

# Current Comment

## Great Gathering of Pioneers

The annual reunion of the Arizona Pioneers Association on April 9 and 10 this year brought together the largest number of pioneer residents of the state that have ever been assembled. It was estimated that two thousand pioneers, who arrived in Arizona prior to the year 1890, were present at Riverside Park on Tuesday, the first day of the reunion.

There was a splendid program for the entertainment of the old timers, including songs and music. Chas. A. Stauffer acted as toast-master during the program, introducing Governor John C. Phillips and Mayor F. J. Paddock, both of whom extended hearty welcome; other prominent Arizonans were introduced and spoke to the pioneers, including Chas. M. Clark, Col. Jas. H. McClintock, John Orme and Sharlot M. Hall. All the speakers expressed sincere regret because of the recent demise of Hon. Dwight B. Heard, promoter and patron of the organization, and Col. McClintock read a fitting memorial resolution in which was recited the high regard for Mr. Heard entertained by all pioneers. This memorial was adopted at one of the business sessions of the association.

The barbecue dinner followed the ending of the speaking program, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by those present. Old acquaintances, men and women, gathered in the shade of spreading trees, in groups, and ate the delicious beef, beans and other good things prepared for the occasion, and recounted many early-day incidents which featured their Arizona experiences during the pioneer days. There was a dance in the big pavilion, following the barbecue dinner, when familiar old-time tunes were rendered on violins as reminder of the past generation. Some of the pioneers who long ago entered the decline of life, demonstrated that while old in years they were yet young in spirit.

Chas. M. Clark was re-elected as president of the association, and W. W. Brookner was re-elected as secretary and treasurer.

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## To the Pioneers of Arizona

An address of welcome delivered by Gov. John C. Phillips at the annual meeting of the Arizona Pioneer Association, Phoenix, April 9, 1929:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you here today, and speak a word about the great debt our state owes to the men and women among those whom we class as Pioneers. Many who sit here today actually participated in the first work of making this state the progressive commonwealth which it is today. They lived on the soil and earned it for their own by establishing homes and by the performance of honest labor.

In the early days when you came here, settling in Arizona and earning a home meant not so much an expenditure of money as it meant real courage, the courage that it takes to win wars and build empires. Pioneering means forethought and vision plus courage, with a love of adventure thrown in to give spice to what would otherwise be only drudgery and hardship. Each acre now settled and brought to rich production shows the imprint of a courageous and adventurous soul.

Recently a banquet was held at the new Arizona Biltmore Hotel in honor of certain distinguished men, who were at that time called empire builders. These men had all contributed greatly, each in his particular line of work, to the making of the Salt River Valley, but your work goes further back into the history of the state—the actual acquiring of the soil upon which all these later improvements have been made.

In order that we may have a better understanding of what this country was before you came here, I wish to quote from Farish's History of Arizona. W. T. Sherman, who as a lieutenant accompanied Kearny's Expedition to California, made the statement that we had had one war with Mexico to take Arizona, and we should have another one to compel her to receive it back again. Colonel James Collier, Collector of the Port at San Francisco, who reached that place November, 1849, declared that he would not accept the entire Gila Valley as a gift. Colonel Sumner, who was in command of the Military Department of New Mexico, in one of his official reports to the War Department, called attention to the fact that the holding of New Mexico, which then included Arizona, was costing the government four millions of dollars a year, and advised that the government buy out all of the holders of property in that territory, remove them elsewhere, and then turn the entire country over to the Indians.

In contrast to this report of early days, I call your attention to a crop report of the Salt River Valley project for the years 1927-28. This gives the value of our alfalfa crop alone as \$4,288,335.00; our cantaloupe crop is valued at \$2,549,232.00;

our lettuce crop at \$3,618,650.00, and so on, or a total valuation of crops grown under this project for one year of \$26,082,055.31. If the noted gentlemen whose remarks I have just quoted were alive today, it would afford me great pleasure to call this report to their attention.

