

# TERRITORIAL TIMES

Prescott Arizona Corral  
of Westerners International



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*Cover Photo: Several members of the Prescott Knights of Columbus pose in front of the Roughrider Monument on the Courthouse Plaza, circa 1924. Seated on the right in the front row is Robert E. Morrison who some 20 years earlier had played a leading role in obtaining the monumental sculpture for his community.*

# THE MOST EFFICIENT FIBER PRODUCERS ON EARTH:

Angora Goat Ranching in Yavapai County, Arizona, 1880-1945

By Mona Lange McCroskey

Few people remember that in the interim between World War I and the end of World War II, the biggest industry in Yavapai County, Arizona, was the raising of Angora goats. At its peak in 1940 Arizona's Angora goat population was estimated to be about 200,000, of which about one-half were in Southern Yavapai County. The balance were scattered among Mohave, Pima, Pinal, Graham and Greenlee Counties.

W. H. Hardy was reportedly the first rancher to import goats to Central Arizona, from Utah in the 1880s.<sup>1</sup> The dry, brushy terrain of Yavapai County proved an ideal environment for them. Goat raising in the county centered in the Kirkland-Wilhoit vicinity, with smaller districts around Mayer, Congress, Bagdad, Agua Fria, Walnut Grove, Peoples Valley, Castle Hot Springs, the Bradshaw Mountains and the Verde Valley.

Most Yavapai County goat raisers came from the hill country of Texas, some bringing goats with them. Established cattlemen turned to goat ranching, or added goats to their cattle operations for three reasons: Arizona cattle production was beginning to surpass local market demands; buyers were demanding a better grade of beef than was produced by the longhorns that were driven into the state; and the drought of the 1890s had been disastrous to the cattle business. As one rancher put it, "Mohair was the meat and potatoes of the ranchers; cattle were a luxury."<sup>2</sup>

Angora goats are native to the Himalayan Mountains in Asia Minor. Dr. James B. Davis introduced them into the United States from Turkey in 1849, bringing them to his farm at Columbia, South Carolina, where they

thrived. He eventually sold his herd to his nephew, Richard Peters of Atlanta, Georgia, who became known as the "father of the Angora industry in the United States".<sup>3</sup> Animals from Peters' herd were shipped to California and the Southwest, where the climate suited them well. More importations of Turkish Angora goats ensued, and in 1893 the first Angoras from South Africa were introduced. By 1900 the descendants of these goats were found on ranches in the West and Southwest, and in California.

Angora goats are a little smaller than other breeds of domestic goats. They have wide set spiral horns and a silky white fleece that hangs down in curls all over the body, enabling them to withstand extreme temperatures. The males are properly called bucks; the females, does or nannies; the young, kids; and castrated males, wethers. Angora does almost always have only one kid, as opposed to other breeds of goats where the norm is twins. Their fleece, known as mohair (from the Arabian word "muhayyar", meaning choice or select), grows eight to ten inches a year. Hair from a good band of goats averages up to three-and-a-quarter pounds per animal per semi-annual shearing or "clip." The goats can be sheared for up to ten years, yielding the best mohair during the fourth to

sixth years. Kid mohair is of the finest, softest quality; each kid yields from one pound to a pound and a half of mohair. It is an extremely durable fiber; sound absorbing, non-flammable, and insulating from heat and cold, which led to its description as a “luxury fiber” and “an aristocrat of fibers.”

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has praised Angora goats as perhaps “the most efficient fiber producers on earth”. Although the USDA extolled the use of goat meat and morocco leather, Angora goats in Arizona were raised almost exclusively for mohair.<sup>4</sup> Fabric made from mohair resists fading, is lighter and warmer than wool, and because of its elasticity it resists wrinkling, stretching and sagging. It was first used in dress and suiting goods, furniture upholstery, and military braid and ornamentation. Mohair growers received a huge economic boost with the advent of streetcars and the railroad Pull-

man car, where mohair was used almost exclusively in upholstery

Made into durable plush with a pile, mohair continued to stand up even with wear, and it was almost dust repellant. It was also used in hats and hairnets, handbags, mufflers and shawls, draperies, carpeting, wigs, imitation fur, paint rollers, even clerical vestments and cinches. With the coming of the automobile the demand for mohair rose again, for auto tops and upholstery.

