, putting up 4000 cans of superior quality peaches, apricots, and grapes.

The drying of fruit engages a large portion of the population during the summer, and furnishes the means of disposing of much of the fruit crop.

The grapes are mainly divided among the Muscats, Zinfandel, and Mission varieties. The first named is the raisin grape. The others furnish the material for the making of wine.

There are three wineries and one distillery, engaged in the manufacture of grape brandy. The winemakers now seem to fully understand the handling of their wares to the best advantage, and the late vintages are of a character well worthy of a comparison with the best California wines. Especially has there been success in the making of heavy wines, and the Sherry, port, angelica are very good indeed. The wine production of the season was 30,000 gallons and 4,000 gallons of brandy.

Agricultural development of the country about Mesa has an almost illimitable scope. Far off to the south and east stretches a gently sloping plain, suitable in every way to the growth of fruit and cereals, and irrigated.

The Mesans had something to say about who did business in their town. For instance in the Free-Press of August 10, 1893:

The Chinese store that opened here a little more than a week ago got rich too soon. It closed its doors in just one and one-quarter days. The boss came here, opened his goods and expected to get patronage without advertising in the Free-Press. He got left, suddenly closed up, took his goods out of the front door and went back to Tempe. Mesa people want to see every business prosper but thus early they rightly say, "No Chinese need apply!"

Many amusing attempts at law-breaking are found. In
the Free-Press of August 10, 1893 this article was written:

Some of the Mexican population were on a highlonesome Monday evening, and came near making trouble for themselves. They showed fight when the marshall attempted to take one of their number to the Bastile, and the marshall came near sending one or more of them to the happy land of the manyana.

Also in the same issue:

Three Mexicans went into Wing and Peterson's place Monday and called for drinks. After drinking the barkeeper asked who was to pay for the drinks. They began to abuse him and were ejected and one of them started to draw a knife. A pistol was handed to the barkeeper when the Mexicans ran, the marshall in the meantime having caught one of them. The captured one struck the marshall in the mouth with a club. Two or three parties followed the fleeing Mexicans and finally brought them to a halt after covering them with a sixshooter. They were given 90 and 99 days respectively Tuesday morning.

Canals were extended all over the mesa. They gathered the first crop of cereals and vegetables in 1879 and that spring set out many fruit trees, which grew wonderfully well in the rich, light soil.

The Mormons, for practically all the early settlers were of that faith, got along exceptionally well with their neighbors. McClintock tells of only one clash that almost occurred over the irrigation problem.

"The summer of 1879 was one of the dryest ever recorded. Though less than 20,000 acres were cultivated in the entire valley, the crops around Phoenix suffered for lack of water. Salt River was a dry sand expanse for five miles below

the Mesa, Utah, and Tempe canal headings."

The people of Phoenix believed they should fight for their priority rights and a party prepared to go to the new settlement. However, the Mormons met them in such a spirit of helpfulness and cooperation that the clash was averted. The canal headgates to Mesa were closed for three days. This made no appreciable difference in the water flow.

Soon Mesa began to desire to organize a municipal government. This appears in the Mesa City records.

"To the honorable Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County:

We the undersigned, your petitioners would respectfully set forth that in view of our growing population and the peculiar circumstances surrounding us as located at the place known as Mesa City namely on Section 22, Township (1) one North of Range 5 East, and having the requisite population settled upon said Section to entitle us to a village corporation under the act of the Territory granting such privileges. We would therefore ask your honorable body by which we would be enabled to improve our streets and roads and preserve ourselves from the intrusions of Estray stock and other trespasses incident to our location and in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray--

24- Ibid., p. 216.
"In the matter of the petition of A. F. MacDonald and other residents of Mesa City asking for a village incorporation appearing to the board that they have the required village population, on motion and by vote of full board said petition is granted as prayed for and said Mesa City is hereby declared as incorporated as Mesa City, comprising the following Territory to wit: Section 22, T.1N. of Range 5 East --- and it is further ordered that A. F. MacDonald is appointed Inspector, Timothy Mets and Charles I. Robson as Judges of Election of said village officers. Said election to be held at the Mesa City School House on the first Monday in August, A. D. 1883."

The Charter of Mesa City is as follows:

WHEREAS, Theodore C. Sirrine, pursuant to that certain Act of Congress approved March 2nd, 1867, did in behalf of the inhabitants of Section 22, Township 1 North, Range 5 East of the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Maricopa County, State of Arizona, receive Desert Land Certificate Number 21 for said section on the 29th day of April, 1881, and

WHEREAS, patent was issued by the United States of America to the said Theodore C. Sirrine in trust for the inhabitants of said section on the 24th day of May 1888, and said patent was recorded in Book 15 of Deeds at Page 497, records of Maricopa County, State of Arizona, on the 4th day of September, 1888, and

WHEREAS, the said Theodore C. Sirrine did, on the 15th day of August, 1882, execute this certain deed of trust bearing date upon said day in favor of Francis M. Pomercy, George W. Sirrine, and John M. Lewis, as Trustees for the use and benefit of said inhabitants, and which said deed was recorded in Book 8 of Deeds, at Page 169, Records of Maricopa County, State of Arizona, and

26- Mesa City Records.
WHEREAS, under and by virtue of the provisions of said Trust Deed the said Theodore C. Sirrine did, on the 5th day of February, 1883, appoint Elijah Pomeroy as Trustee in the place and stead of Francis M. Pomeroy, and

WHEREAS, the said Theodore C. Sirrine did, on the 10th day of April, 1891, appoint William Passey as Trustee in the place and stead of Elijah Pomeroy, and

WHEREAS, the said Theodore C. Sirrine did, on the 17th day of February, 1893, appoint William J. LeBaron as Trustee in the place and stead of John M. Lewis, and

WHEREAS, the said Theodore C. Sirrine did, on the 5th day of May, 1900, appoint Warren L. Sirrine as Trustee in the place and stead of George W. Sirrine, and

WHEREAS, the inhabitants of said town did, on the 5th day of July, 1883, incorporate the Town of Mesa City by authority and agreeable to the provisions of the certain Act of the Legislature of the Territory of Arizona, approved the 3rd day of October, 1867, and amendments thereto, and

WHEREAS, by authority and agreeable to the provisions of Act Number 72 of the Legislature of the Territory of Arizona, approved April 12, 1893, two-thirds of the taxable inhabitants of said town did present their petition to the Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County, State of Arizona, praying for the incorporation of said Town under said act, and

WHEREAS, said County Board of Supervisors did, by resolution dated March 29, 1897, and recorded in Book 5 of the minutes of said Board of Supervisors at Page 652, declare said town duly incorporated under said act, and

WHEREAS, the said Warren L. Sirrine, William J. LeBaron, and William L. Passey, did convey the lots and blocks included within said section to the inhabitants of said town, agreeable to the provisions of their said trust.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND DECLARED: That said Act Number 72 of the Legislature of the Territory of Arizona, approved April 12, 1893, together with amendments, supplements, revisions, and
compilations thereof be, and the same is hereby declared to be the Charter of the Town of Mesa City.

Adopted October 27, 1917.

PAUL BAXTER BEVILLE,
Mayor

Attest:
W. A. MACDONALD, Clerk

Mesa was divided into separate blocks in May 1878. T. C. Sirrine made the division and deeded it out to the Trustees, C. I. Robson, George W. Sirrine, and F. M. Pomeroy. It was plotted into blocks of ten acres each. Mesa streets were laid out to be 130 feet wide. There was a feeling that the streets were too wide since it would involve quite an expense in paving in the future. The fathers built wisely though, for the wide streets in Mesa are the only ones in the state in which car parking has not become a serious problem.

"Mesa was incorporated July 15, 1883. The first election chose A. F. MacDonald as Mayor, E. Pomeroy, G. W. Sirrine, W. Passey, A. F. Stewart, as Councilmen, C. I. Robson as Recorder, H. C. Longmore as Assessor, W. Richins as Marshall, and H. S. Phelps as Poundkeeper."

There was some trouble over a suitable name for Mesa. When a postoffice was first put in the postal authorities would not let them use the name Mesa since they were afraid it would become confused with Mesaville, another little village.

29- Ibid.
They changed the name to Hayden for a time and then to Zenas, a prophet in the Book of Mormon. Soon after the postoffice at Mesaville was closed and the Mormon village in Arizona became Mesa.

Some people may wonder why the name Mesa was used. At first glance it does not appear to be on an elevated table land. It received its name because the first settlers stayed for a time in Lehi. Lehi was under the bluff of the river and when they talked of going on to the tableland above they spoke of it as the Mesa.

There was some criticism of the civic government in Mesa. Citizens were working for certain pet projects that they would like to have completed. In the Mesa Free-Press of July 6, 1893 appears the following item:

Now is an opportune time for our growing city to take the initiative steps toward providing a city park. Let us not become excited about it, but go quietly to work, inaugurate the movement and prosecute it to completion.

The agitation for a municipal park had started even at that early day. To date (July 1933) this much needed improvement has never been realized.

In the Mesa Free-Press of August 10, 1893 appear complaints about the culverts.

One of the Mesa and Phoenix stages got stuck on a bar of quicksand at the Tempe crossing of the Salt on Monday. A teamster happened along and assisted the hand-anchored stage to a position on terra firma.

30- Personal Conference with Mr. McClintock.
We beg the pardon of our city authorities for again referring to the matter, but there are really some culverts across nearly all the sidewalks in the city that are absolutely dangerous. They ought to be repaired.

Time and time again the Mesa Free-Press complains about the dusty and dirty conditions of the Mesa streets. Since the streets were exceptionally wide it was a dirty job of crossing on a hot summer day.

The Common Council of Mesa passed many ordinances concerning the youth of the village.

Any minor who shall smoke any pipe, cigar, cigarette, or tobacco in any form, or other preparation of a similar nature, or any merchant saloon keeper or other person who shall sell, give, or dispose of to any minor any pipe, cigar, or cigarette, in any form, or other preparations of a similar nature at all be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor. 31

This was Ordinance Number 18 and was passed on the 7th day of September, 1893. The Mayor approved it on the 8th. (Errors were made by newspapers in that day too, for they have 1693 instead of 1893 for the Mayor's signature.) W. S. LeBaron 32 was Mayor at that time and R. H. Smith was the Village Recorder.

Another Ordinance (No. 17) passed on the same day concerned the behavior of minors.

