

Territorial News

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Vol. 20, No. 6

Your Connection to the Old West

March 20, 2013

Next Issue
Wednesday

April 3

Play
Arizona Trivia

See Page 2 for Details

This Week's
Question:

Who gave the
presidential
nomination speech
for Arizona's Barry
Goldwater in 1964?
(12 Letters)

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The Baxter's Curve Train Robbery

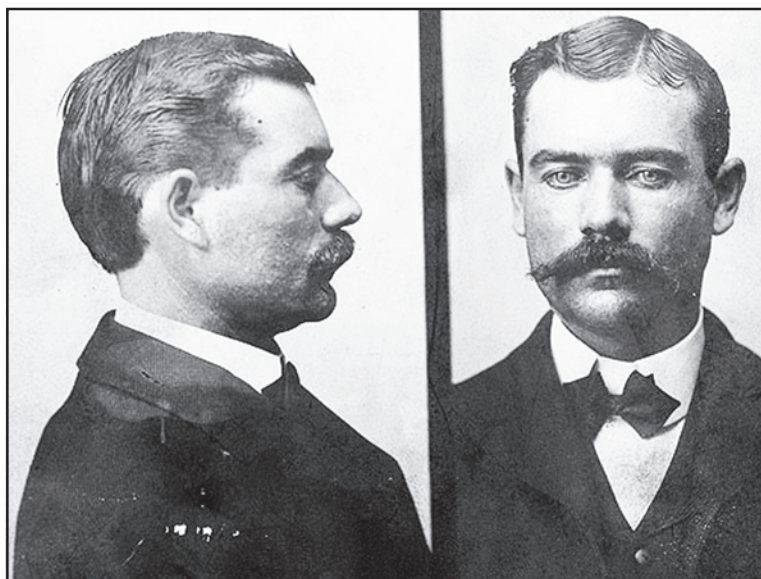
The Tall Texan's Luck Runs Out

By Michael Murphy

It's been said that Ben Kilpatrick, AKA "The Tall Texan," was pretty incompetent when it came to robbing trains. As a member of both the Ketchum Gang and the Wild Bunch, Kilpatrick had plenty of success, but without the likes of Butch Cassidy or Black Jack Ketchum along for the ride, well, not so much.

The thing is, it's not so much that he couldn't rob a train—in fact he had a remarkable string of successes in a short period of time—it's just that he could never quite secure enough funds from those robberies to make ends meet, which meant he had to keep robbing. Sooner or later his luck would run out.

Kilpatrick was born in Texas in 1874. As he grew up, he worked as a cowboy and eventually met up with



Ben Kilpatrick, The Tall Texan, after his arrest in St. Louis in 1901.

outlaws Sam and Thomas "Black Jack" Ketchum and William Carver. He was about six feet, two inches tall, which led to the nickname "The Tall Texan."

Later he rode for a time with Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch gang. The law caught up with him in St. Louis in

November 1901 and he was convicted and sentenced to fifteen years in prison. After serving ten years at the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia, Kilpatrick was released in June 1911.

He immediately returned to a life of crime and pulled off a series of mildly successful robberies in West Texas. On March 12, 1912, The Tall Texan's luck would run out again.

Baxter's Curve is located

in West Texas, almost midway between Sanderson and Dryden, just east of Sanderson Canyon. It was a sharp bend in the railway's rail bed named for an engineer who died there when his train derailed.

Kilpatrick and another outlaw, Ole Hobek, who Kilpatrick met in prison, boarded the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway train after it had stopped in Dryden for water. As the train approached the iron bridge just east of Baxter's Curve, the outlaws ordered the engineer to stop the train and uncouple the passenger cars and the caboose. Then, while holding the Wells, Fargo express agent, David Trousdale, at gunpoint, they then ordered the train to proceed farther down the track where the robbers had stashed their horses.

