



Articles dated 1909-1919



September 9, 1909, Prescott Journal-Miner

TO START WORK SOON ON THE PIONEER HOME

Architects Are Now Busily Engaged In Preparing Plans For Fine Structure

In a few days it is said, definite action will be taken toward moulding the Pioneer's Home for the Hassayampers, and official consideration will be the driving wedge in creating that commendable institution. Governor Sloan is an enthusiast in this project, and stated a few days previous to his departure for Flagstaff that as soon as the taxes for the year were due, or when any money reached the treasury of the territory, the board of control would immediately advertise for plans and specifications under the law that calls for competitive bids. Before a selection is made, public funds will be available for the beginning of the home building. It is the opinion of the executive that before the end of November the home should be under construction, and by spring it should be completed.

Several architects in the territory are ready to begin the work of drawing the plans, and it is the belief of the board of control that at least twelve sets will be presented. In Prescott, J.R. Miner and W.S. Elliott are each working studiously on their own designs, and in a few weeks they will forward the same to Phoenix, or as soon as they are authorized.

Linked in the building of this home an interesting and somewhat humorous situation was presented a few days ago at the site of the proposed home in Murphy Park. At that point two men were engaged in

excavating the soil, and as Major Doran, the superintendent of the institution had received no official orders to go ahead with the work of constructing the building, he naturally became inquisitive and personally visited the place where these men were making the dirt fly in rather a lively manner. He modestly asked them what their motive was, and assumed a very mild mannered tone in addressing them after two big guns were displayed in a belt that was wrapped around their waists full of cartridges. They stated that they were after that treasure that was soaked somewhere in the soil at that particular place.

Being informed that the ground they were digging into was the property of the territory and that it would soon be occupied by the pioneers, the trespassers took their picks, shovels, drills and other paraphernalia and left their new location. They were evidently much displeased and desired to finish their tunnel. They afterward said that they were just "next" to the location of this mythical \$60,000 gold cache by a man in southern Arizona, who several years ago was engaged in working the adjoining hill with several others when it was desired to find the place where that sum was stored by a miner who was retreating through the country pursued by Indians. When they quit work the other day they had reached a point about fifteen feet into the side of the mountain and had they been permitted to continue it was their purpose to crosscut the entire hill to great depth.

The bombarding of this ground again by treasure hunters brings the past to the surface in a thrilling scene that was enacted at practically the same point about twenty years ago, when Charles Omalia had charge of an expedition that was farthered by the Catholic church of Denver. He trenched the adjoining hill from one end to the other, and in addition to that system of exploiting the ground

he turned every boulder large and small away from its resting place. Limited depth was dug into. After shafts were sunk and virgin soil to one year of steady work the project was abandoned until the other day when two men picked up the work where it was left off on a sure shot tip.

The story of this immense cache is one in line with many other similar transactions that haunt the west, like the Adams diggings, the Peg Leg, the Lost Frenchman, and the Nigger Ben, none of which have been fathomed, although like Colonel Seltar's tarry fate, there's "millions in it."



February 4, 1910, Prescott Journal-Miner, Friday Morning

OPEN BIDS FOR THE PIONEER HOME

Indications Prescottite's Plans Will Be Selected

Matter Has Now Narrowed Down to Two Architects

Competitive bids on the plans of the Pioneer's Home were opened in Phoenix, Tuesday afternoon, by the Board of Control of Arizona, but nothing definite was taken in the selection of the most suitable ones for the purpose. Those submitting them were W.S. Elliott of Prescott, J.R. Miner of Prescott, Elmer Brennan of Prescott, J.M. Creighton of Phoenix and W.J. Bleisner of Los Angeles.

February 16, 1910, Prescott Journal-Miner

TEMPORARY HITCH IN PLANS FOR HOME

Designs, Which Were Submitted to The Board of Control, Not Home-Like Enough to Suit

In considering the five designs submitted, the sifting down of the lot was accomplished until two were left to draw from. These were those of Mr. Elliott and Mr. Bleisner, although the others were commended, but were lacking detail data. Further consideration of the plans was to be continued yesterday, and it was expected that the awarding to the successful competitor would be announced this week.

Of the two leading competitors, Mr. Elliott seems to have the preference for accommodating thirty-seven people, while that of Mr. Bleisner will accommodate but twenty-six. Mr. Elliott's plan also has a desirable feature in its ground plan of affording additional room for building upon later, while the Bleisner design does not permit of this being done without marring the general effect.

Perspective plans were also submitted, but in this Governor Sloan unofficially expressed a preference for the Mission type of a structure, leaning to that architectural feature, but was impressed, however, with all sent in. In that respect it is said Mr. Elliott can harmonize with the wish of the board and outline a building within the range of the appropriation if it is so desired.

