

# ARIZONA'S FRONTIER PRESS

BY ESTELLE LUTRELL

TUBAC and Tucson, both Mexican Presidios before the Gadsden Purchase, were all there was of Arizona in 1859. Tubac was the focusing point of much Mexican military history in the days of Anza; the setting of the fabulous story of Planchas de Plata, or slabs of silver; the pioneer camp in the first days of American occupation and the starting point of Arizona's newspaper history.

With Mexico on her back and the Apaches at her heels Arizona roughed it along towards civilization without adequate government aid or even sympathetic interest from any quarter. It is this struggle which the frontier editor embodies and reflects.

"Hail Columbia," sang the soldiers, as Captain Stone and his guard passed over the line from Sonora into the "Purchase." Out of his pocket the Captain took a small and beautifully worked American flag, which he placed on the pile of stones that marked the line; the soldiers forming a circle around the monument sent up hearty cheers for the Stars and Stripes; off they galloped at the word of command; again it was "Hail Columbia."<sup>1</sup>

These were gallant gestures. The hardships that were later experienced by the military detachments and by the early settlers when the military appeared to fail them are the subjects of many a chronicle. Suffice to say that military protection against the relentless Apaches was absolutely indispensable.

For over a year before the arrival of troops about thirty Americans living with some four hundred Mexicans had been marooned in Tucson. When help arrived horses and mules were plentiful, as the Americans had been amusing themselves re-capturing "Cavallados" from the Apaches who had previously stolen them from the Mexicans.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Arizona Correspondence": *San Francisco Herald*, July 15, 1859.

<sup>2</sup> Report Sonora Exploring and Mining Company, Cincinnati, Railroad Record, 1856.

After the arrival of the military there pushed ahead the two great adventurers in Arizona, the mining engineer and the editor. It is easy to see what the former was digging after and why he was digging in a particular spot, but the reason for the editor's efforts is at times hard to discern.

What is a newspaper without readers and without news?

In the motley crowd milling around the capacious barracks left over from Mexican military days in Tubac, there were a goodly number of mining engineers, a few men with jingling gold at command, and a rabble of adventurers without even a name,—all drawn to the spot by alluring tales of mineral wealth. Here also was set up the little Washington hand-press, still to be seen in Tucson, which had been dragged out to Tubac from Cincinnati by promoters of mines in the vicinity.

*The Weekly Arizonian* first published on March 3, 1859,<sup>3</sup> was a little four-page paper full of advertisements of merchandise purchasable in Cincinnati and of whiskey to be bought right at hand, but scant in its description of what was going on in Tubac. Careful culling reveals news items of Indian depredations, prospecting parties and horse-stealing. One soldier caught in such thievery, probably with desertion in mind, was sentenced in court-martial at Fort Buchanan to receive fifty lashes with a cowhide well laid on the bare back, to be confined at hard labor, heavily ironed, to forfeit all pay due him, to have his head shaved and to be branded with a red hot iron with the letter D, to be drummed out of the service and receive a dishonorable discharge. In the same issue of the paper is seen a report of a prospecting party. There are many details of their disappointing search for gold and some description is given of the physical features of the country through which they passed. Casual mention is made of an "unfortunate occurrence" on the trip. Two men died from eating what was called "wild parsnip." Both were buried at the camp where they died. One man was from New York and the other was believed to be from Texas. The article closes with the statement "next week we will give some interesting details of the expedition and the country explored."<sup>4</sup>

Soon however, long editorials began to appear adverse to Territorial recognition for Arizona. Editor Cross, a veteran of the Mexican war, was violently insistent that such recognition was not feasible.

<sup>3</sup> The publication date given in *San Francisco Bulletin*, Mar. 22, 1859; paper described in *Railroad Record* (Cincinnati) Mar. 30, 1859.

<sup>4</sup> *Weekly Arizonian*, June 30, 1859.

There is some reason for thinking that he was jealous of Lieutenant Mowry, then living at Tucson, and making a strong effort not only for territorial organization but for his own election as delegate to Congress. To that end, it seems that he gave population figures which were prophetic rather than actual. These figures Cross attacked and also the character of the man who made them, declaring that Mowry could have satisfaction if he wanted it.