Any minor, except when in the pursuit of necessary business, who shall visit, hang around, or loiter in or about any bawdy house, billiard or drinking saloon, bar, or other place where intoxicating liquors are kept and sold, or who shall loiter about any street, street corner, alley or other public highway, or shall prowl

31- Mesa Free-Press. September 14, 1893.
32. Ibid.
about or enter any public building or private building without permission of the owner thereof on Sundays or other days, not legal or local holidays, or who shall loiter or hang around on the outside of any public hall, church or other public building when occupied, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor. 33

One of the most interesting of the early institutions of Mesa was the Evans school for boys, under the leadership of H. David Evans, M. A. He was a native of England and a graduate of Cambridge, having come to Mesa in 1899. He bought a ranch and founded the school in 1902. Such men as Theodore Roosevelt, James R. Garfield, John Lowell, Major General Leonard Wood, Reverend J. W. Atwood and many others of equal prominence warmly commended its course and gave their full endorsement to the courses of training and study as laid down by Mr. Evans. His staff of teachers were composed of the highest class of educators. The masters were:


"Every breeze wafted across the mountains, valleys and deserts bears upon its wings health, strength, vigor of mind and body." Ever since its foundation the Evans school has grown in efficiency, in standards, in accomplishments and in pupils. For the last few years there has been an increased

33- Ibid.
demand for a school calculated to meet the needs of those who find it necessary to take a rest from their regular college or preparatory school courses and yet do not wish to lose entirely the thread of their studies. To such, El Rancho Bonito offers exceptional advantages, combining life in the open with sound university instruction. The curriculum followed is not set down by iron-clad rules but each pupil is given individual attention. The entire morning and part of the evening are devoted to study while the afternoons are given up wholly to outdoor life.

The object of the school is to develop the physical as well as the mental faculties and literally to educate, that is, to bring out the individual bent of each boy. Trips are made occasionally to various points of interest in the State. Many forms of athletics are taken up. There are two tennis courts, a good baseball field, and a swimming tank on the ranch. A piano in the living room is for the use of the pupils, while a billiard room has been built and furnished by past members. Each pupil has his own tent house, with board floor and shingled roof, and cares for it himself. The school is limited to twenty boys, fifteen years of age or over.

El Rancho Bonito, one hundred and sixty acres in extent is two and one-half miles from Mesa where the postal and telegraph offices and railroads are situated.

Professor Evans is a Master of Arts and Lupton and
Habblewaite Exhibitioner of St. John's College, Cambridge University, England. He has had many years of experience with boys and is an ideal man to direct such a school as the Evans institution is. He has succeeded in building up an institution which is unique in its character and which is a great credit to the State of Arizona.

We can see something of the growth of taxable property and the interest in educational institutions by these figures which represent the approximate expenses of their schools down to 1900.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>To Year</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>1879</td>
<td>$281.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>$2185.33</td>
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<td>1882</td>
<td>1883</td>
<td>$2239.87</td>
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<td>1883</td>
<td>1884</td>
<td>$3343.75</td>
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<td>1885</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>$3788.20</td>
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<td>1887</td>
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<td>1888</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>$5691.24</td>
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<td>1894</td>
<td>1895</td>
<td>$6201.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>$7118.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>1898</td>
<td>$5114.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

35- Records of the County Superintendent's Office.
The first church history of Mesa of which we have any record started on October 14, 1878. Erastus Snow (one of the Apostles of the Mormon Church) appointed Jessie N. Perkins as presiding elder and H. C. Rogers and G. W. Sirrine as Councilors. Mr. Perkins soon died and in 1880 Alexander F. MacDonald was appointed to take over the new Stake.

MacDonald was a sturdy, lengthy Scotchman, a preacher of the rough and ready sort and of tremendous effectiveness, converted in Perth, in June 1846, and a Salt Lake arrival by ox team in 1854. In 1882, on permanent organization of the Stake, Charles I. Robson, succeeded Mr. Sirrine as Councilor. On December 4, 1887 Robson succeeded to the Presidency. H. C. Rogers and Collins R. Hakes were to serve as councilors while MacDonald went into northern Mexico. MacDonald died at Colonia Dublan in March, 1903.

Charles I. Robson then served until February 24, 1894, when he died. He had made himself prominent by being associated with several enterprises.

At his death C. R. Hakes became head of the Maricopa Stake. Five wards were organized with 2,446 people, including 1,219 Indians. At that time Mesa had 648 people who belonged to the Mormon Church. President Hakes died in Mesa, August 27, 1916.

The Temple idea in Arizona appears to date back to an assurance given about 1870 in St. George by Brigham Young. A prediction was made by Jesse N. Smith about 1882 to the
effect that a Temple, at some future day, would be reared on the site of Pima in Graham County. The first donation toward such an end was recorded January 24, 1887, in the name of Mrs. Helena Roseberry, a poor widow of Pima, who gave $5 toward the building of a Temple in Arizona, handing the money to Apostle Moses Thatcher. This widow's mite has ever since been held by the Church at Salt Lake. Possibly it has drawn good interest, for through the Church Presidency has come a donation of $2,000,000 to assure the end the widow had wished for.

Another "nest egg", the first contribution received for the Mesa edifice, came from another widow, Mrs. Amanda Hastings of Mesa, who on behalf of herself and children, gave the stake presidency $15.

In the 90's the non-Mormons were beginning to form congregations and to build churches. The Baptist Church was founded about 1893. They first held services in a brush shed where the church now stands. There were approximately twelve charter members. Mr. Frank Barkley and Mrs. Harvey Ruse organized the Sunday School. A one-room brick building was put up about 1900. The Methodist church was founded in about 1898. The earliest place of worship was a blacksmith shop.

36- McClintock, Op. Cit., p. 221
37- Mr. and Mrs. Turley and Mrs. Barkley.
38- Mrs. Tway.
From the very first there was much agitation for the raising of fruit. They tried to get the people to raise almonds.

A Mesa farmer has twelve apricot trees from which he sold an average of sixty-eight pounds to the tree. He received five cents per pound, giving him $3.40 to the tree, equal to $367.20 to the acre, or an income of $3672 from ten acres, and yet we are sometimes told that fruit raising does not pay."

There was also some agitation for the growing of Egyptian Corn.

By 1886 they were having success raising alfalfa around Mesa. Mr. Barnett had twenty-one acres in alfalfa that year. During two months of the year the land was pastured. During the remaining ten months it was cut and he put up 175 tons of alfalfa hay. This was approximately eight and one-third tons per acre.

Mesa was running about 4000 inches of water in 1886 and about 12,000 acres were being farmed. They had to pay $100 per acre per annum for the use of water.

Population grew fairly rapidly. In 1886 Mesa was described as being "a Mormon village of about 300 population, five miles east of Tempe. It maintains two or three small stores, a fine public school, and a Mormon Church. The inhabitants are principally interested in fruit raising and

40- Phoenix Daily Herald, June, 1886. pp. 9, 10. Arizona, Maricopa County.
41- Ibid., pp. 16, 20.
agriculture, and the place is in the midst of as fine a fruit raising country as is to be found anywhere."
CHAPTER II

TWO DECADES OF PROSPERITY

1900 - 1920

Mesa did not make a sudden transition between 1899 and 1900. This is an arbitrary division. One period merely merged into the other.

Social conditions have improved by 1900. Mesa was connected to Phoenix by a bus line in 1912. The event was written up in a prominent article in the Mesa paper of August 31, 1912. The Arizona Automobile Company developed the service.

The large car, specially built for the service is here and has made four or five trips with all possible success. The regular service will begin Monday at 7 a.m. when the huge touring passenger car will leave the capital city for Mesa via Tempe. 43

The car took forty-five minutes to go from Phoenix to Tempe, a distance of nine miles. It took thirty minutes to go the remaining six miles to Mesa.

This auto will make no side trips and while rural passengers will be taken on and allowed to leave the car at various road crossings the car will not pull to the side roads for them.

This service is given for the benefit of the traveling public and strict rules and regulations

will of necessity be adhered. 44

The slow methods of transportation were sometimes dangerous. The little son of S. R. Puebla was bitten by a rattle snake on Friday, August 30, 1912. After a rough and long trip "by a very slow mode of travel" they reached Mesa, thirty miles away. By that time the boy was in a dangerous condition.

Remnants of the old system remained. People still traveled in buggies. Because of the gradual advent of the automobile there were quite a few arrests. The docket of the Mesa police court contained the following cases on October 12, 1912.

Glen Stapley, speeding auto.
George A. Johnson, no tail light on auto.
J. Patterson, fast driving.
A. S. Earnhart, no tail light on auto.
Guy Collins, speeding motorcycle.
A. Corpstein, speeding motorcycle.
E. L. Waldron, intoxication.

Modern methods of communication were rapidly developing. Up until 1912 the Overland Company had controlled the telephone service in Mesa. In 1912 the Mountain States Company took over the Overland Company. The following charts will show something of the relationship between the growth of

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44 - Ibid.
45 - Ibid., October 12, 1912.
telephone service and population between 1900 and 1920.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>TOTAL PHONES</th>
<th>TOTAL URBAN PHONES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>TOTAL RURAL PHONES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It can readily be seen that the slight depression of 1914 affected the use of telephones. The rural phones began to be used in 1918.

The population increase was steady. In 1900 the population was about 740, in 1910 it had increased to about 1540, and in 1920 it had increased to about 3,000. Therefore the use of phones progressed even more rapidly than the increase in population to 1919. The population just about doubled while the use of phones was more than tripled.

Schools were increasing in size in accordance with population figures. The people of Mesa were willing to pay for good schools as the following figures show.

Approximate Costs of Mesa High School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1901 To 1903</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5489.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903 To 1905</td>
<td></td>
<td>5966.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907 To 1909</td>
<td></td>
<td>7192.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909 To 1910</td>
<td></td>
<td>6384.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910 To 1911</td>
<td></td>
<td>13066.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911 To 1912</td>
<td></td>
<td>13563.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Their expenses show a steady increase. There must have been a substantial increase in taxable property or we would have seen some evidence of groaning under the tax load.

Much interest was taken in athletics of all kinds. Girls' and boys' basketball contests constituted an important feature of the curriculum.

In 1902 John D. Loper made a rather thorough report of the school conditions of Mesa. First we find the report of the Mesa High School

Enrollment for the year ... 34
Average Number Belonging ... 26
Average Daily Attendance ... 25
Per Cent of Attendance ... 96

"The territorial superintendent of Public Instruction makes the course of study for all high schools of the territory.

"In the autumn of 1899 when the ninth grade was

47 - Balance is included in the first item. From there on they are actual expenditures.
48 - Office of County Superintendent of Schools.
added to the Mesa school, the English course of the territorial course was taken up and in 1900 the tenth grade was added and the same course was carried on another year. This work was done as an experiment in two ways: First, to find out if the boys and girls would take advantage of a higher education, and Second, to see if this could be done with the money taken from the grammar school fund. In doing this the trustees guarded well the lower grades and gave the teachers all the pupils they could handle without crowding them. They had an average enrollment of about 45.

"This experiment proved that the boys and girls of Mesa would take advantage of a higher education as those grades were well attended both years and the work done was up to that of our neighboring schools of the same rank.

"The financial part of the experiment proved to be a failure, for at the end of two years of careful management the trustees found the district to be in debt for more than a thousand dollars.

"At the end of the school year in the spring of 1901 the trustees were confronted on one side by a debt of $1000 and on the other side by a class of students asking for the third year work in the high school. After the matter was thoroughly discussed, in public meetings, and elsewhere, and a petition signed by over 100 taxpayers and sent to the county superintendent, the matter was submitted to a vote of the taxpayers of the district and out of the entire vote only one negative was found.

"The estimate for running the school for the first year was placed at $2500. About $300 was spent for physical apparatus, $1700 for teachers, and about $200 for other things. The expense for the coming year should be some two or three hundred dollars less.