Of course it was not given to you in those early days of hardship to foresee just how far we would progress from that time to this, nor is it given to us who are here today to foretell our measure of progress in the next forty years, but we do know that in the face of all that Sherman saw at the time he made his comment, you had the bravery and foresight to persevere in your efforts to build homes and bring the land to a state of production whereby you were enabled to live and rear your families, until your children's children have reached the place where they may well say, "This is the land of corn and wine" or more literally "the land of lettuce and cantaloupes."

The hardships of the farm have almost entirely been eliminated. The valley is now being electrified and electricity is within the reach of all farms. This has lightened the labors of both the farmer's wife and the farmer, and has taken from the lives of the women that drudgery which made them prematurely old and kept them within the confines of the home so that their perspective narrowed and their diversions were few. We now have paved streets, schools, churches, hotels and all that go to make a community a happy one. We hope we may be able to repay in part the debt we owe to you, our Pioneers, and our first step toward this is the setting aside of these two days in commemoration of your efforts. The man who is responsible for this annual event in your honor has been taken from us, but to the late Mr. Dwight B. Heard, builder and man of progress, and generous, public-spirited citizen, we are indebted for this observance of Pioneers' Day.

On behalf of the State of Arizona, I welcome you here today, and hope you may live to see many more reunions in commemoration of the Pioneers of Arizona.

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### Death of Frank L. Proctor

Frank L. Proctor, who became a resident of Arizona more than fifty years ago, died at the home of his sister in Santa Monica, California, April 8, this year, at the age of 77. For more than fifty years Mr. Proctor had resided in Arizona and the southwest. He arrived in Tucson from Southern California

fifty years ago, then a young man of great energy, and filled with the spirit of adventure. He was soon engaged in the cattle industry, and first acquired a ranch and range in Pima County; later he bought cattle and ranches in Graham County. He had not resided in Arizona long until he was appointed as a deputy-sheriff in Pima County, and afterwards was put in charge of the sheriff's office as under-sheriff by Sheriff M. F. Shaw. The cattle industry in those days depended on the sufficient rainfall to produce grass on the range. There being no available pasturage in those days, Mr. Proctor experienced alternative years of prosperity and lack of prosperity until about the year 1900 when he went to Cananea, Mexico, where he succeeded in getting concessions for carrying on a wholesale meat market and a wholesale liquor and tobacco business. He moved his wife and daughter to Cananea where the latter, Marie, became the wife of the late Col. W. C. Greene, president of the Cananea Consolidated Copper Company. Proctor was prosperous in Cananea both in his business enterprises and in the development of the Central group of copper mines which he sold to the Cananea Company. Twenty years ago he went with Mrs. Proctor to Los Angeles where he built a good home at Hollywood and later bought an extensive walnut grove at El Monte. Mrs. Proctor died several years ago. Mr. Proctor suffered a paralytic stroke a short time before he left Cananea which made him a cripple for the remainder of his life. Pioneers of Pima, Graham and Cochise counties remember Frank L. Proctor as one of the most popular men in Southern Arizona during the days of his activity at Tucson and Cananea.

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### Death Takes Prominent Pioneer

George H. N. Luhrs, prominent Arizona pioneer and state builder, died at his home in Phoenix at 8 o'clock in the evening on May 4. Mr. Luhrs was 82 years old, and for sixty years had been a resident of Arizona, and for fifty-one years a resident of Phoenix. He was a native of Germany, and as a young man learned the trade of wheelwright and wagon-maker. Arriving at Wickenburg in 1869, his first employment was at the Vulture Mine, where he worked at his trade. He first visited Phoenix in 1874, when he got his first vision of the future of Phoenix and the Salt River Valley. He located permanently in Phoenix in 1878, buying the corner at Central and Jefferson, now occupied by the Luhrs Hotel. Here he had a blacksmith and wagon-