The final outcome of this important matter will probably be the summoning to the Capital City of Mr. Elliott and Mr. Bleisner for a definite interpretation of the sectional plans of each project. After the successful architect is chosen, the advertising of the bids will follow immediately, and the intention is to have the institution ready for occupancy before the summer ends. The appropriation calls for \$25,000, and this sum is now available at the Prescott National bank, having been sent up a short time ago by Territorial Treasurer Kirkland.

In attendance at the meeting of the board were Major A.J. Doran, who

will have offices in the building, and who will have charge of the Home as its superintendent. George D. Morris, who is the father of the Home in legislation, introducing the bill, was also before the board to assist in the consideration of the matter. He has taken an active and zealous interest in the cause and assisted materially to getting the machinery in action for the consummation of the project. Major Doran remained at the capital until the selection would be made, while Mr. Morris returned home yesterday.

The statement is also made in connection with the creation of this Home that several thousand volumes of literary works will be sent to it from Tucson, while another important move will be the establishing of a territorial museum, in which many relics of the past will here find a permanent resting place, and of which there are said to be many hundred, owned by the Historical Society of Arizona, at Tucson, as well as by individuals.

The members of the board seemed to be anxious to have this worthy institution under headway as soon as possible, and the site given by Mr. Murphy was generally commended as a desirable one. The board also unofficially expressed a preference in local architectural sources receiving a preference in the competitive bid plans received, based this upon a knowledge the architect has of the topographical conditions in evidence. If that principle is followed out, Mr. Elliott will receive the plum.



Temporarily there is a hitch in the construction of the Pioneer Home for Arizonans, due to the readvertising of plans for the building to be erected in this city. The Board of Control has asked for additional plans and specifications. Major Doran reached the city yesterday from Phoenix, where he was called as the superintendent, for consultation.

Major Doran says that in the first place all plans carried too elaborate conditions, and it was the opinion of the board that the structure could not be built within the financial limits of the appropriation. The intent of the law is for the building of a home, and hospital features were not desired, and neither will they be entertained. The attractions of a home life were prominent in the discussion that followed the investigation of the plans sent, and as these desirable features being lacking in all the five bids, the same were rejected.

In speaking of what the board desires, Major Doran said that in the first place architects should consider that a general assembly room, with a large fireplace, is desired. A place is wanted where a number of people can loiter around a spacious room, and discuss questions or entertain any number of visitors. A large reading room was also decided upon, where a library would be at the disposal of the members of the home, and which would have accommodations for many volumes.

In addition it was desired to make this room a museum, where old time relics of the past could be displayed to good advantage. The Arizona Historical Society at Tucson, some time ago, intimated that it would bestow the home with the historical collection it owns, while the individual has several that should be placed in a territorial institution such as is contemplated in this home.

The desirability of a wide veranda in front of the home was also made an improvement matter that should receive recognition, which would permit of an agreeable observation of the surrounding country.

In short, Major Doran says, the architectural beauty of the home should be discountenanced. The comfort of the pioneer is the purpose of the law, with plenty of elbow room on any and all occasions for him to maneuver in.



January 5, 1911, Prescott Journal-Miner, Thursday Morning

PIONEER HOME IS READY FOR FURNITURE

Major Doran to Accept
It For Board Of
Control Today

Yesterday afternoon the last nail in the Pioneer Home was driven, and today, on behalf of the Territory, it will be accepted by Major Doran, the superintendent. There will be no ceremony.

A few citizens of the city will be taken to the mansion on the hill to inspect the building which will be the habitation of the sturdy pioneers of Arizona still living.

The furniture has arrived and is now being put together in the

warehouse of the Bashford-Burmister Co. Later in the week it will be taken to the building.

The elegant fixtures donated by Gus Heyman, will be set in the room designated, today, having reached the Home several days ago.

The first testing of the heating apparatus was made Tuesday morning and showed a uniform temperature in all the rooms of 72 degrees. It was accepted.

It is expected that the Home will be opened before the 1st of February, or as soon as the Board of Control convenes to pass upon the applications on hand. The institution can accommodate forty people. The list has already reached several times this number, which will be culled to the most desirable, owing to the limited accommodations.



January 31, 1911, Prescott Journal-Miner, Tuesday Morning

PIONEERS' HOME TO BE OPENED TOMORROW

Staff of Employees Of
Institution Is
Completed

Formal Dedication To
Be on Lincoln's
Birthday

Major A.J. Doran, superintendent of the Pioneer Home, yesterday announced that all positions had been filled and the doors would be officially opened tomorrow morning.

Among those who secured positions, in addition to previous announcement of the appointment of Silas St. John as assistant

superintendent, and Mrs. St. John as matron, the following were made yesterday:

W.R. Reynolds, chief cook; L.H. Larkins, assistant; James Mahoney, engineer; and Mrs. William Simpson, assistant matron.