A report of the circumstances leading up to the duel is given by a correspondent from Tucson to the *San Francisco Herald*<sup>5</sup> as follows:

Lieut. Mowry left on Sunday evening, for Tubac, a distance of sixty miles, for the purpose of settling a personal difficulty with Mr. E. Cross, the editor of the *Arizonian*, published in that place. The cause of the difficulty originated from a card published by Cross in the *Washington States*, the day after Mr. Mowry left for the Pacific side, which card Cross sent enclosed in a letter to Col. Robertson, of this place, asking him to read it to the Americans at Tucson, and also to post it on the door of his store. The letter of Cross also stated that if Mowry wanted any satisfaction, that he (Cross) would give it to him. Hence the challenge from Mowry. It is understood they are to fight with rifles. The *onus* should have been upon Cross, if he had determined to seek personal satisfaction, as Mowry had previously replied to some anonymous attacks of that person, in various Atlantic presses. Mowry, however, feels himself bound to vindicate his statements made in relation to the population of Arizona. The whole affair has originated out of Lt. Mowry's efforts to get territorial organization for the Purchase. When the affair is over I shall probably have something more to say about it. It is understood that it will come off on Tuesday, the 5th.

As a matter of fact this duel over Arizona's population figures finally came off on July 8.

Its story, which is well known locally, was reported with much gusto by the California press of the day. The account in the *Arizonian* is as follows:

"The parties met near Tubac, weapons, Burnside rifles, distance, forty paces. Four shots were exchanged without effect; at the last fire Mr. Mowry's rifle did not discharge. It was decided that he was entitled to his shot and Mr. Cross stood without arms to receive it. Mr. Mowry, refusing to fire at an unarmed man discharged his rifle in the air and declared himself satisfied." In another part of the paper the editor comments that a high wind, almost amounting to a gale, was blowing across the line of fire thus preventing accurate aim and then he adds something about an "ill wind."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> "Arizona Correspondence"; *San Francisco Herald*, July 15, 1859.

<sup>6</sup> *Weekly Arizonian*, July 14, 1859.

ARIZONA WHIPPLE.

TISDALE A. HAND.

"The Gold of that Land is gold."

PUBLISHER.

VOLUME I.

FORT WHIPPLE, ARIZONA, WEDNESDAY MARCH 9, 1864.

NUMBER I.

THE ARIZONA MINER.

T. A. HAND, Publisher.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Price. Includes 'Payable in advance, without exception', 'For one year', 'For six months', 'For three months', 'Single copies'.

ADVERTISING.

An square space on first of this paper... For one year \$1.00 and so on in ratio for larger quantities.



TERRITORY OF ARIZONA.

A tract of land purchased from the Mexican Government by Mr. Whipple under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo...

The new Territory of Arizona embraces all of that portion except what falls to the line of the 19th deg. of longitude and also a portion of north-western New Mexico...

It is bounded within the following parallel and meridians: viz: commencing at a point where the 10th deg. of longitude intersects the 37th deg. of north latitude...

It has been estimated that three-fifths of the Territory is composed of mountains, one fifth of sandy soil, and one fifth of arable land...

The chief rivers are the Colorado of the west (called by Lieutenant Hall in 1846) the Gila of the west, the Gila, the Verde, the Rio San Pedro, the Rio San Francisco, the Salado, and the San Pedro...

Until the last session of the 37th Congress, the Territory was annexed to and under the laws of New Mexico...

lands, and for other purposes." The following resolutions were proposed: viz: Beginning at the Colorado on the 24th parallel of north latitude...

Respectful notice was made to secure the organization of the Territory during the 36th Congress, and at the second session of the 37th Congress...

In March the President made the following appointments of officers for the Territory, as provided for in the Act, viz: Governor, John A. Gurley of Ohio...

On the 26th of May, Levi Buchanan, of Wisconsin, was made Surveyor General. In July Mr. Yates was made Chief Justice of Utah...

It was agreed by the former officers, at the time of their appointment, that they would start for the Territory on or about the 1st of July...

During July last, home Mr. Gurley's family perished by sickness here and early in August...