As Trousdale later reported: "The first I knew of being held up was when the train came to a stop at Baxter's

(See Train on Page 4)

The History of Arizona Conditions in 1867 & 1868

By Thomas Edwin Farish

In 1867 and 1868, the conditions in Arizona were in all respects bad. The Apaches and the River Indians above Fort Yuma were all on the warpath, besides which, the uncertainty of transportation and excessive cost, with the dangers to life attending the hardy adventurer, made Arizona at that time anything but a desirable place of residence.

In the spring of 1867 General James E. Rusling, as agent of the War Department to inspect the posts of Arizona, came into Arizona, and General Rusling, in a book printed subsequently, entitled: "The Great West and the Pa-

In the early part of the 1900s writer/historian Thomas Edwin Farish was commissioned by the Arizona Territorial Legislature to write a history of Arizona. This was a mammoth undertaking in its day and took several years to complete. The original volumes of the book were published in 1915-1918.

The *Territorial News* is publishing excerpts of these volumes over the next several issues. This is an extensive work and, unfortunately, we are not able to publish the complete text on these pages. Every attempt is made to do justice to the author and preserve the integrity of his work in the selections we publish.



Colorado River steamer Gila

cific Coast," describes the conditions existing in Arizona at that time, from which I con-

dense the following:

Their trip from Wilmington to Yuma, then Arizona City, was one of hardship and not of interest to us at this time. Freight was shipped from San Francisco to the mouth of the Colorado River at that time in sail boats, from which point it was transferred into small river steamers for transportation up the

(See Conditions on Page 6)

The Homestead Act of 1862

Signed into law in 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln, the Homestead Act essentially legalized the long-standing American practice of squatting on the vast federal landholdings in the West. Ever since the United States became a nation, intrepid pioneers rushed westward well before the government was prepared to oversee an ordered transfer of land into private hands. Ignoring legal niceties like titles or rent payments, the pioneers began farming and ranching wherever they found



promising land, and often the government simply looked the other way.

By the mid-19th century, illegal squatting had become such an established practice in the Far West that pioneers began to argue for

(See 1862 Act on Page 16)

And the angel answered and said unto the women,
Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus,
which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen,
as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.
And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen
from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into
Galilee; there shall ye see him:
lo, I have told you.
-Matthew 28: 5-7

Captain's Bar Presents

ARIZONA TRIVIA

This Week's Question: Who gave the presidential nomination speech for Arizona's Barry Goldwater in 1964? (12 Letters)

Last Issue's Question: In preparation for the 1969 moon landing, astronauts trained at which location in Arizona because of its similarity to the moonscape? *Answer:* Meteor Crater

Congratulations! You got the right answer!
You are entered into our drawing

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Letters are hidden in the advertisements. Find the letters to spell the answer. Submit your answer with your name, address & phone number on a postcard for the current issue's question to Territorial Publishing, P.O. Box 1690, Apache Junction, AZ 85217. Look for the answer in the 4/3/13 issue. To have your name listed in the next issue, cards must be received no later than 10 days past the current issue of the Territorial News. For example: submitted answers to the 3/20/13 question, deadline is 3/30/13. Limit one postcard per household per issue. Must be at least 18 years old.

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Arizona - Web of Time

Jim Harvey

The Arizona Trail

Some geologists believe that Arizona's Grand Canyon was formed from two other canyons, starting about 17 million years ago. Erosion that turned the two canyons into one amounted to a few inches every thousand years or so.

As part of a failed attempt to make Arizona part

of the Confederacy during the Civil War, Southern troops received these instructions: Promise friendship with the Indian tribes, bring them together for a peace conference, then kill the men and sell their children into slavery.

It turned out to be good

luck for white prospectors exploring northwest Arizona in 1874 when Hualapai Indian warriors ran off their horses. The four prospectors began searching for water on foot and discovered silver deposits near where Hackberry is now on old Route 66 northeast of Kingman. Route 66 is still open to traffic there and goes through part of Hualapai country.