GROUP OF FIRST OFFICERS—TERRITORY OF ARIZONA—1863



H. W. Fleury  
J. B. Allyn

Milton B. Duffield  
John N. Goodwin

Almond Gage  
R. C. McCormick

maker's shop. He built the first hotel, the Commercial, in 1888. When it was burned down in the latter nineties, he built the present building, now known as the Luhrs Hotel. Many years ago he purchased the entire block on which the Luhrs ten-story building was erected six years ago. Two months ago he began the erection of another office building at the corner of Jefferson Street and First Avenue, designed to be fifteen stories high, and the tallest building in Phoenix. Another substantial building in this block is the Industrial Congress Building, so designed that it will sustain eight additional stories.

Mr. Luhrs ranked among the most prominent Masons in the state, having received all the higher degrees in that order. He was always interested in providing anything that promised greater growth for Phoenix, and a better condition for those who lived in his home city. His acquaintance extended to every nook and corner of Arizona, and his hotel has ever been the favorite of old-timers coming to Phoenix from any of the Arizona counties.

Mr. Luhrs is survived by two sons, two daughters and a sister, and he has left to his state and home city the memory of a pioneer who accomplished much by his energy and faith in the future of his adopted state.

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Copies of the "The Life of Tom Horn, Written by Himself," about whom H. E. Dunlop wrote an interesting article for the last number of the ARIZONA HISTORICAL REVIEW, may be had at \$5.00 the copy from Mrs. John C. Coble, 2020 Evans Street, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Only a few copies of this thrilling book remain unsold.

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## Group of First Arizona Officials

In this issue of the ARIZONA HISTORICAL REVIEW is printed a group picture of some of the first officials of the Territory of Arizona, and who participated in establishing the territorial government in 1863. In this picture group were those whose names follow:

John N. Goodwin—First Governor of the Territory of Arizona—1863. A native of the State of Maine where he was educated as a lawyer. When the bill was passed by Congress creating the Territory of Arizona, Goodwin, who had just completed a term in Congress from his native state, was appointed

by President Abraham Lincoln as chief justice of the new territory. John A. Gurley was appointed as Governor of Arizona, but died a short time afterward, when Goodwin was commissioned and became Arizona's first governor. Goodwin was elected to Congress at the first regular election after his arrival in Arizona, and left the territory in 1895, never returning.

Richard C. McCormick—First Secretary of Arizona Territory, was a native of the State of New York. He was appointed as Governor of Arizona to succeed John N. Goodwin. Later he was twice elected to Congress from Arizona. McCormick was with the Arizona official party when it made the trip to the new territory to institute the new government. He brought a printing press with him, and at once began the publication of the ARIZONA MINER.

Milton B. Duffield—First United States Marshal in Arizona—1863. He came west with the territory's official party. Later, after his term as U. S. Marshal had ended, Duffield went to Tucson where he held the position of post office inspector. He was a man without fear, and of powerful strength and physique, and was often engaged in fights and quarrels. He was finally killed in Tombstone by a man with whom he had a controversy over a mining claim.

Joseph P. Allyn—A native of the State of Connecticut, was one of the first associate justices of the supreme court to serve Arizona Territory. In 1886 he was a candidate for Congress. Being defeated, he resigned his judgeship.

Almon Gage—First United States District Attorney of the Territory of Arizona—1863. In the organization of the First Arizona Territorial Legislature Mr. Gage was elected as secretary of the council; Judge E. W. Wells, now a resident of Phoenix, was chosen as assistant to Mr. Gage.

Henry W. Fleury—Private secretary to Gov. John N. Goodwin, 1864, also chaplain of both the council and house of the First Arizona Territorial Legislature in the same year. Judge Fleury resided in the building known as Governor's Mansion, in Prescott, continuously from 1864 to the time of his death in 1896. It is related that during all these years Judge Fleury slept every night in the old building.