"When the school opened in the autumn of 1901 the Latin course was added and the third year students took up this subject and will graduate with two years of Latin, which is enough to give them standing in universities and colleges.

"The work done in the high school the past year came up to the estimate and expectation of all those concerned. Some pupils fell below the
expectations and hope of the management, but such is always the case. Reports came to the trustees that only six pupils were in the high school who could not have been accommodated in the grammar school. Not one pupil placed in the ninth grade was not able to do the work of that grade, and when school closed in the spring only two failed to make their standing for the next year's work.

"The total number enrolled in Mesa schools for the year was 381." 49

By 1912 there were three divisions in the schools of Mesa. There was (1) the high school with about 150 pupils, (2) the South Grammar School with 193 pupils, and (3) the North Grammar School with 311 pupils. This makes a total of 806 pupils in the schools of Mesa in 1912. At that time Professor Robertson was Superintendent of the Mesa City schools. B. M. Jones was principal of the South building. O. P. Greer and Mina Alexander were the other principals.

By 1917 the enrollment in the high school had increased to two hundred and twenty-five while the enrollment in the grammar schools had increased to six hundred ninety-six. Mr. Matthews had then become superintendent.

49- Mesa Free-Press. May 5, 1902.
50- The high school faculty included: L. E. Goss, Principal, and teacher of mathematics; F.C. Johnson, manual training and agriculture; Mariah Parkinson, history and spanish; George S. Rolf, English and history; Guy V. Stambaugh, science, J. Craig McClanahan, stenography and typing; Alma Davis, bookkeeping and other commercial branches; Jeannette Stewart, English, Latin, German; Vega Bruyman, domestic science and art; Miss Wydner, secretary and librarian.
51- Mesa Free Press.
52- Ibid., September 16, 1912.
The early pioneers wanted their children to attend school as is shown by the following article:

No further notice will be given parents whose children of school age are picking cotton instead of attending school. The law requires every child under sixteen and over six years of age to attend school, and parents who wilfully disobey the law and deprive their children of the privilege of the public school will be dealt with severely. A few weeks out of school at the beginning of the term not only is a detriment in that they miss some of the most important work of the year, it also causes them to lose interest, and in time, because they are getting behind in their studies, they leave school and their chance for an education is lost. 53

Evidently people did not take bond issues as seriously in that day as they do in 1937. In 1914 a very good illustration is given of the prosperity of these two decades when they voted on a bond issue for the construction of the Franklin school building of $90,000. There were eighteen votes cast with only one dissenting vote. 54

Religious developments continued to grow too. The Christian Church was established about 1910. They first met in a blacksmith shop on the north side of Main Street about where the Southside Gas and Electric Company is now located. 55

There were about two dozen members at first. These non-Mormons were coming in to take up new lands and to participate in the economic developments. Of course, some were coming for their health but the most of them came because

53- Mesa Daily Tribune. September 27, 1917.
54- Personal Conference with O. S. Stapley.
55- Mrs. Dr. Shouse.
they could see some economic advantages in the new community.

City government was developing along party lines. In 1902 two parties were running candidates for city offices. The Citizen's Ticket was running for Councilmen, O. S. Stapley, J. H. Rogers, P. B. Hughes, W. J. LeBaron, Charles M. Mullen. The same ticket had George M. Fryer for Marshall, J. H. Pomeroy for Clerk, and Alex Kerr for street supervisor. The other ticket in the field was the Independent ticket. They were running for councilmen, Philip Mets, J. G. Peterson, O. S. Stapley, Joe Rogers, and C. M. Mullen. They were running Hugh Dana for Marshall, J. H. Pomeroy for Clerk, and Alex Kerr for Street Supervisor. On April 4, 1902 the Free-Press ran an editorial not upholding either ticket but warning both candidates that the important question was one of a water system for the city. The entire Citizen's ticket was elected on April 7, 1902.

An important question in Mesa's city government has been the ownership of public utilities. The question first arose in 1917. The utilities services had become so poor that something had to be done. In the city election of 1917 the big issue was one whether the utilities should be owned by the city or by a private company. The advocates of municipal ownership won out and the utilities were taken over by the city in 1917.

56- The Mesa Free-Press. April 3, 1902.
57- Mr. Petrie.
Quite often between 1908 and 1920 there came up the issue of economy in municipal administration although it did not play a dominant part as an issue. It seems to be a remarkable fact that Mesa has been relatively free from a great deal of purely party strife in municipal affairs.

One of the most important companies ever to be formed in Mesa was the O. S. Stapley Company. The leading spirit in the formation of this company was O. S. Stapley, one of the most constructive of the many fine pioneers that helped in the settlement of Mesa. The company had been started in 1894. In the Mesa Evening Free-Press of Friday, October 4, 1912 the following announcement appears:

That we, the undersigned, hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation under the laws of the State of Arizona, and for that purpose do hereby make, adopt, and sign these articles of incorporation.

Article I
The name of this corporation shall be the "O. S. Stapley Company."

Article II
The names of the incorporators of this company are: O. S. Stapley, J. W. Clark, and J. H. Rogers.

Article III
The principal place of business of this corporation shall be Mesa City in the County of Maricopa, State of Arizona, but the corporation may have and maintain offices at such other places in or out of the State of Arizona as its board of directors may from time to time deem expedient.
Article IV

The general nature of the business to be transacted by this corporation shall be as follows: A general wholesale and retail merchandise, hardware, implement, and repair business, harness, vehicle, plumbing, tinsmith, machinery, and furniture business, in all their several branches and shall in that capacity have power to do any and all things necessary for the carrying out of said business.

Article V

The authorized amount of capital stock of this corporation shall be five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) divided into five thousand (5000) shares of the par value of one hundred dollars ($100) each which shall be paid in or at any such time or times as the board of directors shall designate, in cash, real or personal property, rights or services or other valuable thing, as the board of directors may accept and in the event the property, rights, services, or other valuable right or thing be accepted by the board of directors in payment of stock. The judgement of the board of directors as to the value of such property, services or other valuable right or thing, shall be conclusive in the absence of actual fraud. All shares of stock when issued shall be fully paid and forever non-assessable.

Article VI

The affairs of this corporation shall be conducted by a board of directors consisting of three persons, who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the stockholders of this corporation from among its stockholders, who when qualified shall serve as such directors until their successors are elected and qualified.

Such was the beginning of the company that has played such a part in the history of Mesa. The O. S. Stapley Company today has a large store in Mesa and stores in Phoenix, Glendale, and other valley towns. They deal in farm implements.

There was constant agitation to get the farmers interested in the raising of cantaloupes. It was an industry
that grew rapidly. They had trouble over the shipping of cantaloupes. In 1912 there was trouble with the Mutual Distributing Company because of a misunderstanding over their payments from the company for shipments. They filed suit to recover an amount somewhat in excess of $14,000. The Mutual Distributing Company was from California. That year there were great July rains which increased the yield enormously. On some land there were as much as two carloads to the acre. Therefore, the carrying quality was poor. The case arose because of dissatisfaction with the returns from the Company and the belief that they had withheld some of the funds rightfully due the farmers.

About 1907 we find the beginnings of an industry that was destined to become of the greatest in the Mesa district. This was the growing of citrus. The earliest citrus groves were owned by Mr. Bowen, Mr. Sargent, and Mr. Millet, bearing in 1907. In 1909 groves were owned by Mr. McCullough, Mr. Graylor, Dr. Shouse, Mr. Norris, and Cal Phelps. Most of these were lost in the freeze of 1913, however. In 1910 Jack Frazier, George Cole, and Rube Hess set out groves.

The character of Mesa's buildings is rapidly changing, from the adobe huts of a small city, which formed the basis of our town only a few years ago, and a few of which are still in evidence, Mesa has with each rebuilding or added improvement come forth with the best and most substantial and up-to-date buildings of the best building material obtainable, until at present some of the finest

59- Mesa Free-Press. August 1912.
60- L. B. Johnson.
61- Mr. McCullough.
buildings in the southwest adorn the streets of Gate City. The Chandler building, the O. S. Stapley building, the Mahoney building, the now complete Lesueur building, the J. H. Barnett, the Crismon and the Vance buildings are among the best business houses to be found in any city of four times our population. Our public school and church buildings would do credit to any city, while our Union High School building is to be envied by any city.

The new Lesueur building, now under way, promises to be the most elegant of them all. The pressed glazed brick put into the front of this magnificent building are the most expensive variety, costing the contractor 10 cents each. The steel reach or beam for the front of the building is the largest piece of metal ever put into a building in Mesa, and while this beautiful building, of which the beam is a portion, is at present to be used only for a store, this reach is strong enough for a five-story building. This all leads to the one conclusion, that Mesa people want and propose to have the best that is to be had and have a determination to be second to no town; that she is built upon a solid foundation and populated with a class of wide-awake businessmen. One who does not stop to realize the business activity of our city might be heard to remark that there is not much doing at this season of the year, when if he would take just a moment to reflect upon the real condition his expression would be far different. Almost every phase of business in the city has made a continued and steady increase for the past eighteen months. Practically every building in town is now occupied, notwithstanding there have been many large buildings completed within a short time.

Yesterday, Friday the 13th, was no unusual day, and to stimulate our convictions that Mesa was alive we stepped to the door of our office at 2:30 p. m. to count the vehicles on Main Street between McDon- ald and Hibbert, one city block. The count revealed the fact that there were thirty rigs, six automobiles, and the sidewalks were thronged with people, on either side of the street. This was the condition not on a rush day, but on an ordinary business day.

In order to increase the trade and to benefit the city economically the people were encouraged to take pride in their city. There is a picture of this and also of the business area of
Mesa in 1912 in the above article taken from the Mesa Evening Free-Press of September 14, 1912.

Practically the only medium of advertising was the Mesa Free-Press. Such organizations as the Salt River Valley Bank, the Mesa City Bank, Lesueur and Company, the Allison-Davis Hardware Company, and Barnett Drug Company advertised in it. It carried national news almost exclusively on its front page unless there were some local news of particular importance. In the issues of 1912 there is a great deal about the three-cornered campaign between Roosevelt, Wilson and Taft.

An important cotton gin was established in 1912 by the Egyptian Cotton Company. The Mesa Free-Press of August 28, 1912 gives a picture of the cotton situation at that time.

The cotton crop in the vicinity while small in acreage promises fair yields to all growers, and to those who have given the plant proper culture the outlook for a bumper crop is startling, and all the most forward crops are showing much cotton opened and ready for picking, while some of the better plants have not yet begun to show signs of maturing. Some fibers taken from the patch of W. W. Mitchell are longer and equally as fine as any brought here from Sacaton for our inspection. This alone goes to show that the fleecy staple being produced in the Mesa district will command the highest market price. The thrifty condition of the plants and the immense quantity of bowls now on the plants insure a good yield. With a heavy yield of first class fibers and the necessary machinery for its preparation the only difficulty at present foreseen by the growers is the picking of the crop. Those who have only what they can personally gather will doubtless reap a great reward for the efforts put forth in the cotton industry, while those who are forced to depend upon hired labor to pick their crop will likely experience some hardships before the crop is ginned. The
labor question in this vicinity is the most difficult thing the ranchers have to contend with, as it is almost impossible to get a respectable day's work done, and the wages paid are in most instances greater than is consistent with practical farming, thus rendering it almost unprofitable to hire labor on a ranch. However, the majority of the cotton growers have small acreages and will be able to handle the crop with little hired help.