Chief Justice Goodwin had already reached New York on his way to the West. In a week after the date of his appointment the Governor...

left Leavenworth. Chief Justice Tammor overtook the company at Ft. Laredo. The party travelled via Fort Riley, Laredo, Lytle and Uvalde, making brief stoppages at each of these points...

The detour on the road from Leavenworth to Santa Fe, and from that place to the new only those impassable from a practical journey...

The officers entered the Territory on the 27th of September, and the government was formally inaugurated at Navajo Springs, 40 miles west of Santa Fe...

Governor—As the properly qualified individuals were not able to organize the proposed Territory of Arizona, the President...

At the conclusion of these remarks, Mr. McCormick belated the "stars and stripes" and called for cheers...

PROCLAMATION! TO THE PEOPLE OF ARIZONA.

J. JOHN N. GOODWIN, having been appointed by the President of the United States, and duly qualified as Governor of the Territory of Arizona...

A primary census will forthwith be taken, and thereafter the local judicial system will be formed on the basis of the members of the Executive Assembly...

By the Governor: RICHARD A. McCOMB, Secretary of the Territory. Navajo Springs, Arizona, Dec. 29, 1863.

At the close of the meeting, the assembly proceeded in singing the "Battle cry of Freedom." A resolution of the Governor...

AN ACT to provide a temporary government for the Territory of Arizona, and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, ASSEMBLED IN Congress, that the Governor of the Territory of Arizona...

Sec. 2. And it is further enacted, That the Governor be and he be authorized to call the Executive power shall be vested in a Governor...

Sec. 3. And it is further enacted, That there shall be a Council of the Territory of Arizona, consisting of seven members...

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Sec. 5. And it is further enacted, That there shall be a Council of the Territory of Arizona, consisting of seven members...

Following this episode Lt. Mowry purchased the press and brought it to Tucson. *The Arizonian* became the organ of his policies and was published there by various editors until the crash of the Civil War.

Sylvester Mowry of Rhode Island,<sup>7</sup> who was twenty-six at the time of his duel with Cross, and who died at Hotel Fenton in London before he was forty, was the most spectacular figure in Arizona's early history. Upon his graduation from West Point he was sent out to Fort Yuma. The wild, rugged and undeveloped country in which he found himself appealed to his imagination. With old Jesuit maps spread out before him, he threw himself into a study of the region and with uncanny penetration perceived values which to men of slower imagination seemed ridiculous. Arizona became at once to Mowry a political entity, not merely a series of rocky hills to be gutted of their mineral wealth and left to yawn upon empty desert wastes.

Mowry consequently resigned his commission and entered the hazardous fields of mining and politics. Though apparently more successful in the former, it was his political efforts which added the greatest variety and importance to his career. Twice elected from Arizona to the House of Representatives, Congress blocked his aspirations by refusing territorial organization.

Unfortunately for his further political advancement and that of southern Arizona, he allied himself with a group of men from the South who became "rebel" sympathizers when the war broke out. Accusations of conspiracy against the federal forces were brought against him, his silver mines then producing \$700 per day<sup>8</sup> were confiscated and he was imprisoned for a time in Fort Yuma, a fort which he had helped to establish. When his property and freedom were restored<sup>9</sup> because of lack of proof against him he left Arizona for New York where he remained "during the four years of frenzied strife."

His return for a short time after the war was over, when he waged a bitter political fight for a Democratic delegate to Congress, added nothing to his credit. After the election which resulted in the defeat of his candidate he put up the plant of the *Weekly Arizonian* for sale<sup>9</sup> and left Arizona never to return. Broken in health,

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<sup>7</sup> Cullum's Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U. S. Military Academy; Descendants of Nathaniel Mowry of Rhode Island (Providence, 1878) pp. 292-296.

<sup>8</sup> Mowry: *Mines of the West*, (N. Y. 1864) p. 14.

<sup>9</sup> *Arizona Citizen*, Oct. 22, 1870.

he went to London for treatment where he died a few months later. However, the Mowry tradition remains strong in the land of his heart's desire. His mines were again worked in the period of the European War, and as a museum relic the Mowry press still exists.

