



Articles dated 1930-1939



December 18, 1930, Prescott Journal-Miner, Thursday morning

Pioneers' Home to Get Portrait of Its Founder

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 17 ---(UP) --- It was just a portrait of a man --- that was found the other day in a darkened nook of the statehouse.

And none thought the man whose face was pictured behind a coating of dust had helped make Arizona until Con P. Cronin, state librarian, viewed the painting.

Cronin revealed it was the painting of A.J. Doran, father of the bill which created the Pioneer's Home at Prescott, and which was passed by the 25th Territorial legislature, March 10, 1907.

An interesting account of Doran's life was briefly related by the state librarian following identification. Doran was the first sheriff of Pinal county, one of the first peace officers in Mohave county, and acclaimed in those early days as the territory's most outstanding politician.

He was speaker of the House of the 25th Territorial Legislative assembly, and had twice served as Arizona's delegate in Congress.

That the memory of this hardy pioneer might not be forgotten again, Governor Phillips called a special meeting of the directors of state institutions.



1930's article, Unknown newspaper

Pioneers Home Is Fine Haven

By J. C. THOMAS

The Arizona Pioneers Home at Prescott, haven for many of the state's pioneer trail-blazers, was founded by a few philanthropists who gained their fortune in Arizona and felt that the men and women who laid the foundation for this great inland empire should receive care in their declining years.

To that end, the territorial legislature was importuned and by legislative act assumed control of the institution.

Donations were obtained and buildings erected in 1910-11. the Arizona Pioneers Home is one of the best known institutions of its kind in the United States. Mrs. Ethel J. Ryckman is superintendent.

Qualifications for admittance to the home are 35 years continuous residence in Arizona and that guests be at least 60 years of age. Any citizen or naturalized citizen complying with these requirements may gain admittance.

There now are about 180 guests at the home, many of whom are incapacitated because of accidents, and "cannot run foot races." But mostly they are healthy.

Pioneers from the home always are in evidence at the Arizona Republic pioneer reunions, which have become big events in their lives. About 40 guests usually attend, making the trip to Phoenix by train or bus, accompanied by Mrs. Ryckman and nurses and orderlies.



1934, Unknown newspaper

Pioneer Lauds Prescott Home

BY NEWTON JEFFERSON
MORRIS

Arizona Pioneers' Home, Prescott

Emigrants passing through Arizona in the early days over the old stage line from the east to Yuma and San Diego, had a rough, dreary ride in the old dead-axle wagons, and if it had not been for the hardiness of those old-timers, neither California nor Arizona would be as heavily populated as today. Cattle men, sheep men, prospectors, gamblers and adventurers of every sort crowded this old trail, both going and coming, and the stage men and freighters of those days as well as the rooming houses and hotels did a thriving business.

I was born in Texas in 1861 and was taken by my parents to California in 1865. In 1879 my parents moved back to Phoenix, where I lived off and on accordingly as my business took me to other parts of Arizona. I have always claimed Phoenix as my home since 1880 when I arrived there, and began farming and freighting.

Phoenix Then

Phoenix was a replica of many towns scattered through Arizona in those days. A couple of mercantile houses made of brick, a number of saloons and all that went with them, a few inconspicuous dwellings, a barber shop, four restaurants, corrals and a blacksmith shop, a jail and a school house.

The school house was built on land donated by an enthusiastic gentleman who had the education of children at heart and was called the Osborn school. The school district covered the whole of Phoenix at that time.

I bought 160 acres of land which cost me \$150 and in a few years after

parceling it out, I sold it for more than \$5,000. I engaged in freighting to Prescott, Jerome, Camp Verde, Fort Whipple and Mayer. Times were picking up, mines were opened, saw mills operating and a great deal of building in progress. In fact all legitimate business was in full swing. Phoenix has grown to be a metropolitan city since then, when it had a population of 1,200.

Desert Pushed Back

Citrus groves have taken toll of what formerly was a desert and the finest grapefruit of all is produced that commands the highest prices in the New York market. The lettuce crop is another one in world-beaters. Pima cotton is another product of the section. There are numerous other crops that command attention in the Salt River valley.

I am now living at the Pioneers' Home in Prescott. It is located on a hill overlooking the town, which is a mile above sea level. A young pine forest surrounds the buildings and the location is considered one of the finest and healthiest in the state.

I can truthfully say that there is no other place in the United States that can compare with the Pioneers' Home, where every want is cared for. It has competent nurses, a culinary department presided over by an excellent cook, in which a baker who knows his business thoroughly plays a prominent part.

The dispensary is under direction of a trained nurse, which affords an opportunity of instant attention to those who demand her services. The hospital is a scene of activity. The nurses have a job with some of the patients in getting them to wash their faces and comb their hair and otherwise prepare to come to the table.

Staffs Are Busy

The diet and kitchen staffs are on their toes from morning until shifts are changed trying to carry out the house physician's orders. The night-shift nurses have the care of the

patients and are constantly on the watch for any change that is likely to occur so that the guests of the home are in better physical condition and get better care than they would receive in a home of their own.

The housekeeper is a qualified person and her duties are multitudinous in caring for the home and its 200 patients. No one can complain at any time about neglect. Towels, bed linen, blankets, are on hand and linen is changed once a week.

Mrs. Ethel J. Ryckman is superintendent, the first woman to be selected for that berth. She has restored order out of chaos and given the state a splendid administration of the institution.