Cotton culture continued to increase. By 1917 they were having "Cotton Days" in Mesa. Because of the good price received for cotton during the war the farmers were in no humor to cease its cultivation. The merchants of Mesa were offering a $50 prize to the farmer who got the first bale of cotton to the gin. In 1917 Lou Ellsworth won the prize.

Mr. Ellsworth already has enough cotton in the Mesa ginning plant's warehouse to make ten bales of lint cotton weighing 500 pounds each. It requires 1700 pounds of the seed cotton to get a bale of lint. However, the seed itself is somewhat of a money producer, and none of it will be wasted. 62

The farmers disagreed as to how much should be paid to the cotton pickers. Some felt that they should have three cents while others felt that two and one-half cents per pound was enough. We find this article concerning the cotton situation on October 13, 1917:

Cotton is surely king in Mesa this season. Notwithstanding the fact that last spring, being unusually cold, many of the cotton fields were seeded quite late, the crop is generally up to the standard. Some of the fields are producing magnificent crops, and none, so far as the Tribune has been able to

learn, is anywhere near the loss line.

Yesterday forenoon, the Tribune was shown a check issued by a purchaser to Luther Sigman for $3730.12 given him in payment for eleven bales of lint cotton. In addition to this sum he will have six or seven tons of seed which will bring another very handsome sum when sold. Last season, seed brought from $40 to $60 a ton.

Yesterday over 100 bales were sold at 27¢ per pound, Buyer Gribbsby being the lucky bidder. Today the prices have ranged the same, and many sales were made. Those who had large acreages are selling only a portion of the crop, holding what they look upon as "velvet" for probably higher prices.

Cotton growers are having so far, fine weather for the harvest season. The temperature has not been high, and the skies have been clear the greater part of the time. Fortunately, the rains have passed the valley by, although there has been the usual rainfall in the mountains.

It is too early to estimate with any reasonable certainty what the total value of the crop in the valley will be, but it will surely pass the million mark on the southside section, providing prices go no higher than at present.

Farmers took up the raising of some corn and alfalfa. J. W. Helfinstine, who resided northeast of Mesa bred the Poland China variety of swine. He pastured them in his alfalfa fields.

The poultry industry was being encouraged. Mr. and Mrs. Omer McCullough had about 350 white leghorn hens. They got about eight to ten dozen eggs a day making them about fifteen dollars per week in gross receipts.

People were urged to trade in Mesa. Here is another

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63- Mesa Free-Press. October 12, 1912.
64- Ibid., October 17, 1912.
accurate picture of the commercial life in Mesa from the Free-Press.

The Mesa Dairy and Ice Company ably covers the field in their lines, while the Mesa Milling Company will care for the wants in millstuffs and farm seeds. In fact, we have many worthy enterprises, ever striving to build up and force this section of the Salt River Valley to the front.

There are many other things which Mesa needs. Every institution owned, maintained and operated in Mesa of any magnitude adds greatly to our development. Every month there is $300 to $400 going from the Southside to Phoenix for abstracts which should be kept in this city. An abstract and title company is one of the most needed things in this community. It would leave not only the money spent for the abstracts in Mesa, but the saving of the citizens in time and traveling expenses would be an item worth while. To complete an abstract, many times it is necessary to make a half a dozen trips to Phoenix. Every man or woman who of necessity must go to Phoenix will naturally spend many dollars while there.

The Toggery continued to be one of the most important clothing stores of Mesa. In 1917 George A. Johnson became sole owner after splitting with his partner F. W. McNamara. Their relations were not strained but McNamara had other business interests to look after.

It was about this time that the O. S. Stapley Company changed its entire policy. "Last evening (November 1, 1917) the O. S. Stapley Company honored its employees with a banquet at the American Kitchen, arrangements having been made for serving the twenty-two employes of the company, including the Mesa and Phoenix houses, with a five-course dinner. In the thoughtful arrangements a large vase con-
taining twenty-two beautiful red roses was placed in the center of the table, representing the number of employes of the firm, which were distributed among them as they passed out, by Delbert L. Stapley, vice-president of the firm. They all then marched across the street to the store and listened to an interesting business talk by O. S. Stapley.

It was at this time that the O. S. Stapley Company announced the beginning of the profit sharing plan by employees in case the employe had worked in the company for one year. Mr. Stapley also announced at the time that he would retire from active participation in the business and would turn its various branches over to his three sons. Delbert Stapley was to be in charge of the Mesa Branch, Lorel Stapley was to be in charge of the Phoenix branch, and Glenn Stapley was to be general manager of the firm.

Mesa's economic interests probably forced her to lean toward the liberal element in the desire to see Arizona come into the Union. Mr. Standage was one of the representatives from Maricopa County to the Constitutional Convention. There were two outstanding elements in the Convention; one progressive or liberal, the other conservative. Because her interests were largely agricultural Mesa probably swung to the liberal side.

66- Ibid.
67- Personal Conference with Ex-Governor Hunt.
From the editorials of the Mesa Free-Press it does not look so certain that they always fought for statehood for at times they were lukewarm concerning some of the radical provisions of the proposed constitution.

It would appear from the telegraphic correspondence published in this issue of the Free-Press that action as to Arizona's constitution cannot finally be had until the next Congress convenes in regular session, which will be in December. This is not a surprise to many, for there was practically no hope that the present Congress would act upon the question, even should the President transmit his approval or disapproval of the document to the present Congress. The statement made to the Arizona Statehood Committee is construed by some to mean that the President will approve the Constitution and put its final approval or disapproval up to Congress. This may be the correct interpretation of Mr. Taft's words, for as has been stated before in this paper, the admission of Arizona has become simply a question of politics, and will be used for furthering the interests of either of the great parties, if it is possible to do so. The wishes of the people will in no manner be considered, if any way is seen in which they conflict with the plans of the party in favor. 68

The charge has been frequently made by one or two irresponsible and thoroughly unscrupulous newspaper proprietors that everyone who opposed the Constitution was opposed to Statehood. That has been the boldest demogorgmy. There has been no opposition to Arizona's admission, and had the advice of those best posted been followed, there would have been no opposition in Congress to speak of, the President would have been prompt to approve, and the people of Arizona would have been free to place as many new theories in practice as a majority of the people desired to have embodied in the fundamental law of the new state. It was a matter of expediency, only. A little diplomacy would have accomplished the end desired without endangering statehood. But it will

68— Mesa Evening Free-Press. March 1, 1911.
do no good to complain after the damage is done; the thing to do now is to have the best men in the territory in Washington to exert what influence they have to try and get admission at the coming session. It perhaps may be accomplished by making some concessions; otherwise we fear the President will block admission so long as he is in office. Realizing that statehood under almost any reasonable kind of constitution will be a great thing for the prosperity of Arizona, it would seem to us the part of wisdom to drop all sparring for political advantage and join in an earnest effort to secure what is so much needed and so long has been asked for. 69

In a general way, though, Mesa certainly worked for Statehood. They were not so radical as other sections of the State.

These two decades were a period of expansion and prosperity. Their schools grew with the growth in economic welfare. Communication developed new contacts with the outside world. The automobile took the place of the horse and buggy.

There was not a whole lot of bitter party strife. This condition was natural since bitter political strife does not appear when the economic skies are clear.

It was a period of rising prices and an expanding cotton market. The farmers dropped all pretenses at diversification and went solely into the raising of cotton. In general the descendants of the early settlers stayed with the land. This was in accordance with their faith.

69- Ibid., March 6, 1911.
Economically the depression of 1921 hit Mesa with
terrific force. One citizen says that it was far worse in
its noticeable effects than the depression of 1930. There
was an enormous number of foreclosures and land transfers.
Before the crash was over the First National Bank had had to
levy a one hundred per cent special assessment on stock.
The Salt River Valley Bank was taken over by the Valley Bank.
Short staple cotton in the lint and in the seed sold higher
than long staple cotton. Neither were profitable.

The farmers began to see the disastrous effects of hav-
ing sold their dairy cattle during earlier years in order to
grow cotton, for the bottom dropped out of the cotton market.
Chart I will show the decline of bank deposits during the
crisis of 1921 in one of the Mesa Banks. Deposits fell to
the lowest point in September of 1921. It was in this year
that the crisis reached its greatest extent in the Mesa area.
These figures in the chart show a decline of more than one-
half during the worst months of the depression.

70 Personal Conference with P. B. Beville.
The farmers had depended upon one crop too much. Cotton had been depended upon to the exclusion of practically everything else in an agricultural way. When the cotton prices dropped to low levels then the entire Mesa district was in the grip of one of the most noticeable panics in its history.

In spite of the economic crisis though, quite a little construction work was being planned. In 1921 over $66,000

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<td>June 30, 1920</td>
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<td>November 15, 1920</td>
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<td>December 29, 1920</td>
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<td>April 28, 1921</td>
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<td>June 30, 1921</td>
<td>419,379.76</td>
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<td>September 6, 1920</td>
<td>345,824.43</td>
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<td>December 31, 1921</td>
<td>375,479.62</td>
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<td>March 10, 1922</td>
<td>352,356.87</td>
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<td>September 15, 1922</td>
<td>401,242.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 29, 1922</td>
<td>434,198.71</td>
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<td>April 3, 1923</td>
<td>447,434.65</td>
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<td>June 30, 1923</td>
<td>405,562.61</td>
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<td>395,724.96</td>
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<td>March 31, 1924</td>
<td>461,673.94</td>
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<td>June 30, 1924</td>
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<td>October 10, 1924</td>
<td>589,771.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 31, 1924</td>
<td>705,428.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6, 1925</td>
<td>723,747.99</td>
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<td>June 30, 1925</td>
<td>665,142.57</td>
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<td>September 28, 1925</td>
<td>724,423.20</td>
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<td>December 31, 1925</td>
<td>882,957.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30, 1926</td>
<td>791,878.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 30, 1926</td>
<td>727,322.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31, 1926</td>
<td>754,235.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
in contracts for new buildings were let out.

The most extensive and pretentious of the three new buildings will be the theater and business property. This building will be erected by George A. Johnson, proprietor of the Toggery, and owner of the property, which he purchased from J. W. Lesueur following the fire which wiped out the Emporium a year ago. Estimated cost of this new building will be approximately $40,000, not including the costs of furnishings and fixtures for the theater proper.

Contract for the erection of the theater was signed following the signing of an agreement between William Menhennet, local theater man, and Mr. Johnson. The contract and lease provided for the erection by Mr. Johnson of a suitable and modern theater building, and for the use of the building by Mr. Menhennet over a period of years. The new theater will be the most modern and beautiful one on the southside and will compare with any of the theaters in Phoenix for conveniences and up-to-date construction.