With the hoisting of the Confederate flag real trouble began for these pioneer settlers from the "Old South." The disastrous consequences of this act upon them are set forth in a pitiful S.O.S. which was printed in the *Arizonian* of August 10, 1861. The article tells of the wide-spread desolation in Tucson and vicinity. The mail was withdrawn; soldiers gone and garrisons burned to the ground; miners murdered and mines abandoned; the murderous Apache and the naturally inimical Mexican element threatening "to wipe us out to a man"; the nearest friendly settlement over three hundred miles away through a barren waste, infested by Indians. In this bitter complaint the editor states at the close:

"The only reason under Heaven that can be assigned for the injustice and bad treatment we have undergone is that the people of Arizona are southern in feeling and have dared to own it. The eleven starred banner that floats over Tucson shows that her citizens acknowledge no allegiance to abolition rule."<sup>10</sup>

"The Pirate Flag," as the California papers referred to it, was not allowed to wave for long. In May, 1862, a little army known as the California Column marched into the Old Pueblo from the west about noon of the twenty-second. The army consisted of the First and Fifth Infantry regiments, five troops of the First California Cavalry, Captain Shinn's battery, and Lt. Thompson's jackass battery, so named because the howitzers were mounted on the backs of burros. No blood was shed. Captain Hunter in charge of the Confederate forces marched eastward and made for Texas.<sup>11</sup> The Stars and Stripes took the place of the Stars and Bars.

After this break the scene shifts. Congress having decided upon organization for Arizona, President Lincoln appointed Territorial officials in March, 1863. There were delays and indecisions. The very destination of the governmental party was undetermined. It was finally decided to avoid Tucson because of its unsavory Confederate record and its strong Mexican influence, even though it was the only point at which there were traces of an American settlement.

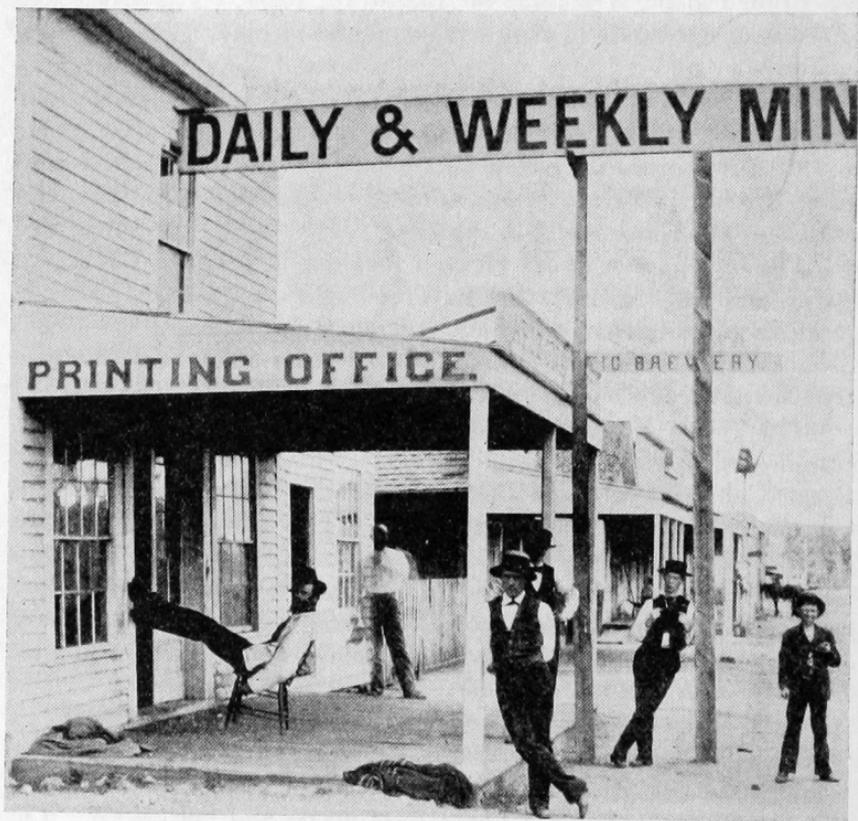
The party finally established itself on Granite creek which still

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<sup>10</sup> Quoted in *Daily Alta Californian*, Sept. 2, 1861, under the caption "Pirate Flag."