1882 was the year three cowboys got drunk and galloped their horses through the streets of Phoenix, firing their guns. One rode into a saloon and the town marshal shot him and captured the other two. The marshal was Bucky O'Neil, the future mayor of Prescott. He lost his life during the Spanish American war fighting with Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

Manuelito, the best known Navajo war chief, died of pneumonia in 1894. Thirty years earlier, he had led warriors fighting to drive the invading U.S. Army from Navajo land.

A Havasupai Indian man from the Grand Canyon won the greased pole climbing contest during the 1905 Fourth of July celebration in Williams. Another Havasupai won first in the 100-yard dash.

1920s white ranch families north of the Grand Canyon, far from cities and good roads, entertained themselves once or twice a month at the Bundyville schoolhouse dancing the fox trot, the military two-step and the polka to fiddle, guitar and mandolin music. There was waltzing, too, and square dancing. People came on horseback and in wagons, the ladies brought cakes, and coffee was boiled over a schoolyard fire.

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Sheridan Calls Buffalo Hunters ‘Heroes’

In 1875, Texas legislators were considering a bill to protect the last of the dwindling buffalo herds. The famous Indian fighter General Philip H. Sheridan appeared before the state’s lawmakers and vigorously voiced his opposition to the measure. According to Sheridan, the men who destroyed the buffalo were heroes. Rather than stopping them from hunting the shaggy beasts, they should be given “a hearty, unanimous vote of thanks” and a medal “with a dead buffalo on one side and a discouraged Indian on the other.” Sheridan continued: “These men have done in the last two years, and will do in the next year, more to settle the vexed Indian question than the entire regular army has done in the last 30 years. They are destroying the Indians’ commissary; and it is a well-known fact that an army losing its base of supplies is placed at a great disadvantage. Send them the powder and lead, if you will; but for the sake of a lasting peace, let them kill, skin, and sell until the buffaloes are exterminated. Then your prairies can be covered with speckled cattle and the festive cowboy, who

follows the hunter as a second forerunner of an advanced civilization.” In the end, Sheridan’s words proved to be all too true. Military campaigns against the Plains Indians often proved effective, but almost never in a decisive way. Virtually every nation that offered resistance held out to some degree until starvation—due to the depletion of the buffalo—drove them to finally accept reservation life.



General Philip Sheridan

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Baxter's Curve Robbery

Train

(From Page 1)

Curve. I did not go to the door, and did not know there was any trouble until the train porter called me and asked me to come to the door. I opened the door, and when I looked out, there was a man with a mask on, standing there pointing a rifle at me. The porter told me that I was wanted out there; that there were robbers and I had better come out. I stood there for a

few seconds and the robber told me to 'fall out' with my hands up. When I got out of the car, he walked up to me and searched me for arms; and then made me stand back with the train crew. He made the conductor and the train porter uncouple the baggage cars from the coaches and move away about ten to twelve feet. He searched the helper, and gave the conductor and porter instructions to go back and stay with the coaches; the mail clerk, the helper, and I to go on the engine. One of the

robbers rode on one side of the engine in the gang way and one on the other side. They carried us something like a mile from the place they held us up.

"The robber going by the name of 'Partner' (Hobek) stayed with the engineer and fireman; and the other one going by the name of 'Frank' (Kilpatrick) had the mail clerk, the helper, and myself line up by the side of the engine tank and marched us back to the baggage car and made us get up into the car, holding our hands up. He then carried us over to the safe and had me open it. I only had seven money waybills in the safe, and out of the seven, I told hem that there were only two of any value to him. I got him to take two packages, one valued at \$2.00 and the other \$37.00. After he had looked over the car, he said he would go through and see what Uncle Sam had and he carried the three of us back to the mail car. He cut one mail pouch open and put all of the loose registers in it; and threw it out with four others, filled with registers; and told me that he would take me across the river (meaning the