The first pioneers to enter the Home will naturally be chosen from this county, and at least six of the Yavapai quota will be taken care of tomorrow morning. In a few days the Board of Control at Phoenix will pass upon applications from the various counties on the basis of the maximum number that can be accommodated, which is forty.

Major Doran stated yesterday that formal ceremonies attending the opening of the institution will be deferred until Lincoln's birthday, February 12th. At that time it is the intention to have Governor Sloan and other Territorial officers present together with those of the many counties that possibly can come.

That the beautiful and commodious structure will be made attractive and interesting from an historical standpoint is already being discussed, and several pioneers are ready to place within its main room many relics of the bygone period.

In this line, Ben Belcher will take to the building tomorrow the old prospecting hand pick that Bob Groom used in the hills in the '60s. It is worn with service and crude in its manufacture. It is fairly well preserved, however, and is an interesting relic of the days gone and recalls the life of one of the best known Hassayampers in Arizona. Mr. Belcher also has a home made single shot six-shooter, manufactured from the barrel of a Hawkins rifle, which illustrates in a forcible manner what human ingenuity will accomplish when necessity demands. This implement is a novel one, in manufacture, and well worth inspection. It also goes into the rare collection.



February 7, 1911, Prescott Journal-Miner

PIONEERS NAMED TO ENTER THE HOME

Four Are Allotted From This County By Authorities

Major A.J. Doran, superintendent of the Pioneer Home, yesterday received official advices from the Board of Control, at Phoenix, authorizing him to admit immediately to that institution, Judge N.L. Griffin, Louis B. St. James, William Baxter and Patrick Donlan, all of Yavapai county. The receipt of this welcome news created a joy among those whom it affects, while their many friends were pleased at the kindly consideration extended these deserving Hassayampers. They are the first who are to enroll their names at the Home, and they are also among the first who entered the Territory, away back in the perilous days of the '60s, hence are entitled to the recognition extended them.

Judge Griffin was the first to walk up the trail to the Home, and Captain St. John, assistant superintendent, gave him entree to the interior, and incidentally his preference to the selection of quarters. This veteran of the colony went to the northwest corner on the first floor and threw his effects into that room, where he said he would "camp" for the remainder of his days. A few minutes afterward Mr. St. James came along, and after taking the "tracks" of his Hassayampa colleague, pulled on the latch string, said it looked good to him, and believed he would "bunk" with the Judge again, just as they had done on Lynx Creek, away back in

1863. These men in all the years that have elapsed, since they were associated in mining, have maintained a regard that is almost kindred in affection for one another. The shadowy past will be recalled in all the pleasures and privations incidental to those days, and the two pioneers will again be at home.

Other applicants for the Home are said to include two from Maricopa, one from Pima, and three from Cochise county, and they will arrive within the next few days.

Captain St. John and wife, with Mrs. Simpson, assistant matron, and Chief Cook Reynolds, have each started upon their labors, and everything is moving along in a pleasant and methodical manner. Later announcements will be made of receiving days.

Through the kindly consideration of the Monday Club of this city and the Women's Federation of Arizona, together with the contribution of Mrs. J.L. Munds of this city, an abundance of literature is at the disposition of the people at the Home.



March 11, 1911, Arizona Republican

The board of control has appointed Dr. Warren E. Day of Prescott as house physician for the Pioneers Home.

Doctor Day is a shore enough pioneer and anti-dates the advent of railroads by a number of years.



Aug. 15, 1914, Unknown newspaper

HOME FOR PIONEERS Picturesque Home of the Men Who Helped Build Arizona

The Home for Aged and Infirm Arizona Pioneers is located on an eminence, commanding an excellent view of the surrounding country, and within the city of Prescott, one of the most beautiful cities of Arizona.

Situated on the line of the Santa Fe, Prescott & Phoenix Railway, Prescott, the "mile-high city," county seat of Yavapai County, and one-time capital of Arizona, is the center of a district, the trade of which is principally lumber, wool and bullion. Near Prescott are producing and promising gold, silver and copper mines. On the edge of a great pine forest and at the base of towering mountain peaks, Prescott, from the standpoint of climate and healthfulness, is charmingly located.

The summers are delightfully cool and pleasant, while the winters are mild, dry and bracing. The population is above 5,000. The Home is a comparatively new structure, having been completed and made ready for occupancy February 1, 1911. It is a brick structure, on a foundation of stone, and is a good piece of construction, considering the modest amount of expenditure entailed.

The Home has accommodations for forty male inmates, and at present contains nearly that number. In a very few weeks there will be applicants on the waiting list, and the question of providing for the continuous care of the aged and infirm of both sexes of the State's citizens becomes at once a matter for immediate consideration by the Legislature. In the present Home, no provision is... (the whereabouts of the remainder of the article is unknown)