<sup>11</sup> *Arizona Daily Star*, May 23, 1891.

winds its way through what was soon known as the town of Prescott. Here amid tall pines, with robins, linnets and finches making merry above, as they still do, and with Apaches skulking beneath, as they do no longer, they pitched their tents. On this site the old log house of the first Governor still stands, having been restored and opened as a museum through the efforts of Sharlot Hall, Arizona's beloved poet of pioneer days and the first appointee as Arizona Historian.



The entrance to the editorial office of the *Arizona Miner*, 1874-1884.

Thus in 1864 another little paper, the *Arizona Miner*, was published, first at old Fort Whipple, and then at Prescott. The press was purchased in Santa Fe, placed in government wagons with the personal effects of Richard McCormick, Secretary of the new Territory, and hauled out to its final destination.<sup>12</sup> Under military protec-

<sup>12</sup> *Weekly Arizona Miner*, Dec. 24, 1870.

tion from the Apaches the paper was printed and Governor Goodwin's official acts struck off. "Father" Fleury acted as "chef" for the Governor and did the "devil act" on the *Miner*. With rifles strapped to their backs the pioneers plowed and prospected; with rifles strapped to their backs they printed their little weekly paper. In spite of these precautions, in the second year of its publication the editor, F. A. Bentley, a young man of twenty-seven, was shot by the Apaches, and died shortly afterwards in his office.<sup>13</sup>

Later the paper was known affectionately as "*Marion's*" *Miner*.<sup>13a</sup> Of all the frontier editors John Marion was the most forthright, had the greatest exuberance of expression and was the most fearless champion of causes lost or lagging that Arizona of the Sixties and Seventies produced. His columns swing the reader with a bang right into a live personality. Born in New Orleans, Marion came to Prescott in his twenties, with a prospecting party, and there remained, not only as a promoter of mining interests, but as an advocate of Arizona's political rights. Surveying the first ten years of his life in Arizona, Marion himself said: "During these ten years we have prospected, mined, risked our life among the Indians, sewed on many a button, flopped many a flapjack, and gone to bed many a night on Mother Earth tired and sleepy and a little alarmed about the permanency of our scalp."<sup>14</sup>

His incisive articles on the Indian question were notable. Clear in his convictions and bold in his expression of them he was a man suited to the dangerous times in which he lived. With a "Brick Pomeroy type of humor" he denounced the Indian policy of the government and the sentimentality of eastern philanthropists. In one of these protests he said: "The *Miner* will continue to protest against the foolish, imbecile, wicked conduct of these Indian fanatics, even if such protests have no other effect than that of keeping the record straight."

This statement of Marion's calls to mind that a paper printed in an isolated region and claiming less than seven hundred subscribers would not ordinarily represent important influences, still the humorous local items in the *Miner* and its trenchant articles on Indian matters were widely quoted by exchanges. The editors of the *San Ber-*

<sup>13</sup> Fish Ms., p. 364; Obituary: *Weekly Arizona Miner*, Feb. 28, 1867.

The two accounts are not in exact agreement.

<sup>13a</sup> " 'Marion's Miner,' a name which many of my friends have called it." Marion's Valedictory: *Weekly Arizona Miner*, Jan. 29, 1875.

<sup>14</sup> *Weekly Arizona Miner*, Sept. 6, 1873.

*nardino Guardian* in 1869, making complaint of the non-receipt of their copies said:<sup>15</sup>

"Will the *Miner* inform us by which route the mail from Prescott to this place goes? whether by sailing vessel, down the Colorado, and the Gulf of California, up the coast to San Francisco, and thence down by stage to San Bernardino, or by the Overland route through New Mexico and Texas, via New York and the Pacific Railroad. If the latter route, please get your postmaster to forward by the former in preference." To this Marion replied: "We'll ask a Philadelphia Lawyer."

