

## FROM THE OLD NEWSPAPER FILES

### EXTRACTS FROM NOTES OF TRAVEL FROM FORT YUMA TO TUCSON

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(Translated from the *German Journal* for the *Chronicle*.)

The Gila is a stream with sufficient water to support on its banks a vegetation in many places luxuriant, and the traveler finds there generally good feed for his horses and shade for himself. Beyond the bottom land the vegetation soon dies away altogether, or appears only in thin grass or stunted "mesquite" bushes. The Gila can never be made a navigable stream, even for the smallest steamers, and the Gila valley can hardly ever be the seat of a dense population though there are many little districts very well suited for agriculture and stock raising. We know that it is the intention of various parties to take possession of spots for the establishment of trading posts and small farms to accommodate travellers. The Arizona Mining and Trading Company, whose famous copper mine of El Ajo lies about forty miles south of the Gila, intend to erect a post on that stream and thence to carry their ore on rafts down to Fort Yuma and the mouth of the Colorado. This may be done at high water, but probably at no other time.

After a march of two hundred miles from Fort Yuma, upon a trail which leaves the Gila in some places at a considerable distance, on account of the crookedness of that stream, the traveller bound for Tucson arrives at the territory of the Maricopas, and then the Pima Indians, who there live on a very fruitful tract of bottom land, which is peculiarly fitted for irrigation. The two tribes live in huts, have about 800 warriors, and have one chief, a Pima. He rejoices in a large bundle of certificates of his good character for morality, hospitality, and justice, collected from travelers who have passed through his territory since 1848—certificates which he has deserved by the kindness shown by him to every stranger. Soon

after arriving in the village, the traveler notices the difference between the physiognomies of the Pimas and Maricopas. The latter are evidently far inferior to the former; meanness, low cunning, and stupidity is stamped upon the faces of the Maricopas, while the open countenances of the Pimas show good humor, honor, and intelligence. These characteristics are seen also in the conduct of the two tribes. A traveler seldom goes through a Maricopa village without having had some of his property stolen, particularly if compelled to remain over night among them; but the Pimas offer watermelons, maize, and other necessities and refreshments to the stranger, probably not without the hope of reward, but yet in the most friendly and agreeable manner. The huts and persons of the Pimas are cleanly and their fields well tilled, while among the Maricopas dirt and idleness appear to be considered the highest duty in everything except stealing. It is singular that two tribes so different in all things should have continued to live together peaceably. We understand that it is the intention of the U. S. Government to establish a military post near the tract occupied by these Indians.

Ten miles up the river, after leaving the Pimas, we turned off from the river upon a waterless stretch of fifteen miles which leads to Tucson. This desert in the dry season tries the traveler's toil-worn animals severely. The road is dry and hard the greater portion of the distance, and grass is in many places abundant but the entire want of water, except during and immediately after the rainy season, is severely felt. On approaching Tucson, the hills disappear, the high cacti plants, which are always numerous in the most barren districts of Sonora, are no longer visible, the mesquite bushes become higher and bushier, the grass is more luxuriant, the poplar, sycamore and willow are seen and when the traveler arrives in sight of a ruined tower he is near Tucson.