(See Train on Page 8)

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Conditions

(From Page 1)

river. Oftentimes on account of the uncertainty of the river channel, to reach Yuma involved a trip of two months. The rates current then, according to General Rusling, were, from the mouth of the Colorado to Yuma (or Arizona City), 150 miles, twenty dollars a ton in coin; to La Paz, 300 miles, forty dollars a ton in coin; to Fort Mohave, or Hardyville, 450 miles, sixty dollars a ton in coin. The rates from San Francisco to the mouth of the river, some 2,000 miles, were from twelve to fifteen dollars per ton, coin, so that every load of freight landed at Arizona City or Hardyville, cost from thirty-five to seventy-five dollars a ton for transportation alone, to which

should be added five dollars a pound in gold for each one hundred miles into the interior, which made freight cost delivered in Tucson about \$250 a ton in gold, and in Prescott about the same, which, in itself, was ruinous to any mining enterprise, and, in fact, to any enterprise whatever. Even at these exorbitant rates it is doubtful whether the freighters amassed any great amount of money for frequently their trains were captured and the contents of the wagons destroyed. No freighter at that time but suffered more or less on that account, and the merchants in the different localities also incurred great losses. These conditions made Arizona practically inaccessible to population and trade, and gave rise to an earnest desire on the part of her citizens that a port should

be opened at Libertad on the Gulf of California where supplies could be hauled into the Territory at a saving estimated at the time of over \$200,000 per annum.

General Rusling and his party arrived in Yuma on the 2nd of March, and after inspecting the post there, on March 4th continued their journey to Prescott over a road which was difficult and dangerous. Their outfit consisted of two four mule ambulances, into which they stored themselves, their baggage, rations, forage, cooking utensils, etc., with two wagon sheets to pitch as tents if necessary. These, however, they did not use except for making their beds. General Rusling declares the climate was simply unrivalled. There was no cavalry at Yuma, and the road being reported comparatively safe to Maricopa Wells, they went thither without escort.

Their road, for the most part, ran along the side of the Gila river, which was swollen at that time on account of the melting snows. They found but few settlers along the route and nothing but here and there an abortive attempt at cultivation, usually unsuccessful. The bottoms everywhere were covered with bunch grass and mesquite-timber.

"The mesquite has but little height; but its trunk is often two and three feet in diameter. For lumber purposes, the mesquite amounts to but little; but for fuel, it is invaluable, and the future settlers on the Gila will prize it highly. It makes a firewood scarcely inferior to oak or hickory, and bears a bean besides, which constitutes a large part of the subsistence of the Mexicans and the Indians there. These mesquite beans make a very sweet and palatable dish, and horses, mules, cattle, etc., are especially fond of them. The Mexicans we met en route to California, were subsisting upon them almost entirely, and subsequently in

(See Conditions on Page 11)

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Here pass those who died boldly in the glaring lands by the Arizona border. A multitude of sunburned men with revolvers swinging low beside their hips and in their hands the deadly Winchesters. One comes among them, rugged of frame, big-featured, red from weather and the fullness of his blood. There is, in the poise of his head and in his eyes, a fierce intolerance. This is Joe Phy. More than forty years have passed since they buried him in the little boot-hill at Florence, Arizona. To-day the town is as conventional as any Eastern village, but it saw a time when men lived up to the rude clean code of our American age of chivalry. During that era Joe Phy met his end with a grimness befitting a son of the Old West.

Florence was the county-seat and Pete Gabriel was sheriff. He was a handsome

man with his twisted mustache and Napoleon goatee, free-handed with his money, widely liked. Moreover he was a wonderful shot with his rifle and deadly quick with a single-action revolver. Among the gun-fighters of southern

(See Florence on Page 10)



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Baxter's Curve Robbery

Train

(From Page 4)

Rio Grande) with him.