In addition to the theater the new building will contain two store places for small businesses along-side the lobby entrance to the theater, and on the second story several modern and well lighted office rooms. The building will be almost entirely of brick and cement and will be as nearly fireproof as it can be made. It will seal the scar in the business district which has remained since the fire which wiped out the Emporium.

The hotel contract is for the rebuilding of the Alhambra. O. E. Elrath, owner of the Alhambra, which was destroyed by fire last winter, has completed financing plans, and gave instruction to the contractors Tuesday to proceed with the work. In this way approximately $15,000 will be expended, making out of the old building a new modern hotel.

In addition to the building which is to start some construction of note is already under way in the district. Included in this list is the new undertaking parlors of M. L. Gibbons on Sirrine Street just north of Main, where a building which will cost approximately $10,000 when completed is now under course of construction and more than half completed. This will be a modern well-equipped and arranged parlor, which
will compare with any similar establishment in the State. 72

The Metsford Hotel was finally completed.

Entering the hotel from North MacDonald Street the visitor enters the office and the lounge, the furniture in the latter being handsomely upholstered in tapestry and including the latest model of player piano, while the easy chairs are in mission style. The hotel includes 27 guest rooms of which 17 have private baths, and a number of the rooms can be connected to form suites capable of accommodating six or eight persons. All of the rooms face on the outside and the ventilating system that has been installed throughout the building insures a constant current of air through all the rooms at all times. Each room is fitted up with an electric fan, and the telephones for the use of the guests will be installed in the rooms within a few days. The lighting is the indirect system and the fittings are handsome in the extreme. In addition to the other advantages each room has a roomy closet for the convenience of the guest occupying it. The carpets on the floors are Axminster, and the bedroom furnishings are in harmony with them, forming an atmosphere of richness and comfort that is seldom seen outside of a city much larger than Mesa. 73

After 1921 the economic situation seemed to reach a fairly even keel. Between 1924 and 1933 there were only twenty-four bankruptcies with liabilities of $142,000 and assets of $164,000. This is not a high number for a city of the size of Mesa. 74

In 1929, however, another panic took its toll. Another chart enables one to see graphically the decline of bank deposits from the peak.

72- Mesa Tribune. August 19, 1921.
73- Mesa Daily Tribune. March 7, 1921.
74- Dun and Bradstreet.
75- State Banking Department.
March 25, 1927 . . . $816,916.78
June 30, 1927 . . . 798,916.78
October 10, 1927 . . . 842,706.99
December 21, 1927 . . . 928,326.52
February 28, 1928 . . . 958,515.14
December 31, 1931 . . . 451,743.55
September 29, 1931 . . . 516,315.12
March 25, 1932 . . . 680,743.32

The First National Bank was finally forced to close its doors in the summer of 1932. They had assets totaling $800,000 and liabilities totaling $642,000 with $100,000 in capital stock.

In the marketing of cantaloupes, lettuce and kindred vegetables Mesa has a group of private companies that try to make profits from such enterprises. The companies include the S. A. Gerrard Company and The M. O. Best Company and they come in and contract for so many cantaloupes or other vegetables. About ninety per cent of the lettuce crop is controlled by these companies through contracts. As a rule they rent ground over a period of three years and hire men to take the responsibility of raising the lettuce. Sometimes the shippers organize to limit shipments so that the market will absorb the smaller amounts at a higher price. In recent years there has been no outward illfeeling between shippers and growers.

In the twenties they opened up one of the most important of the industries in Mesa represented by the Arizona
Citrus Growers Association. It is a cooperatively controlled organization embracing growers throughout the valley and to a certain extent in California.

During the period of expansion many new citrus groves were put in. It takes a lot of capital to start such a grove which they did not have in 1921. There are no available statistics as to the increase in acreage but it must have been quite large. After the big freeze of 1913 farmers had not been enthusiastic about citrus but during the expansion period of this decade we see idle capital being invested in citrus groves.

It was during this boom period that the Citrus plant was opened up and it represents another cooperative enterprise in the history of Mesa. Any one engaged in the raising of citrus fruit may become a member of the organization if the Board of Directors so desires. Each member of the Association has one vote. Each member must market his citrus crop with the Association. Failure to do so constitutes loss of membership. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors of seven members. They are elected annually. Separate pools are provided for the marketing of the various kinds of citrus fruits. Returns to members are based on the net proceeds of the pool in which the individual may have an interest. In case individual members do not market their fruit with the Association their fines are levied.

77- By-laws of the Arizona Citrus Growers Ass'n.
This shows the nature of the organization. It has been exceptionally successful and of real benefit to the community.

In 1927 the El Portal Hotel was opened. It was sponsored and operated by a group of Mesa citizens. In the debacle after '28 it went into the hands of the bank and afterwards into the hands of another hotel company.

The period of expansion was marked by a great deal of borrowing by people interested in taking up new enterprises. The Mormons themselves did not borrow so much since speculative tendencies do not hold much attraction for them. The new comers were borrowing heavily, though, during the boom period.

The economic situation in 1921 seriously affected the social situation. Here is an article that shows particularly how it affected the schools. Mr. Hendrix was then superintendent of the schools.

Rigid economy, reduction in the teaching staffs of both high and grade schools, and increases in the classes are included in the plans adopted at a special meeting of the joint high school and grade school boards. No reduction will be made in the time of the school terms and no economies will be practiced which will detract from the efficiency and attractiveness of the schools.

The financial situation was thoroughly discussed from all angles, including the necessity for further economy, a reduction in the teaching staff and the purchase of supplies. H. E. Hendrix, superintendent, reported that no supplies have yet been purchased, that there is a limited amount on hand and that other purchases will
be made as needed on the falling market.

The teaching situation was thoroughly canvassed and it was decided that for the present year the number of classes would probably be decreased and the attendance would be increased effecting a reduction in the teaching staffs of grade and high schools. 78

When registration came in 1921, though, they found that there could not be a reduced teaching staff because of the unprecedented increase in the enrollment. They had anticipated an enrollment of 350 pupils in the high school but 428 were enrolled the first day. There were approximately 1000 enrolled in the grades. 79

The schools grew in size and efficiency during this period. Something of their growth and increased costs may be seen by these figures. Especially during the period of expansion their increased expenditure was marked.

78- Mess Tribune. August 12, 1921.
79- Ibid.

The high school Board of Education at that time included: George W. Silverthorne, President; Zeb. Pearce, Clerk; M. C. Phelps, W. W. Dobson, and O. S. Stapley, members.

The high school faculty included: H. E. Hendrix, superintendent and principal of the grades; Vidella Mortenson, registrar; W. G. Anderson, Zula Stevens, Isobel Dinsmoor, English Department; C. H. Churchill, Spanish and Latin; Zulla Cooper, Spanish; M. P. Schneller, History; A. S. Hartman, mathematics; Bernice Downing, mathematics and science; Albert Gransden, science and athletic coach; E. Elizabeth Sheldon, home economics; A. Z. Smith, science and agriculture; L. W. Otto, agriculture; J. C. Anderson, Bookkeeping and handwriting; A. DeFor Miller, Industrial arts; Mrs. Rose Ave, Art; Sidney Dury, Music; Ruth Huber, Physical Education.

L. B. Johnson, Chas. Shouse, W. R. Stewart were on the grade school board.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1922-23</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>$53,383.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923-24</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>66,343.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924-25</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>66,893.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>1925-26</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>78,214.12</td>
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<td>1926-27</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>77,777.86</td>
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<td>1927-28</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>76,408.28</td>
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<tr>
<td>1928-29</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>93,555.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>1929-30</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>89,459.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930-31</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>114,055.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931-32</td>
<td>787</td>
<td>76,550.47</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There were many newcomers to the valley. This increased the school population. The new influx represented those who were coming in to take up new lands. Some veterans were among them who had come for health reasons.

However the depression of 1929 and 30 affected the school tremendously.

FINANCES AND REVENUES

In common with the other schools of the state, the Mesa Union High School had to give considerable attention to the economic aspect of its work. Every effort was made by the Superintendent to cooperate with the Board and the taxpayers of the community in limiting the expenditures to absolute essentials.

It cannot be considered quite accurate to make comparisons between the entire budget for the three year period since 1930-31, a considerable amount was expended for capital outlay. The net outlay for current expenses can be ascertained from the following:
Total Net Expenditures 110,474.89 72,594.47 51,104.79
Capital Outlay 21,068.54 886.91 458.00
Current Expenses 89,406.35 71,707.56 50,646.75
Per cent of 1930-31 100% 80% 56.6%

It will be seen from the foregoing that there was a reduction of 20% for the year 1931-32 and 43.4% for the year 1932-33, both percentages being calculated on the 1930-31 figure as a basis.

COMPARISON OF BUDGETS AND NET EXPENDITURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget for 1931-32</th>
<th>Net Expenditures 1931-32</th>
<th>Balance</th>
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<td>74,155.00</td>
<td>72,594.47</td>
<td>1,560.53</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Budget for 1932-33</td>
<td>Net Expenditures 1932-33</td>
<td>Balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70,000.00</td>
<td>51,104.79</td>
<td>18,895.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Two-year period</td>
<td>$20,455.74</td>
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Of the $20,455.74 an amount of $3,536.65 is due to the fact that the salaries of teachers were reduced by the Board of Education by one month or one-twelfth of the annual salaries for the year 1932-33 from the standard salary schedule.

The following figures give the average salaries of the teachers for the three year period:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Salary</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1930-31</td>
<td>$1796.38</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1931-32</td>
<td>1803.70</td>
<td>100.40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1932-33</td>
<td>1691.45</td>
<td>94.15%</td>
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This report was prepared June 20th. These figures include the amounts of vouchers for sums due before June 30, 1933. These have been drawn and approved by the office but have not been signed as yet by the Board, and warrants have not been drawn by the County Superintendent. Should any of these fail to be paid before June 30, the expenditures for 1932-33 would be correspondingly reduced.
The reduction in expenses was therefore made without necessitating drastic reductions in teachers' salaries. It is evident from the above that the actual reduction was somewhat less than six per cent. The difference between this figure and $1/3\%$ (one-twelfth) is due to an increase in salary earned through summer school attendance.

In some school systems of the state salaries were reduced 15 to 25%. In a few districts the reductions were as much as 40%. It is fortunate that such reductions were not made here since the Mesa Union High School salaries were considerably below those of other systems of similar size and standing.

**BONDED INDEBTEDNESS**

The net bonded indebtedness for the Mesa Union High School at the close of last year was $58,500 considered at par the bonds in which the sinking fund has been invested. The County Supervisors have heretofore been making a levy of $10,000 per year. There is now $2651.74 cash in the sinking fund which leaves a net bonded indebtedness of less than $56,000. Since no bond levy was made this year the amount in the sinking fund was derived from a balance left after the purchase of bonds last year, the payment of delinquent taxes, and interest on bonds owned by the school district and held by the County Treasurer.

The bonds are not due until June 1, 1939. It is considered probably that a levy of $10,000 per year for the next five years, together with the interest on bonds now held and to be purchased in the future will meet the full $56,000 at date of maturity.