Marion when writing of the growth of the *Miner* under his editorship said, "We purchased the paper and issued our first number September 21, 1867. At this time the *Miner's* entire circulation, including paid subscribers, 'dead heads' and exchanges did not exceed seventy-five, and although it contained about sixteen columns of advertising, but one-half column of this was paid advertising, the remainder having been put in to fill up space. It has now a circulation of 672 and several columns of paid advertising."<sup>16</sup>

When Marion's prayer, "O Congress, give us a railroad," was finally answered, and the telegraph thrown in, when General Crook's wise policies of Indian settlement prevailed in northern Arizona, when General Miles in the south arranged for the deportation of Geronimo and his band, this chapter of Arizona's struggle was closed and Marion's fight was won, but that, be it remembered, was not until 1886.

It was not long after the settlement of the Apache wars that the whole Hassayampa country was saddened by the news of Marion's death. Pioneers, prospectors, and mountain men generally came forward to acclaim his worth. He was a man they said who always did his duty in camp, and always stood ready to divide his prospect and his rations with those who had neither,—language which to men of that class described a prince.<sup>17</sup>

Hard upon these two early journalistic beginnings other papers followed, owing their organization to the usual run of local, economic, and political demands.

The Spanish newspaper came early and continued to stay. *Las Dos Repúblicas* of Tucson, the earliest of these papers in Arizona, was regarded by many eastern business men as their best advertising

<sup>15</sup> *Guardian*, May 22, quoted in *Weekly Arizona Miner*, June 5, 1869.

<sup>16</sup> *Arizona Weekly Miner*, Dec. 24, 1870.

<sup>17</sup> Obituary: *Prescott Morning Courier*, July 28 and 29, 1891.

medium, not only in the newly acquired American possessions, but also for the Mexican states of Sonora, Chihuahua and Sinaloa.<sup>18</sup> As for the local slant of these early papers, it was at times like that of Ah Sin, a little "peculiar." Now that the agency of the public schools has in a large measure unified the population, it seems difficult to accredit the fact that as late as the Eighties the editor of a Spanish paper in Tucson warned its Mexican readers not to become American citizens, threatening to publish the name and hold up to ridicule any who became naturalized,—a threat which was actually carried out. The attitude of the editor brought forth some local newspaper comment but aroused no very deep concern.<sup>19</sup>

#### A NEW MINING PROJECT WISHES AN ORGAN—

"Come out (to Quijotoa) and set up a paper 'mucho pronto' before some one gets in ahead of you," was the word sent to Harry Brock, an adventurous young editor.

"I accordingly set out," he said, "in a stage drawn by half wild Mexican cayuses that went in a gallop most of the way. At a half-way station we slept at a corral on a pile of hay.

"In two hours I raised in subscriptions two hundred and fifty dollars minus twenty-five dollars for treats." *The Quijotoa Prospector*, a little four-page, six-column weekly, printed on all kinds of 'bum' job type was soon issued. It was short-lived.

"Did you know," wrote one of the young editor's friends to him after he had established himself in newspaper work elsewhere, "that I bought the whole Quijotoa outfit for \$3,000, including mines, mill, well, pumping plant, climate and scenery. The 'boom' was not included, as it had been disposed of."<sup>20</sup>

#### CAMPAIGN SHEETS SPRANG UP AND DIED DOWN—

"In the early Eighties when I was in Florence," said Judge Hinson Thomas, "I was called upon to come over to Globe and start *The Times* in support of the Democratic candidate for Congress. After I arrived I saw that the owner of the paper favored the Republican candidate. The Democratic committeeman threw down on the owner's desk a shot bag full of twenty-dollar gold pieces as an argu-

<sup>18</sup> Pettingill's Newspaper Directory. New York, 1878.

<sup>19</sup> *Arizona Daily Star* (Editorial), Oct. 2, 1886.

<sup>20</sup> Harry E. Brook, "My Reminiscences," *Los Angeles Mining Review*, Dec. 3, 1910.

ment for his candidate." Later weightier influence on the other side being used, Thomas was instructed to line up for the Republican party. To the surprise of all concerned the young editor stuck to his guns, displaying in his first issue brave headlines in support of the Democratic congressman. Possibly not much to his surprise the Judge was immediately dismissed by the owner, an incident which closed his newspaper career, while the paper itself did not outlast the campaign.<sup>21</sup>

#### A TOWN SITE WAS ESTABLISHED AND CRIED FOR PROMOTION—

In one case the post office was pulled astride an *arroyo* while a little paper sprang up on each side waging war to the knife over the question of the permanent site.