"I thought if there was any chance for me to get the advantage on him, it would be by taking him back through my car where I could find some means of turning the table on him. I told him that I was not getting fighting wages and did not care how much he took out. In this way I gained his confidence and he quit treating me as roughly as he had been. Before this, he would jab me with his rifle

and command me around in a boisterous manner. When we passed by a stack of oysters, I had an empty packer standing in about the center of the car, and the robber and I had to pass between the oysters and the packer, and this crowded me close to the oysters; and as we passed, I picked up the ice-maul which was lying on them. I placed it behind my overcoat so that he could not see it and got him away from the door and showed him a package which was going to Sanderson, and told him that the package was worth more than all he had gotten, I

thought. He rested his rifle against his leg and started to pick up the package in his right hand. While he was in this position, I saw my chance, and so the first blow I struck him was at the base of the skull, adjoining his head from his neck. Then I struck him two more blows in the top of the head after he had fallen, and knocked his brains out the third blow.

"I took two .45 caliber Colt revolvers and a 401 Model Winchester off this man. I gave the mail clerk and the helper each a revolver and I kept the rifle. I sent the mail clerk and helper to the rear end of the car. I turned the lights out and then joined them. I waited something like two hours for the second man to come back. He did not show up for sometime, and I fired a shot through the top of the car, and in a few minutes, he came to the door and called the name 'Frank' three times; and waited about five minutes, then I saw his head sticking out from behind a trunk forty feet from me. I fired one shot - the bullet striking him about an inch and a half above the left eye, passing through his head and started going through the end of the car. After waiting about

(See Train on Page 12)

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Tunnel Saloon Duel

Florence
(From Page 7)

Arizona none was better known than he, and Joe Phy was his deputy. The county of Pinal extended from the glaring flats below the Gila northward beyond the Superstition Mountains, a savage land where the sun was killing hot in summer-time, where forests of giant cacti stretched for miles like the pine woods that cloaked the higher plateaus. Phy and Gabriel rode together through the country on many a bold errand; they shared their blankets and the hardships of dry camps; they fought beside each other while the bullets of wanted men snarled, ricocheting from the rocks about them. Then politics brought a rift in their friendship and the day came when the deputy ran for office against his former chief. The campaign was made bitter by accusations. There was, men said, a court-house ring; the big companies were dodging taxes, the small ranchers were getting the worst of it. Election came and the rancor of the reformers grew hotter when the count showed that Gabriel had won. Many openly proclaimed that the court-house crowd had juggled with the ballots, and Phy was among these. When a contest was instituted and the result of the election was carried to the courts, he grew to hate Gabriel. The hatred flamed within him until he could stand it no longer and one night he hunted the town over until he found the sheriff in Keating's Saloon. "Pete," he said, "I'm going home after my six-shooter and I'm coming back to fight it out with you. Get ready while I'm gone." And Gabriel answered quietly, "All right, Joe. I'll be

(See Florence on Page 13)

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Arizona History

Conditions

(From Page 6)

wandering through the Pima village, we found them in every storehouse.

Indeed, with a moderate amount of enterprise, and a small amount of capital, we saw no good reason why the valley of the Gila should not eventually be dotted with excellent farms. The land is all there, and plenty of water to irrigate it (if only the Gila can be subdued, and surely it can), and the climate the year round must be delightful.”

At Gila Bend, they were informed at Yuma, they would find Apaches if anywhere. They took the precaution to dismount from their ambulances and skirmish through on foot. As a consequence, they were not molested. This experience was

repeated all the way to Tucson. Continuing his story, the general says: “A few miles west of Gila Bend, between Berk’s Station and Oatman’s Flat, we passed a group of rocks that interest everybody, but which nobody seemed to know much about. The place is called “Painted Rocks” and we only (See Conditions on Page 15)



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Baxter's Curve Robbery

Train

(From Page 8)

an hour, we pulled the air and the engineer backed the engine and baggage cars back

to the coaches. The fireman came back to the coaches and called me. I told him to get the conductor and some of the passengers before I could open the car, that I had killed two men. In a few

minutes he came back with the conductor, porter, and fifteen or twenty passengers. When I found that there was no one out there to harm me, I opened the door and admitted the train crew.