The Angora goat industry in Yavapai County prospered as new investors materialized and established goat ranchers enlarged their herds. By 1910 the goat census in Northern Arizona was over 15,000, setting the stage for the escalated production of mohair during World War I,<sup>5</sup> and in 1917 Yavapai goat men had an unprecedented year. “[Mohair] shipping started early in September from Kirkland



Brucellosis inspection under auspices of USDA, 1934.

Valley, at a price of thirty-eight cents per pound, the highest ever paid.”<sup>6</sup> In 1927 the statewide goat population had increased to 185,000 and more than a million pounds of mohair were produced; prices averaged fifty-seven cents a pound.<sup>7</sup> The superior market continued into 1928, when the quality fiber produced in Yavapai County was commanding high prices in the Boston Market. Government statistics show that mohair income in Arizona increased from \$65,000 in 1909 to \$301,000 in 1939.

In 1934 Arizona goat ranchers formed The Arizona Mohair Growers Association. It adopted the motto “For lasting beauty, use mohair.” Its goals were to promote closer cooperation among growers, collect and circulate information relating to the production and marketing of mohair, and to advance the interests of the industry. The organization held regular meetings in Prescott, with occasional meetings in Wickenburg, Safford, and Thatcher, but most of the group’s activities were centered in Yavapai County. Association members were interested in and discussed a wide range of topics, including soil conservation, dipping, livestock inspection, predators, and proposed revisions to the State Land Code.

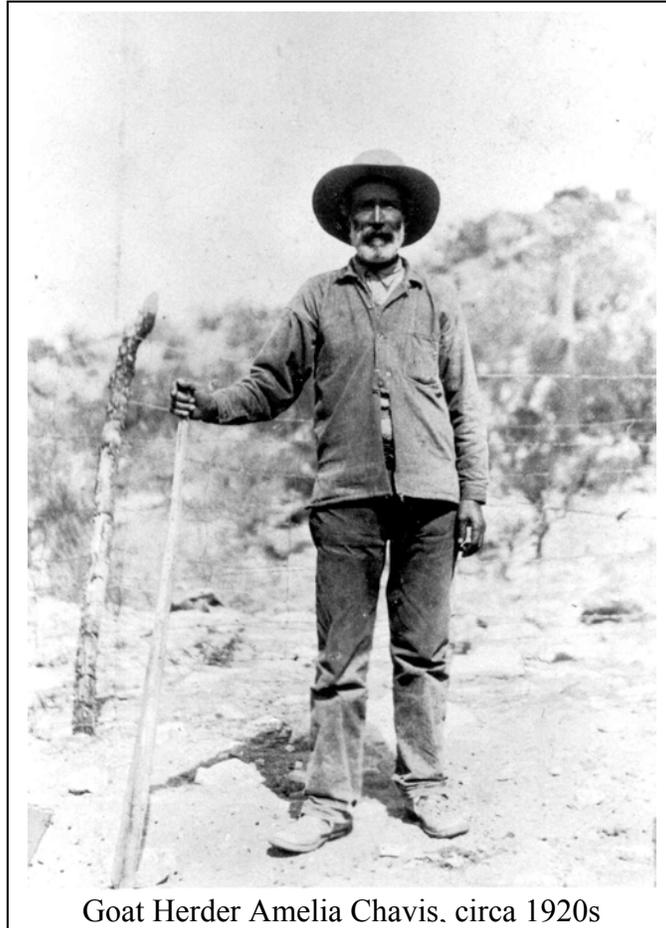
Yavapai County goat raisers struggled during the Depression. Informants described the small goat ranches during that time as “hunter and gatherer operations” and “starvation situations.” Low mohair prices combined with a severe drought and automobile strikes

in Detroit caused many ranches to fail.

In 1934 Yavapai County Agricultural Agent E. S. Turville was in charge of administering a contract for the purchase of surplus goats by the government. A drought relief meeting was held in Denver to determine regulations and terms of the stock reduction purchase, at which the USDA Bureau of Animal Industry ruled that the purchase would be of nannies only. The Mohair Growers objected to the ruling on the basis that

their goat populations were about sixty percent wethers and forty percent nannies, and the sale of nannies only would result in an “unbalanced reduction of herd productivity and mohair sales.”<sup>8</sup> A. A. Johns, President of the Arizona Wool Growers, enlisted the help of Arizona Congresswoman Isabella Greenway in urging a reconsideration of the ruling.

