

Current Comment

Former Pioneer Passes Away

The Washington, D. C., STAR, of April 18, last, contained the following concerning the death of a former resident and pioneer of Arizona: "Died—Mary E. Hogue, Wednesday, April 17, 1929, aged 88 years. Widow of the late John T. Hogue, formerly of St. Johns, Arizona." Capt. J. T. Hogue was for many years one of the very prominent citizens of Northern Arizona, residing at St. Johns, Apache County, where for a long time he was county recorder and was active in support of the organization of the republican party in Arizona before our admission as a state.

The extract quoted above was sent to the REVIEW by Will C. Barnes, now with the Geographic Survey Department in Washington, and himself a former resident of Apache County. Mr. Barnes relates the following incident of his meeting the deceased after he moved to Washington: "Funny thing, when we moved to Washington and took a pew in a church (Congregational) she had the one in front of us. I one day told her I knew a man in Arizona by that name, and she replied, 'he was my husband.' Small world, isn't it."

Death of Dr. F. K. Ainsworth

Another early day resident of Arizona has passed away, according to the following announcement which appeared in the August number of the Southern Pacific Bulletin:

"Dr. F. K. Ainsworth, former chief surgeon of the Southern Pacific Company, who retired in October, 1926, after forty years' service, died at his home in San Francisco July 4, at the age of 72.

Dr. Ainsworth was born in Woodstock, Vermont, and was a graduate of the University of Vermont and the medical college of New York University. He began practice at Prescott, Arizona, where he was connected with the government medical service. He moved to California in 1886, and entered the employ of the Southern Pacific. In 1903 he was named chief surgeon and manager of the company's hospital department, with headquarters in San Francisco, acting in that capacity until his retirement."

Dr. Ainsworth never lost interest in Arizona, and especially was keen regarding the history of our territory and state, as

shown by numerous letters of inquiry received from him in this office.

Death of John Hohstadt

On August 19, of this year, John F. Hohstadt, a pioneer of the southwest, died in Douglas, Arizona, where he had resided for the last ten years. He, with his parents and brothers, brought the first herd of cattle from California to the State of Sonora, Mexico, fifty-three years ago. They started on this trek across the desert from San Luis Obispo, and the trip lasted, practically, one year. They left San Luis Obispo with 275 head of cattle, but that herd had been reduced to 45 when they arrived at what has been known as the Hohstadt Ranch, fifty miles south of Douglas, in Sonora. In announcing the death of Mr. Hohstadt the DOUGLAS DISPATCH says:

“But there are other and more illuminating facts concerning the nature of that arduous trek across country by John W. Hohstadt and his family of which John F., whose death brings these thoughts into print, was then a mere boy. Hold in mind the fact that the company was trailing a herd of cattle through the country, feeding them as they traveled by allowing them time to graze the range over which they were trailing. They made their camp at the water holes and rested from time to time, some times as much as two or three weeks that the cattle might not be too severely taxed. But even with that precaution, the toll was terrific and when the final camp was established of 275 head there remained but 45 head. Some had been lost because they wandered away from the main herd at the resting points and the water holes and were not found when the march ahead was started.

In the party making the trek were Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hohstadt and their sons William Henry, John Franklin, Louis A. and Charles A. and Frank. William was to fall a victim of the Indians. John F. and his brothers, L. A. and C. A., were to succeed their father in running cattle here in the southwest. They continued in that effort until some 14 years ago when because of the uncertainties of the situation in Sonora, they disposed of the herds they held and quit.

“As they came this way from San Luis Obispo, they traveled down to San Diego and thence east to Yuma where they crossed the Colorado with their herd and wagons on the ferry, about 18 miles from the town of Yuma, that crossing taking them into the state of Sonora. But they turned north and trailed into

Yuma and rested there about three weeks when they again resumed the movement to the east following up the Gila river to what was then Mission camp where they passed another three weeks. There they got a Mexican guide and headed south into Sonora with Tinaja Alta as their objective. Arriving there they rested over night watering their cattle from water taken from a tank in the solid rock said to be 150 feet deep and of good, pure rain water. This was about 40 miles from the Gila. These water holes were meccas for the travelers although some of them never reached the water supply. This particular water hole was said to have been the scene of death of more than 300 persons who perished on their way to the water and the sand was said to be dotted with bodies of the victims.

"As stated, the Hohstadt herd was the first herd of cattle brought into Sonora. After they got the 45 animals located on their ranch they introduced some good breeding stock and prospered, soon recovering from the heavy loss that they had sustained on the travel across country. The Hohstadt herd finally became one of the largest in northern Sonora, running well above 2,000 animals when it was at its best.

"The important effort that John F. Hohstadt had put forth, following up that of his father in developing the cattle industry in northern Sonora and southern Arizona, brought him to the general attention of cattlemen and he was well and favorably known. He belonged in the class of pioneers who wrote the code of moral obligation in deeds performed instead of with pen and ink, and it was said of him that John Hohstadt never gave his promise and then violated it."

Tombstone Announces "Hell'dorado"

The citizens of Tombstone are making arrangements for and have announced a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of that town in a manner which promises to eclipse any anniversary celebration of any place ever held in the southwest. It is planned to bring back the scenes which marked Tombstone as the greatest mining camp in the west fifty years ago. The noted gambling houses of that day, all of which remain, though in a state of decay, will be put in action again. The old and noted Bird Cage Theater is again to be the scene of song and dance, with bar and gambling tables in the hands of those who yet know how to mix a thrilling cocktail and adeptly pull the high card. Hon. John P. Clum, now living in Los Angeles, who was mayor, postmaster and editor of the EPITAPH in

Tombstone fifty years ago, has promised to be present and assist in raising Helldorado. Uncle Billy Breckenridge, who was a deputy sheriff in Tombstone fifty years ago, has promised to be present and assist in reproducing some early day scenes. A group of moving picture magnates and stars may go from Hollywood to Tombstone on the Helldorado occasion, to get inspiration for wild west screen thrillers for future use. Tombstone has a wonderfully interesting historic background, and we predict that Helldorado, slated for October 24-25-26-27, will add another historical event worth while to its record.

A prominent pioneer citizen of Pinal County, Hon. George E. Truman, state senator, aged 64, died in San Francisco on September 1, this year, after an emergency operation. His wife, Mary Truman, and his son, Dr. George C. Truman, of Mesa, were at his bedside when the pioneer passed away. The three had been on a vacation trip through the northwest, which was tragically ended by death. The body was brought to the Truman home in Florence, where funeral services and burial occurred on Saturday, September 7, attended by many friends.

Senator Truman was rated as one of the most popular men in Pinal County, where he held many offices of trust and honor. He came to Arizona from his native state, New York, in 1890, and soon was appointed as deputy sheriff by his brother, the late W. C. Truman. After that he served as county assessor, as supervisor and as county treasurer, and at the last election was chosen as state senator, serving with credit and distinction during the session last winter.

When volunteers were called for the fight in the Spanish-American War, Mr. Truman was one of those who promptly responded, joining a company of the Rough Rider Regiment commanded by Capt. J. H. McClintock, now postmaster in Phoenix. Truman fought in every important battle in Cuba, and is said to have been among the first American soldiers to reach the top of San Juan Hill to see the last of the enemy retreating after that sanguinary battle. George Truman served well his country, the State of Arizona and his beloved County of Pinal, and his memory will be cherished by a host of friends scattered all over Arizona.