"After getting the train coupled up, we moved up to where the US mail had been unloaded and found everything there as it had been unloaded, and I got the two sealed packages that had been taken out of my safe. I transferred all of my money run to Helper Reagan and went as far as Sanderson and unloaded the dead bodies with the six guns taken from them."

Stopping at the Sanderson Train Depot, the robbers were posed for a photograph and thrown together into a grave in the local cemetery. The local sheriff, David L. Anderson, notable for having been a member of Billy the Kid's gang, later captured a third accomplice in the robbery attempt—a young boy who had been recruited to hold the horses at Baxter's Curve. It's interesting to note that the bandits' horses were found to have been shod backwards, presumably so that when they made their escape their tracks would appear to be going the opposite way.

As for Trousdale, the passengers passed the hat at the scene and gave him \$51 for his bravery. They also later presented him with an engraved gold watch fob inlaid with a diamond inside the star of Texas. He also received a \$1,000 reward and a gold watch from Wells, Fargo, another \$1,000 from the federal government, and another \$500 from the railroad.

The Terrell County Historical Commission erected a marker on the outlaws' grave at the Cedar Grove Cemetery in Sanderson, which has become something of a tourist attraction.

**The Men Who
Make the Legends**



Rick Gwynne (left) presents the Treasure Hunter of the Year award to Jessie Feldman.



Past Treasure Hunter of the Year award recipients. From left rear: Rick Gwynne, Bob Corbin, Tom Kollenborn, Bob Schoose, Ron Feldman, Jessie Feldman, (front) Ernie Saviano, Hank Andriea

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Tunnel Saloon Duel

Florence

(From Page 10)

here when you come back.”

The swinging doors closed behind Phy’s back and the sheriff turned to the man behind the bar.

“Call ‘em up,” he said. “This is on me.”

He ordered whisky and those who lined up beside him kept looking toward the street entrance; but he remained with his back to the swinging doors. The minutes passed; the doors flew open. Within the threshold Joe Phy halted.

“Commence!” he shouted and flung an oath after the word.

Pete Gabriel turned, and his revolver flew from its holster spitting fire. Phy’s forty-five ejected a thin stream of orange flame. The voices of the weapons mingled in one loud explosion. The two men took a pace toward each other and the smoke grew thicker as they shot again in unison. They came on, slowly, pulling the triggers until the room was filled with the black powder fumes. Then Pete Gabriel stood swaying within arm’s length of Joe Phy’s prostrate form. And as he struggled against the mortal weakness which was now creeping through his lead-riddled body the man on the floor whispered, “I cain’t get up. Get down. We’ll finish it with knives.”