**REVOLVING FUNDS**

The deficit in the cafeteria account was largely due to the fact that parents were unable to provide even the small amount of 15% for the purchase of meals. The result was that the 30 to 50 pupils and faculty members obtaining their meals from the cafeteria provided insufficient receipts to pay for materials and wages.

There was a further decrease in the receipts for these Mesa Union High School funds through the fact that parents were unable to pay the fees ordinarily collected. The Superintendent reported this condition to the Board and recommended that no pupil be dismissed from school because of inability to pay the necessary fees. He also reported that this
might be done through the elimination of some janitor service, this work then to be done by such pupils as were unable to pay in cash for their fees. This recommendation was approved by the Board of Education with the request that reports regarding such pupils be made from time to time to the Board. At the close of the school year there was a total of $404.89 of such fees not paid in cash. Of this amount $47.72 still remains unpaid in any form. Therefore, $357.15 represents the amount that has been worked out in this way. 81

Because of the financial situation they had to cut expenses to the bone. Between 1930 and 1933 the expenses of the High School district were cut nearly sixty per cent.

Through these figures the effects of the depression of 1930 on the schools can be seen. The budget for the High School has been cut from $114,000 down to about $70,000 during the depression in spite of an increase in day attendance. The teaching staff has been cut about one-third.

An interesting sidelight on social customs is afforded by a speech delivered by Mr. Hendrix in 1921 in one of the High School assemblies.

"Paint, Powder, and Spit Curls were the subjects taken up by Superintendent H. E. Hendrix at the Junior Class Day at the high school yesterday afternoon, and the head of the local schools fired several volleys of hot shot that made the offenders in this manner squirm in their seats and that brought amused smiles from their classmates who knew at whom he was aiming the shafts.

Superintendent Hendrix condemned in the most emphatic manner the use of cosmetics by girls of

81- Superintendent's Annual Report. 1933.
school age, the wearing of too much jewelry, the freakish dressing of the hair, and the too abundant use of lipstick, pointing out that the girls who devoted so much time and thought to their personal appearance not only took that much time from their studies but also made themselves objects of criticism by all with whom they came in contact. He wound up by saying that they must show up on Monday with clean faces and that anyone who failed to do so would be sent from the classroom by her teacher with orders to wash her face, and if necessary, to wash her hair also, to get rid of the spit curls. 82

This shows the evident conservatism of this community although such tendencies persisted.

One of the modern tendencies was toward a decided increase in the use of the automobile. They left the old-fashioned buggy to take up the Ford as a method of transportation. Some idea of the increase in the use of the automobile may be seen by these figures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Commercial Cars or Trucks</th>
<th>Passenger Cars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>1825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>2946</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No figures were available before 1925. The increased use of commercial cars in spite of the depression was probably due to the fact that many began using that method of making a living.

The most important method of communication continued to

83- Arizona Record. 1209 Woodland Avenue. Phoenix.
be the telephone. The increased extent of its use can be seen from the following figures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL PHONES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>.800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>.760</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>.760</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>.700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>.780</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>.800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>.840</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>.900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>.980</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>1140</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL URBAN PHONES</th>
<th>TOTAL RURAL PHONES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 1920                | 300                 |
| 1921                | 260                 |
| 1922                | 260                 |
| 1923                | 270                 |
| 1924                | 280                 |
| 1925                | 295                 |
| 1926                | 320                 |
| 1927                | 320                 |
| 1928                | 340                 |
| 1929                | 370                 |

These figures show a steady increase in the use of the telephone with the exception of the year 1921 when the depression affected its use. During the period of expansion there was a market increase.

Among the social developments in Mesa during this period, the construction of the Mormon Temple must be listed as one of the most important.

Construction in the fall of the half-million dollar Mormon Temple in the eastern part of Mesa

will give an added stimulus to the building activity of Mesa, and will be one of the greatest factors toward increased prosperity and activity in this district. Plans for the Maricopa Stake, Church of Latter Day Saints, now are for the dedication of the Temple plot in September, and for the early construction of the gigantic edifice.

With this large piece of work added to the already extensive building operations announced for the immediate future, Mesa will experience a new activity which business and professional men believe will be reflected enormously in every enterprise and commercial force on the southside and which they declare, will mark the beginning of the return of normal conditions in this district. A decided increase in the spirit of optimism of the southside followed the announcement Tuesday of construction plans for the future.

The new Temple will be one of the largest and most magnificent in the whole southwest. It will occupy a large area of land immediately outside the city limits to the east and will rise from its foundation to such a height that it will be visible from almost every district on the southside. The architectural design will be of distinctive nature and the edifice will add materially to the many attractions of this district.

For its construction members of the church in the Maricopa Stake have raised and pledged already nearly $175,000. To this has been added a like sum by the Church at Salt Lake City, and other sums are expected to be added which will enable the Church to erect a half-million dollar Temple. Plans for the building have been approved and the plot on which it will be erected has been definitely selected. Before the construction starts it is only necessary to dedicate the plot of land since the entire enterprise is already financed.

In the early thirties the number of car shipments of various vegetables and fruits leaving the Mesa section is shown by this chart which follows. In spite of one of the most rigorous panics through which the country has ever
passed there were increased car shipments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrots</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cauliflower</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grapefruit</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oranges</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broccoli</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peas</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnips</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endives</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plums</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grapes</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantaloupes</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>256</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watermelons</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey Dews</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Vegetables</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In general there was a dropping off although the tendency was rather spasmodic. The shipments followed a curve downward until 1933 when there was a rebound upward. New crops were being introduced such as broccoli, endives, and watermelons. There was a decided diversity in the crops during this period.
In 1925 the city had to either rehabilitate and improve the utility service or stop altogether. In 1925 the issue in city politics was whether the utilities should continue to be owned by the city or turned over to private owners. The Southside Gas and Electric Company opposed municipal ownership. The advocates of municipal ownership again won out. This was the last fight over this issue until the early thirties when the advocates of municipal ownership again won a sweeping victory.

The services of the utilities department have doubled since 1924. The electricity rates were 16¢ in 1925 and have dropped to 8¢ today. They made no money until 1925 when water meters were installed. Since then they have shown profits. They run it on the same basis as a private company.

In 1929 Mesa changed its status to the classification of a city. Its population had grown to over 3,000.

In 1931 the question of private versus municipal ownership of public utilities reached a climax. The Mesa Tribune first took up the issue. They calimed that about one-half of the present bonded indebtedness was for gas and electric purposes. The bonded indebtedness at that time was approximately $528,500.

The Mesa Journal Tribune has been receiving reports that our utilities were making a profit, but it is aware that other valley towns who claimed almost as great a paper profit as Mesa, finally sold their utilities, and decision finally came
after a thorough audit and appraisal which showed them the real condition of affairs with regards to utilities.

It is peculiar that these towns after selling their municipal plants actually reduced taxes; although they had claimed previously that the earnings of the utilities had kept down taxes.

Another advantage these other towns obtained upon selling their utilities was a decreased or an entire elimination of their bonded indebtedness which greatly improved the credit standing of the town. They were also able to institute other needed city improvements with the profits made from the sale of the utilities properties.

This paper does not advocate necessarily the sale of Mesa's gas and electric system, but it does say positively this, that before entering into a large and expensive program of public improvement we should have a thorough investigation by impartial authorities of our public utilities. We should find out what these utilities are worth to other parties, for in fact whatever this price may be that others will offer, it is the investment that the citizens of Mesa have in order to receive a modern utility service.

Two parties presented candidates in this election, namely the Civic Economy League and the Taxpayers Party. The Taxpayers Party fought against municipal ownership.

The administration defended itself, however. Launching out on a counter offensive they compared the Mesa expenses of administration with those of Tempe. They pointed out that seventy-two per cent of the operation costs of Mesa were paid by utility profits while twenty-eight per cent were raised by taxation.

The opponents of municipal ownership proposed to lower utility rates and raise the tax rate. They wanted some
private company (alleged to be the Southside Gas and Electric Company) to make bids on the utility service.

The advocates of municipal ownership won a sweeping victory. It was the last attempt to get the utilities back under the control of private owners.

This period began with a severe panic followed by a period of capital expansion as well as rising prices, and then ended with another panic. The first panic had drastic social effects in attempts at public economy and drastic retrenchment. Dairy cattle were allowed to increase, mainly through reproduction, as the farmers returned to a more diversified farming basis.

The period of expansion found a new interest being taken in citrus development. Capital was brought in to develop the new industry and immigrants from the eastern states shared in the new development. Bank deposits and loans increased although the new loans were largely made to the new stock. Little speculation went on among the native stock. In the panic following this period of expansion it was not until after the effects had reached commodity prices that Mesa felt it a great deal. The stock market fall of 1929 did not affect the masses of the people here because they did not indulge in speculation. There were no stock quotations in Mesa and few were observed watching market operations.

in Phoenix.

The last panic affected social conditions as well, in the form of reduced expenditures for schools and luxuries. Economy became the watchword as falling prices and decreased incomes cut bank deposits and stopped loans for new citrus groves and needed improvements on the farms.
CHAPTER IV

MESIA TODAY

It is a proverbial statement around Mesa that it is a typical Mormon village with wide streets, clean homes, and a neat appearance. As a matter of fact Mesa is supposed to have been laid out according to the rules laid down by Joseph Smith for an ideal city.

At any rate Mesa certainly has these characteristics to a marked degree. Her streets are as wide as the streets of any city in the State and always present a neat appearance. In the surrounding community are some 2000 acres of citrus orchards with other staples being widely cultivated.

It is this agricultural base that maintains the city population. It can be seen at a glance that farming must maintain such companies as these:

- Independent Cotton Ginning Company
- Arizona Citrus Growers Plant
- O. S. Stapley Company--Farm Machinery
- Mesa Milling Company
- S. A. Gerrard Packing Company

Other business firms include two banks, the Valley Bank

56 - J. W. Lesueur.
57 - P. B. Beville.
and the defunct First National Bank. The First National Bank became insolvent in the summer of 1932 with assets totaling $800,000 and liabilities totaling $624,000 with $100,000 in capital stock. There are four lumber yards, two ice plants, four hotels, seven vegetable packing sheds, one theater and one recreation park.

Socially Mesa has progressed by leaps and bounds since the first pioneers set up homes here. Methods of transportation and communication are up-to-date. The Southern Pacific Railway has put up one of the finest depots in the State here.

However, the depression seriously lessened the number of passenger cars in use although the number of commercial cars in use increased. In 1930 there were 2946 passenger cars in Mesa while in 1932 there were only 2031. In 1930 there were 278 commercial trucks in use while in 1932 there were 389.

Many of the homes have up-to-date conveniences. In 1933 there are 500 gas consumers in Mesa, 1200 electric consumers, 1600 water consumers, and a range of all the way from 845 to 1000 telephones in use within the municipality. The saturation point for wired homes in Mesa is 90%, for radios, 70%, and for electric ranges, 10% (in the city proper) and 25% (in the vicinity), for electrical

88-Dun and Bradstreet, Phoenix.
89-Chamber of Commerce Pamphlet.
90-Mesa Records, 1209 Woodland Ave., Phoenix.
91-Mr. Petrie.
refrigeration about 15%.