Under the 1934 National Brucellosis Eradication Program, women in Yavapai County were hired to administer USDA approved tests to goats for brucellosis. Other 1930s re-



Goat Herder Amelia Chavis, circa 1920s

lief legislation also provided funds for the construction of a tannery six miles north of Prescott on the Ash Fork Highway to stimulate the local economy. Arizona was one of the leading cattle, sheep, and goat-raising states in the nation, and up to that time hides had been shipped out-of-state for processing. The tannery had a daily capacity of 250 goat or sheep hides, or 125 cowhides. Tanned Angora goat hides with hair were used for rugs and robes; without hair they went into workmen's gloves and morocco leather. The tannery was equipped with modern, up-to-date machinery that reduced the time for tanning, and "the hides [came] into the tannery in the raw state at one end of the building and [went] out the other as finished leather" in three to five weeks.<sup>9</sup>

In 1938 the Mohair Growers entered into an agreement with Phoenix Packing Company in an effort create a market for goat meat. The growers would sell chevon to Phoenix Packing, which agreed to open a meat market to sell goat meat, and not to sell any meat "in competition to goat meat."<sup>10</sup> (Goat meat was called chevon until the end of World War II, and also *cabrito*.<sup>11</sup>) It was often sold as mutton or lamb because of the universal prejudice against goat meat. Under the agreement the ranchers were required to pay freight to get the goats to Phoenix, and they received such a low price that, in one stockman's words, "it would have been more profitable to us to shoot the goats on the range."<sup>12</sup>

It is generally conceded that the environment suffered from the presence of so many goats. Excessive grazing and trampling left the land bare. Although the mainstay of their diet was brush, the goats also ate grass, weeds, and forbs right down to the ground, which did not endear them to Southwest cattlemen. Statements in USDA bulletins glossed over the fact that Angora goats denuded the landscape, and justified using them to clear brushy land by

keeping the foliage and buds stripped off during the growth period."<sup>13</sup>

The Mohair Growers were striving to be good stewards of their grazing lands when in 1938 the Land Use Committee addressed a letter to the Federal Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Agricultural Extension Service at the University of Arizona in Tucson in 1938. Wanting to arrange "for a more profitable long time use of their ranges," the stockmen requested a survey to determine (1) to what extent and under what grazing conditions goats were inclined to injure the range cover; (2) a proper method of appraising the carrying capacity of different types of range when used for goats; (3) how far it was practical to pasture goats and cattle on the same range; and (4) how the carrying capacity of the range would be determined.<sup>14</sup>

The Agricultural Extension Service, in cooperation with the Mohair Growers, the Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station of the U.S. Forest Service, and the Soil Conservation Service, agreed to conduct a survey to demonstrate whether or not goats could be handled on a profitable basis over a period of years and still maintain the maximum productivity of the natural resources of the range.<sup>15</sup> The land had previously been appraised on a cow basis and the conversion ratio determined to be five goats to one cow, which the goat men felt was too low on brushy range. Range areas were selected on the Scott and Young ranches in Peoples Valley and the Maddox and Rainey and Resley ranches in Skull Valley. The ranchers agreed to cooperate in keeping stocking records on these ranges, to determine to what degree goats could use the ranges and still continue in their usefulness as a watershed and producer of range forage.<sup>16</sup> Preliminary findings of the survey, released in April 1939, were that the average grazing capacity of the monitored areas was about fifty goats or eight

and one-half cows per section year round, taking into consideration that the range was in varying stages of deterioration due to past disturbance, and that the same range in good condition could support a larger number of livestock per section.

The Mohair Growers also established range study plots on the Charles Rigden ranch in 1939 to study goat grazing and make plans to use the range to their best advantage.