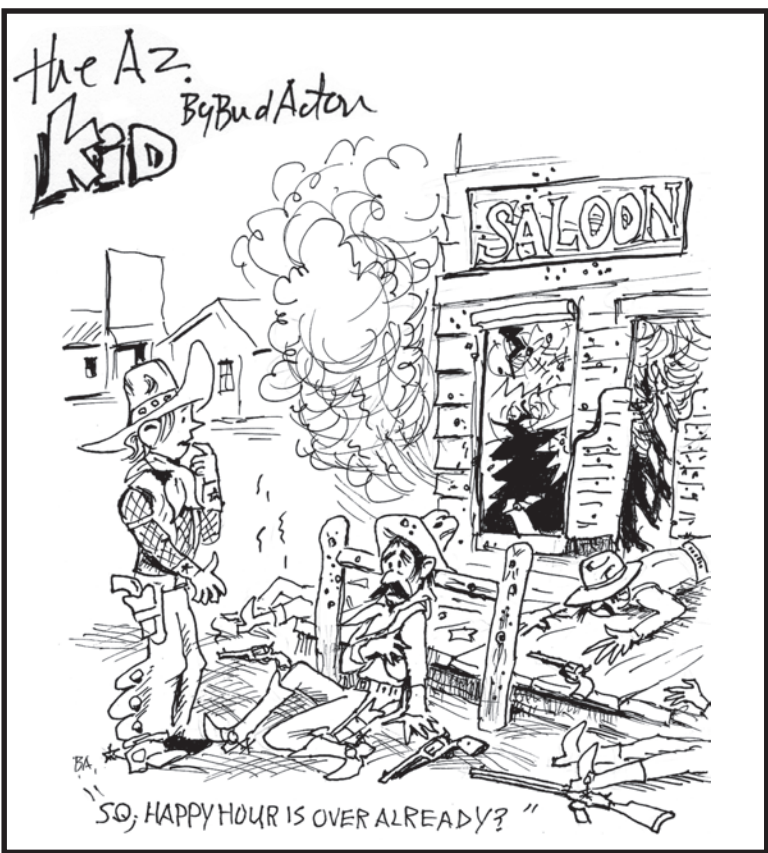
“I guess we’ve both of us got enough,” the sheriff muttered, and staggered out through the door, to lie all

night in a near-by corral and live for two years after ward with a bullet through his kidneys.

Joe Phy died hard on the saloon floor. Those in the room gathered about him, and Johnny Murphy strove to lift his head that they might give him a sip of water. A year before he and two others had slain Joe Levy, a faro-dealer in Tucson, and they had done it foully from behind. Since that time men had avoided him, speaking to him only when it was absolutely necessary, and his hair had turned snow-white. Joe Phy opened his eyes and recognized his would-be helper.

“Don’t you dare lay a hand on me,” he cried, “you murderer!” and struck Murphy full in the face. His hand fell limply back. The breath had departed from his body with that blow

In 1883, Sitting Bull was a guest of honor at the opening ceremonies for the Northern Pacific Railroad. When it was his turn to speak, he said in the Lakota language, “I hate all white people. You are thieves and liars. You have taken away our land and made us outcasts.” A quick-thinking interpreter told the crowd the chief was happy to be there and that he looked forward to peace and prosperity with the white people. Sitting Bull received a standing ovation.



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- 2 eggs - 2 strips of bacon, toast & jelly
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March 29, 1888
•A mine in Rich Hill, Missouri, explodes, killing 24.

•The construction of Wyoming’s capitol building is completed in Cheyenne.

Also in March 1888
The Denver, Texas and Fort Worth Railroad is completed,

with connections to New Orleans, Louisiana, and Galveston, Texas.

National News March 1888
March 14 - A blizzard paralyzes the East Coast; 200 die in New York alone.

March 16 - Author Louisa May Alcott dies at 56.

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—George Armstrong Custer

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Arizona History

Conditions

(From Page 11)

had time for a cursory examination; but the sculpturing seemed too remote for Spanish times, and was generally attributed to the days of the Aztecs. However this may be, they appeared to be there as a species of hieroglyphics, and doubtless have a story to tell, that some future Champollion may unfold.

“Here, at least, is work for the archaeologist and antiquarian, as well as at so many other points in Arizona.”

Aside from the mesquite, ironwood and palo verde trees, scattered here and there along the Gila and its bottom, the entire country from Yuma to Tucson was treeless. Sagebrush and greasewood abounded as throughout the great internal basin of the continent generally. On the uplands were to be found the saguaro, or giant cactus, in full vigor and maturity, increasing in height and bulk until when they reached the Maricopa Desert they were to be found thirty to forty feet in height, by two or three feet in diameter. General Rusling says: “This variety is a green

fluted column, with its edges armed with semi-circular thorns, and bears a cluster of apples on top, from which the Indians extract a rude molasses or sugar. (This fruit was also highly prized by the Mexicans.) Inside, it is a frame work of reedy poles that serve many useful purposes in that woodless region. These

immense cacti dot the country over to Tucson, and beyond—indeed, down to Mexico, and largely through it—and are a leading feature of southern Arizona.”