By the census of 1930 the population of Mesa had increased to 3,711.

In talking with men who have been and are close to political affairs in Mesa it is almost impossible to gauge the political situation with any degree of accuracy. There are so many varied opinions of such extreme degrees that the truth is undoubtedly obscured by feelings of prejudice. On the one hand the opinion is expressed that the Mormons represent only about forty per cent voting strength but ninety-eight per cent patronage. While on the other hand, the assertion is repeatedly made that they have no organization for political purposes and never unite on candidates or issues. As to the non-Mormon elements, the whole situation is just as confused.

After a careful analysis it seems clear that there are too many differences of opinion in each group to get any united action politically, while personality clashes among the leaders causes splits that make uniformity impossible. Even State appointees do not receive united sanction from either group. In the municipal elections there has never

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92-Mr. Sutton.
93-The city officials today are the following:
Mayor--J. G. Peterson.
City Clerk and Police Judge--J. E. Miller.
Chief of Police--Roy Merrill.
Superintendent of Utilities--G. I. McFarland.
Engineer and Street Superintendent--S. M. Morse.
Health Officer--Melvin L. Kent.
Fire Chief--W. B. Harmon.
Councilmen--K. W. Houston, F. K. Pomeroy, O. S. Stanley,
E. D. MacDonald, John L. Riggs, George Wilbur.
been any clear cut split between these two groups but a
unity of discordant elements form both groups. In no single
election or issue in the entire history of Mesa has there
ever been a solid division into Mormon and non-Mormon groups.
In the fight over utility ownership there were elements from
both sides in each group. The same is true in all the
elections of any note that have been held.

There are seven churches in Mesa today. They include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Pastor</th>
<th>Approximate Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mormon</td>
<td></td>
<td>2582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>Rev. Wahl</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>Rev. Thompson</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Rev. Harris</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopalian</td>
<td>Rev. Helms</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Science</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are many other organizations in Mesa today, in-
cluding Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Masonic, Eastern
Star, Woodmen of the World, Knights of Pythias, American
Legion, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Hiram
Club, Red Cross, Woman's Club and Welfare League, and Rebekahs.

The schools of Mesa are as progressive as any in the
State. The grade schools and the high school are now under
separate administration. The high school is a member of the
North Central Association and is accredited by the State Uni-
versity. It has an enrollment of approximately six hundred
students with about twenty-one teachers.
The Woman's Club has had a nice building constructed on North MacDonald Street. It is here that they have their meetings and carry on their activities.

The amusements of the people of Mesa are many and varied. One of the most important of the agencies for amusement is the Mezona, connected with the Mormon Church. Here are held dances, plays and entertainments of all kinds.

The Nile Theater presents movies of fairly recent date. Once in a while they present added attractions in the form of vaudeville, chorus numbers by the high school vocal music department or numbers from the instrumental music department.

The Rendezvous presents dances occasionally and has a large swimming pool for its patrons. It constitutes the only thing equivalent to a park that Mesa has.
CONCLUSIONS

This history has traced Mesa from a pioneer village of squalid homes to one of the cleanest and most progressive little cities in the State.

Coming into Mesa from the East you travel through a substantial irrigated country. Great groves of citrus are being developed. As you enter the city limits on the right you will observe the Mormon Temple, one of the most striking pieces of architecture in the State of Arizona. Then comes the Franklin school and on through the main thoroughfare with a modern lighting system and up-to-date conveniences of all kinds.

This Mormon settlement has been made up of people who stay pretty well to the land. Many of the younger members of the community go off on missions to foreign countries but return to Mesa where a goodly percentage of them remain. They speculate very little. There are no stock quotations in Mesa and in Phoenix few of them are observed watching the markets.

It is one of the tenets of their religion that their descendants stay with the land of their fathers. The younger generations are encouraged to do this. They believe in both a temporal and a spiritual salvation and their ideas of land tenure fit in with their idea of temporal salvation. Among the early settlers one may still hear the names of nearly all
of them here among their descendants. They have indeed proven to be a sturdy and persistent stock of people staying by the old verities but taking up progressive ideas.
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J. C. Anderson
Paul B. Beville
L. B. Johnson
J. E. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Turley
Mrs. Barkley
Mrs. Tway
O. S. Stapley
Mrs. Dr. Shouse
Mr. Petrie
Mr. Silverthorne
Mr. McCullough
Mr. Kinnison
Mr. Sutton
APPENDIX

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF SOME OF THE EARLY PIONEERS IN MESA

Talma E. Pomeroy came to Arizona in 1878. He lived in Mesa and was one of the most prominent citizens in that Mormon village until his death. He established the first real estate and insurance office in Mesa in 1887. He settled permanently in Mesa and engaged almost exclusively in the insurance business. In 1886 he married Miss Sarah M. Johnson. For many years we was associated with the National Guard of the State of Arizona.

L. B. Johnson was one of the sons of B. F. Johnson. He built up a prosperous and lucrative business in Mesa. He attended the Normal School at Tempe for a time, being one of the first and youngest to be enrolled in that institution. On the 25th of January he married Miss Elnora Hill who had come to Arizona with her parents in 1882.

John T. Lesueur was one of the most prominent of the early pioneers of Arizona. He came to Arizona in 1879. He was born in France in 1852. He moved to Mesa in 1905 and bought out the Zenos Co-operative Store.

2- Ibid., p. 472.
3- Ibid.
Mrs. Phebe S. Jones came to Mesa in 1882. She came with her parents. They crossed the Colorado River on February 20. She tells of the hard journey down to Mesa.

Calvin Phelps was another one of the early Mesa pioneers. He arrived from Idaho with his parents on January 17, 1879. His father first lived in a home where the Temple Court now stands.

Mr. Phelps has always been intensely interested in the Mesa schools. He went to school in the first school building in Mesa situated at the corner of Sirrine and First Avenue. Later this school was moved to the old Lincoln Building which was then a one-room adobe building that served as amusement hall, public and church building. In 1894 he entered the Arizona State Teachers' College at Tempe.

He helped found the Attaway-Phelps Cotton Company to gin cotton and manufacture cottonseed oil. At present it is the Independent Cotton and Oil Company.

He has been very prominent in the activities of the Church of Latter Day Saints.

He has served eighteen years on the High School Board of Education.

John L. Riggs was another one of the early pioneers to come to Mesa. He was three years old when he made the trip

with his parents, arriving on February 12, 1873. One incident of the trip stands out in his mind.

"The wagons, women, children, and men crossed the Colorado River on a ferry, but lacking money to pay for ferrying their stock, the pioneers attempted to drive the horses through the river, forcing them to swim the swift stream. The animals balked. By use of a bit of strategy, ferrying a recent mother mare across the river and leaving the colt behind, the horses were safely transferred to the other side. The mare whinnied to the colt, the latter striking out into the water and the entire herd of horses followed."

His father started freighting soon after arriving here, to the mining towns of Silver King, Ray, Pinal, and Globe.

For two terms he served as Democratic precinct committeeman and was on the city council for two terms.

Mary Jane Standage was one of Mesa's early pioneers. She came to Mesa when nineteen years of age and has resided here continuously. They came from Utah.

The crossing of the Colorado River was probably the most dangerous part of the trip to Arizona. The small skiffs used to help ferry over very often nearly capsized in the treacherous waters. The cattle and horses had to be driven to swim over. This was no easy task because the waters were so swift and deep.

When they first arrived in the Valley they had to live in adobe and brush houses until better ones could be built. Water was carried from the river and set until it settled.

Then there was the work of clearing the land of chapporral and other brush and planting the first crops.

George A. Johnson was born at Spring Lake, Utah, June 18, 1880. He was the son of Benjamin F. and Sarah M. Johnson. His father came to Arizona in 1883. George received his educational training in Mesa. He taught school at Pima for a time.

For a while he had charge of the general store at Bisbee. He later had charge of the Copper Queen Mercantile Company. He spoke the Spanish language fluently. In 1906 he established the Toggery, Mesa's leading dry goods store. In 1924 he built the Nile Theater building in Mesa.

In 1902 he was married to Miss Esmaralda Burton of New Mexico. They had three sons, George Wesley, Richard G., and Bennie B.

Mr. Johnson is a prominent member of the Rotary Club in Mesa.

Zeb Pearce was born in Mississippi in 1877. He came to Mesa and helped build the Johnson-Pearce Mercantile establishment. In 1904 he married Miss Rachel Leebrick. Mr. Pearce taught mathematics for seven years in the High School. He was on the Board of Trustees of Mesa Union High School for many years.

6- Biographical History of Arizona. Vol. III. 7- Ibid.
Harvey C. Bush was born in Texas in 1878. He attended school in Gainesville, Texas and took a law course in the University of Texas in 1895. On December 29, 1919 he came to Mesa and established the Foxworth-Bush Lumber Company of which he was made Secretary-Treasurer and manager and he has continued in that business to the present time.

He was married November 20, 1918 to Mrs. Vera Barnett of St. Louis, Missouri. They now own the finest home in Mesa.

M. J. Dougherty, was born in Franklin, Wisconsin. He took work in the State Normal school at Stevens Point, Wisconsin. During the following seven years he devoted his attention to pedagogical work serving as teacher, college instructor, and school superintendent. He settled in Mesa in 1908, as a lawyer. On November 15, 1909 he married Miss Bess S. Severn, a daughter of Lyman and Louisa Severn of Cuba, New York.

He is an ardent Democrat and has been prominent and influential in the councils of his party for many years, having served as delegate to the state conventions from 1914 to 1920 and in 1916 was a delegate to the national convention.

He is a member of: Maricopa County Bar Association, Arizona State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Lions Club, American Legion, Director of Americanization of

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the Department of Arizona of the American Legion, State aid to Secretary of War, American Nationalization Committee, Southwest Archaeological League, Aztec Literary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Board of School Trustees, City Attorney.

Franklin Thomas Pomeroy has been identified with Mesa since its birth. When fourteen years of age he drove a freight team, hauling hay and wood to Ft. McDowell, and freight to Pinal and Silver King, for Charles Trumbull Hayden, the father of Senator Carl Hayden.

When he returned from college at the age of 20 years, he became associated with his brother, William E. Pomeroy, in the management of the Highland Canal and for a number of years farmed three sections of land in grain and alfalfa. This canal was finally sold to the U. S. Reclamation.

For the past 20 years, prior to 1922 he was engaged in the real estate business. He started the first daily newspaper in Mesa--The Daily Free-Press. For many years he owned a controlling interest in what is now known as the Journal-Tribune.

Francis Martin Pomeroy was the moving spirit in the settlement of Mesa. He was born in Connecticut in 1829. His father and mother were hard-working farmers. As the family was a large one, Francis was apprenticed to his uncle,
which he did not like and so ran away to the sea.