The tendency was to overcrowd the field. One editor, growing caustic over the appearance of a new paper, remarked that there were still a few "waterholes" left without a paper to represent them.

The early editor on the whole was of the editor-printer type. He was a practical printer, a good Indian fighter, a rampant politician, a hard drinker, frequently a jolly good fellow, rarely a writer, sometimes an adventurer, always a trail maker. Though an adept at dodging money troubles he was almost sure to be caught at last and either submerged himself or his paper utterly wiped out. Occasionally he reversed his decision to follow the uncertainties of newspaper life and chose a career with more promise. We read in these early years that "The Hon. C. A. F. has abandoned his purpose of starting a newspaper in Phoenix and in lieu of that last Saturday started a Faro bank."<sup>22</sup>

One eulogistic description of a pioneer, J. T. Marling,<sup>23</sup> who closed his full career as editor and publisher, tells of him that he was at one and the same time postmaster of his town, Justice of the Peace, Notary Public, Commissioner of Deeds; that he taught in a school house built by himself, was storekeeper, district roadmaster, saloonist, agent for the sale of land, and Indian fighter.

The legend further runs that he had his school back of his saloon, recessing his classes upon the call of thirsty patrons. His own account

<sup>21</sup> This incident was related to the writer in a personal interview. No copy of a *Times* (Globe) of this early date seen.

<sup>22</sup> *Arizona Daily Star*, June 3, 1883.

<sup>23</sup> Since the following account is somewhat legendary, a fictitious name has been used.

of his prowess during Indian raids was proverbial. A local paper, discounting one of his stories, said that Marling's condition at the time was such that he could not have told a Chiricahua Indian from a New York Alderman. In fact as seen through the comments of contemporaries, his personality was one of strong lights and dark shadows. Rambling, senescent memories of a little school teacher who knew him well, help fill out the picture.

"O yes, Mr. Marling was a born gentleman. When I first taught school in Tubac, he was Justice of the Peace. He wrote a beautiful hand. They all had to make their records in good writing in those days."

She gave a reminiscent chuckle. "When he would get a case, he would do more writing than they did in the Beecher case.

"Still he never succeeded in business. He tried the cattle business in Mexico several times but did not get any return.

"His family was English and he wrote for his brother to come over; so Matthew came.

"He had two children, a boy and a girl; had trouble with his wife. Then he stole Matthew's wife.

"I adopted the little girl.

"Everybody had something to say against Marling. Still I can't see but that he was about as good as anybody, and had about as many friends. He was certainly well born. Think the family had royal blood. Guess he could have been a duke."

It is perhaps unfair to toss a frontiersman of such obvious ability into the crucible of a woman's heart and watch him dissolve. When the prop of civilization is removed it seems to be the man of parts who makes the biggest slump.

Contradictory qualities of character such as these and a confusion of activities also marked the long career of A. F. Banta, or Charlie Franklin, as he was sometimes known. Starting as a tramp printer in Prescott, with the *Miner* in 1864, he boasted of having held more official positions by election and appointment than any other man in Arizona. He established two papers which are still running, and was connected with several others; the Wheeler Expedition used him as a guide, and he acted as Indian scout under General Crook. Of his scouting days he was especially proud.<sup>24</sup>

When his career was closed and a group of pioneers gathered at the Point of Rocks in Prescott to "shove him off" they stood on the

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<sup>24</sup> "Half century at the pie counter." Official record of A. F. Banta, *Tucson Citizen* (Magazine section), Mar. 4, 1923.

slopes amid the gnarled juniper trees while the venerable Judge Wells breaking the silence,—made even more solemn by the sighing of the pines, called the roll of the scouts of whom Charlie Franklin had been the last survivor.

“Powell Weaver,” a pause; “Willard Rice,” silence; “Ed Peck,” still no sound; “Dan O’Leary,” an empty echo, and at last “Charlie Franklin,” a final pause. “No answer comes from the camp of the scouts,” gravely pronounced the Judge.

As the crowd was turning away a young reporter said, “The old scout did not know anything about news, but he could write that Indian stuff.”