Join us as we recount the history of Arizona in the *Territorial News*.
Next issue: On to Tucson

“That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach.”
– Aldous Huxley

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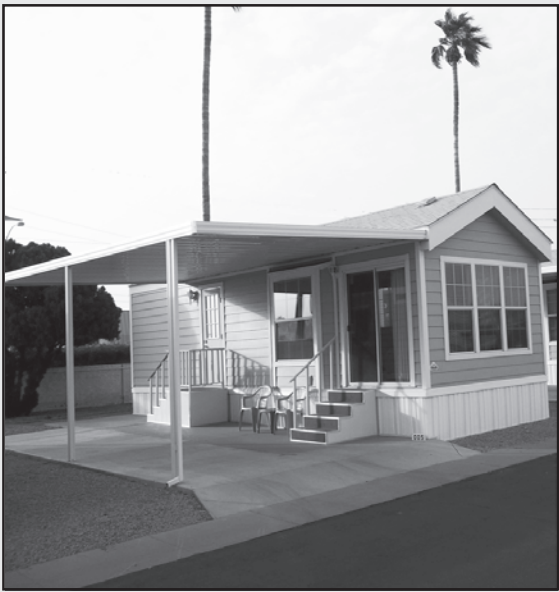
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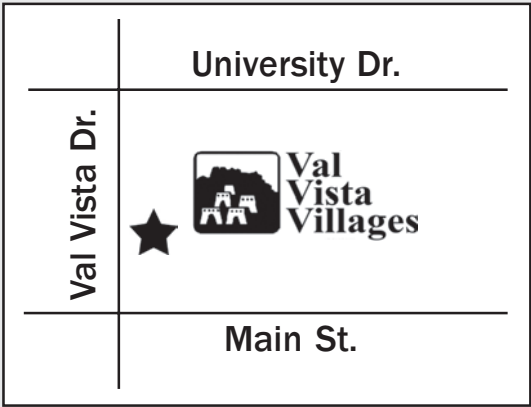
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CALAM HOMES



The Homestead Act

1862 Act

(From Page 1)

its legalization. Settlers pointed out that they were building a new civilization in the West with their own money and sweat. Why should they have to pay for public land when they had already shouldered the heavy cost of clearing, breaking, and fencing it? Since the government clearly wanted Americans to settle the West, settlers argued that the government should give land to anyone willing to work hard and sacrifice enough to develop it. Congress eventually agreed, and it passed a weak version of a homesteading bill in 1860. However, President James Buchanan vetoed the bill under pressure from pro-slavery southerners who wanted to slow the development of non-slaveholding western states. With the outbreak of the Civil War the following year, southern opposition was no longer a consideration, and Lincoln signed the even stronger Homestead Act into law in May 1862. The act authorized any citizen or intended citizen to settle on any surveyed but unclaimed 160-acre tract of public land. If settlers made

the specified improvements to the land and paid a small fee, they would gain full title to the property after five years. Unfortunately, the government failed to reserve much of the best western land for claim under the Homestead Act and instead let it pass into the hands of railroads and speculators. By the 1890s, many homesteaders found that only marginal semi-arid tracts were still available for homesteading. Profitable farming on only 160 acres of such dry land was nearly impossible, and at least half of the original homesteaders abandoned their claims before they gained title to the property. In the early 20th century, the claim sizes were gradually increased to as much as 640 acres, making irrigation and efficient large-scale farming techniques feasible. Thus, while the majority of early homesteads failed, more than 1.6 million farmers and ranchers eventually fulfilled their contracts and became landowners in the West.



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