He worked himself up from a deck hand to first mate. He kept to the sea for a number of years until one day while sailing along the coast of Peru a storm came up and the heavy vessel was destroyed on the rocks. Francis was a good swimmer and consequently was the only member of the crew saved so far as he knew. He was found by the son of a Castilian family, taken to his home and was nursed back to life and health. He spent two years with this family and learned to speak Spanish fluently. In 1844 he returned to the United States and to Salem, Massachusetts.

Here he met Irene Ursula Haskell, who, with her parents, had recently been baptised into the Church of Latter Day Saints. He also investigated the Mormon faith and was baptised when he was 24 in 1844. He soon after married Miss Haskell, and the following year, with his young wife and her parents, migrated to Nauvoo, Illinois, to cast his lot with the then despised Mormons who had now lost their leader, the Prophet Joseph Smith, and were facing the most critical period of their history. They remained in Nauvoo until the move westward and in May, 1826, he loaded his belongings in a wagon and began the journey to the Rocky Mountains with the first 153 pioneers.

He was a large man of tireless energy, and his experience had made him a very valuable man for the task before
them. Especially was this so in crossing the many turbulent streams. His company arrived in Salt Lake July 24, 1847. He returned in August and met his wife with the second company and accompanied them to Salt Lake. In crossing Green River where they were compelled to swim the horses and cattle and float the wagons, he was in the water continually, swimming back and forth. Here he contracted rheumatism, causing him intense suffering not only on his journey westward but intermittently for years to come.

In October, 1949 he went to California on a mission with Chas. C. Rich, returning the following year. While living in Salt Lake he acted as Spanish interpreter for Governor Brigham Young. Along with the other pioneers he endured the trials and hardships.

In 1864 Francis M. Pomeroy moved his family to Paris, Idaho where he built the first saw and shingle mill. His first wife had died in 1860 and he had married Sarah M. Colborn, and five years later, Jassamine Routledge, a young English girl who had crossed the plains in one of the "hand cart" companies.

He took a leading part and a great interest in the development of that new country, and acted as Justice of the Peace for a number of terms, being recognized and commended for the justice of his decisions.

The cold climate, however, aggravated his chronic rheumatism and he looked to a warmer climate. He received
a letter from H. C. Rogers, from Salt River Valley, Arizona, telling of the warm climate there and the wonderful possibilities there, and he determined to move to the valley.

He soon prevailed upon his long time friend and townsmen George W. Sirrine, to accompany him, together with his brother Theodore Sirrine and family and Parley P. Sirrine.

The company made the start from Paris on the 14th day of September, 1877 and consisted of Francis M. Pomeroy and family of 16, Warren L. Sirrine and wife, Elijah Pomeroy, J. Harve Blair, Chris Nelson and Heber Clifton. The others had gone on ahead for some members of their relatives and met them at Salt Lake.

The route led up the Sevier valley and at Circle Valley they were warned to look out for horse thieves so a double guard was placed around the stock. Hebe Clifton, who stuttered and T. E. Pomeroy were on guard the fore part of a very dark nite. Hebe heard a disturbance among the animals and pulling his gun said, "Th-row u-u-up y-y-your h-h-ands o-o-or y-y-y you're a-a d-dead m-m-man." His companion, hearing the noise, joined him and upon investigation found that it was only a mule. Hebe declared it was a man with his hands in the air but it had been the mule facing him with his ears standing up.

The company continued up the Sevier, the road becoming more rough as it gradually wended its way upward along the foot of the Buckskin Mountains. After reaching the top of these mountains the road led over a rough but quite level
tableland through a great pine forest. They were compelled to make dry camp and by the time they reached Houserock spring the next day many of the oxen’s tongues were "lolling". There the water came only in a slow trickle so that it was far into the night before they all were watered. There was 340 head of horses and cattle to drink.

At Soap Creek they made camp for half a day a short distance from the Grand Canyon to enable members of the company to visit the great crack in the plateau. They tried throwing stones but didn’t get very far. One boy won fame by leaning over the brink and "spitting a mile" down.

The next day the company arrived at Lee’s Ferry. A reef of impenetrable rock below slowed up the river at this place so that the ferry could go across. The ferry was a large flat boat, long enough to carry two wagons at a time. It was propelled by oars, usually by about three men. After loading the boat was towed upstream a way then headed up stream at an angle, and driven by the oars and by the force of the current got across to the opposite side some distance below where it had started. There were also two small boats. It was no small undertaking to transfer this company of 25 wagons loaded to the covers, 18 horse and mule teams, 23 ox teams, and 79 men, women and children, and about 260 head of loose stock, across a stream of 300 yards wide and as treacherous as the Colorado. The stock were herded into the water and driven to swim over.
The crossing had been a nerve-racking and thrilling experience but Francis M. Pomeroy, George W. Sirrine, Chas. I. Robson, and Charles Crismon, whose pioneering and colonizing had fitted them for such emergencies, with their wise direction transported the entire company over without the loss of even a single calf. The crossing was made about November 17, 1877.

The route now lay across rugged, rough mountains and deserts where water was scarce and far between, and dry camps and forced marches were often made. Then when good grass and water was found they stopped for a few days. They came on down to Grand Falls where a crossing of the little Colorado was made. Here they had trouble with quick sand and nearly lost several oxen. Pine Springs, in the heart of the mountains was reached December 24, 1877, Christmas Eve. Here they got into a bad snow storm and had to shovel snow away to find even a place to make a fire for cooking.

While still on the mountain and in sight of the beautiful valley below Mrs. Esther Sirrine, wife of George W. Sirrine gave birth to a baby girl which was named Maud.

They made camp in the Verde Valley and Francis M. Pomeroy, George W. Sirrine, Charles I. Robson, and Charles Crismon proceeded to the Salt River Valley to locate at a site suitable for the company. They drove the distance (150 miles) and arrived at Lehi in time to take New Year's dinner
with D. W. Jones. Mr. Jones informed them of a level ex-
panse of rich land located on the mesa, which had been irri-
gated by the ancient Indians by means of an old canal which
they called "Montezuma Canal", the remains of which can still
be seen. They made a careful survey of the land and decided
to make their home here.

Francis M. Pomeroy and George W. Sirrine improvised a
surveying outfit comprised of a spirit level and a straight
edge and ran a line from the head of the old canal up the
river to the water's edge and decided that they could use
the old canal.

Then they rushed back to Beaver Head and returned with
their families. They camped in Lehi, then known as Camp Utah,
until the completion of the canal. They arrived there on the
15th day of February, 1878, just five months after the start
was made from Paris, Idaho.

President D. W. Jones of Camp Utah said that they would
have to live the "United Order" if they stayed there. They
did not care to do this so moved the next day up on the mesa.
On February 17 work was started on the "Mesa Canal".

In May, 1878, Section 22 was filed on for the town site
by Theodore Sirrine, he appointing Francis M. Pomeroy, George
W. Sirrine, and Charles I. Robson as trustees to hold the
title of the lots and deed them to those entitled--the lots
being divided among the company according to the amount of
work they had done on the canal. The canal was completed to
the northeast corner of the town site by the middle of October, 1878. Then the company started moving their families on to the townsite. By the last of November they were all established and the real work of homemaking begun.

The long journey from Idaho had almost depleted the finances of the struggling pioneers and after almost a year's work on the canal real hardship was endured. The old Mormon system of "sharing the flour barrel" was a common thing. Here Charles T. Hayden came to the rescue of the Mesa people by supplying work, freighting and credit and thus tided the almost starving community until harvest. Before attempting the labor of clearing and planting crops some of the men were compelled to obtain work in the mines—Silver King, Vulture, Congress mine, etc., while others freighted from Yuma to the surrounding mining camps.

The home of F. M. and Sarah M. Pomeroy, owing to its size, became the community center, so to speak, of the colony. It consisted of a brush shed some 30 feet square. The roof was covered with brush, arrow weed and grass, then dirt. The walls were woven with arrow weed on three sides and the floor was good old Mesa soil neatly packed.

Here were held the first religious services, the first school being taught by Ursula Pomeroy, and the first dances, on the dirt floor, to the strains of the violin, played by James Harve Blair.
PIONEERS OF MESA AND VICINITY

First Settlers of Lehi, Pioneers of 1877.

Daniel W. Jones and family of 12.
Henry C. Rogers and family of 11.
Philomen C. Merrill and family of 7.
Thomas Biggs and family of 6.
Joseph E. McRae and family of 8.
Isaac R. Turley and family of 7.
George Steele and family of 7.
Austin O. Williams and family of 2.
Adelbert Merrill and family of 2.
John W. Brady and
Thomas S. Merrill.

Pioneers of Mesa, Arizona, 1878.

Francis Martin Pomeroy and family of 16.
George W. Sirrine and family of 9.
Warren L. Sirrine and family of 2.
John H. Pomeroy and family of 2.
Theodore Sirrine and family of 4.
Charles Mallory and family of 7.
Charles Crismon and family of 16.
William Schwartz and family of 4.
Elijah Pomeroy.
Parley P. Sirrine.
Harve Blair.
William Kimball.
Jesse D. Hobson.
Job Henry Smith and family of 2.
Jesse N. Perkins and family of 6.
Charles I Robson.

Pioneers of 1879, First Company

John D. Hibbert and family.
Hyrum S. Phelps and family.
Charles C. Dana and family.
John T. Lesueur and family.
William Lesueur and family.
John Davis and family.
Charles Warner and family.
George C. Dana and family.

Second Company
Jesse D. Hobson and family.
John M. Lewis and family.
Charles Peterson and family
Hyrum Peterson.

Third Company
William A. Kimball and family.
Edward Bloomer and family.
Barney Radell and Family.
William Passey and family.
Henry L. Horne and family.
Joseph Cain.
William Brimhall
Henry W. Brizzee and family
Wellington Richins and family.
Joseph W. Bond and family.

Pioneers of 1880

Alexander F. MacDonald and family.
Timothy S. Mets and family.
Daniel W. McFarland and family.
Edgar Griffin and family.
Edward Stratton and family.
Joseph Stratton and family.
Samuel Bagley and family.
Daniel Bagley and family.
Henry L. Standage and family.
Hyrum S. Pew and family.
Chauncey Rogers and family.
William Standage and family.

Pioneers of 1881

John T. Vance and family.
James Vance and family.
Harvey J. Harper and family.
Jesse Moses.
Jacob Felshaw and family.
Amos Hawks and family.
George P. Dykes, Sr. and family.
M. E. Willis and family.
Henry Willis and family.
Thomas Willis and family.
Joseph Lamb and family.
Alvin F. Stewart and family.
Joseph A. Stewart and family.
Oscar M. Stewart and family.
Frank Rappleye and family.
Alma Millett, Sr. and family.
Alma Millett, Jr. and family.
Artimas Millett and family.
William Riggs and family.
Pioneers of 1882

Thomas Stapley and family.
Thomas Stapleye and family.
William Hill and family.
Conrad Klienman and family.
Joel E. Johnson and family.
Thomas E. Jones and family.

Pioneers of 1883

Hyrum B. Morris and family.
William G. Brundage and family.
Nathan Brundage and family.
William B. Lang and family.
Paul Huber and family.
Charles Slaughter and family.
Johnny Carter and family.
Henry C. Longmore and family.