### **Some Yavapai Family Goat Stories**

*A few goat raisers, and many of their descendants, still have Yavapai County connections. A. G. Walker began ranching in Arivaipa Canyon, raising registered bucks. After his wife succumbed to the 1918 flu epidemic, Walker drove a small herd of Weathersby bucks<sup>17</sup> on foot to the Wagoner area, a distance of over two hundred miles, where he settled on the abandoned McKinley mining claim. His five children rode the train from Safford to meet him in Kirkland. In Yavapai County Walker added does to his Yavapai op-*

*eration in order to raise mohair. His daughter Cassie married Roy George, also a goat rancher. Ora, a few years younger, vowed she would never marry a goat rancher, then married Clifford Gray and lived with him on a goat ranch near Bagdad for thirty-two years.*

*In 1925 Nathan Tenney moved his large family from the Wilcox area, where he had been in partnership with his father and brother in a 25,000-head goat raising enterprise, to a location off the Senator Highway near Prescott, where he converted an old barn into living quarters. A big goat shed and corrals were constructed just to the east of the house. Tenney's children herded goats on his range, which extended east from the homestead to north of "P" Mountain, south two to three miles, west to the White Spar Highway, and north to the homestead. Tenney also acquired a goat dairy from his neighbors, the Herings.<sup>18</sup> Some milk was delivered to Prescott homes, but most of it went to Fort Whipple for tuberculosis patients. Goat milk has a high*



Nannies clearing jump board on their way to graze.

*fat content, does not separate easily, and is therefore easily digested. Tenney was one of the few ranchers who successfully sold goat meat. He marketed it from the back of a covered truck at the forks of the road from Jerome to Clarkdale and Cottonwood. In the 1930s Jerome was a booming mining town with a lot of Mexican workers who liked cabrito.*

*Nathan Tenney's son Boyd later served twenty years in the Arizona Legislature with distinction. As a young man Boyd raised goats also. He recycled materials from his father's old goat-milking shed into a barn and lived on the property for many years.*

*W. J. "Will" Satathite moved his family to Arizona in 1911 from Texas by way of New Mexico, for his wife's health. Satathite worked on the Dysart Ranch near Glendale for a year before buying land and goats in western Peeples Valley from Bill Dearing of Prescott, and a few acres on Kirkland Creek from Bob Cannon. In 1926 Satathite moved his operation to Thompson Valley. His daughter Pearl worked goats with her three brothers as a family crew, holding the animals' horns as they were branded on the nose, and "tromping" mohair into the big sacks to be loaded onto flatcars.*

*John Resley gained his start in the Angora goat business in New Mexico, where he took goats in exchange for his \$30-a-month wages. When he had acquired a small band he drove them to Bumble Bee, where he herded them on the open range for about a year. When Resley moved to Ferguson Valley he was one of the few growers who rotated his goats from one pasture to another, thereby providing "an occasional change of bed grounds" as advised by the USDA to prevent overgrazing,<sup>19</sup> although the ground around his goat corral and sheds was badly trampled. Resley fenced four one-mile-section pastures and ran about five hundred wethers.*

### **A Labor-Intensive Occupation**

Raising Angora goats was a labor-intensive process, repudiating the USDA's claim that they were "a robust, elm-peeling, can-eating, neglectable [sic] animal".<sup>20</sup> The animals were divided into bands of about 1,200, each tended by a Basque or Mexican herder and a couple of dogs. Some growers did their own herding, a few on horseback. As a general rule, a minimum of at least one band was required for success. Good breeding stock was vital, and the stockmen traveled to Oregon, New Mexico, Utah, and Uvalde, Texas, to buy top-notch bucks, for which they paid five hundred dollars or more. The bucks were pastured and given supplemental feed during the breeding season, since the quality of mohair was dependant upon them.

The browsing goats required close supervision. Unguarded, they wandered off and became prey to predators. The stockmen trapped year around to protect their animals from coyotes, bobcats and lions. The Predatory Animal Control Program managed the poisoning of predators when dogs and goats were off the range. Almost every goat man could relate incidents in which they lost numbers of goats to predators that sometimes appeared to kill multiple animals "just for fun," leaving the dead goats uneaten. The Bureau of Biological Survey in Arizona was perennially short of funds and personnel to provide effective predator control, with the result that while field men were working one part of the state, predators were building up in other locations. Compounding the problem, the predators became wise to traps and lures used by unskilled private trappers and the price of pelts dropped so low that trapping was unecomic.<sup>21</sup>

Kidding season, from about April 15 to June 15, was the busiest time of year for goat raisers. In the early years some of the ranchers moved their goats to the desert floor around

Congress and the Harquar Mountains to take advantage of the warmer weather. Nannies, kids, and “kid boxes,” or baby goat shelters, were scattered all over the desert and the hill-sides.<sup>22</sup> These boxes were numbered and arranged in rows eight to ten feet apart. Each morning the nannies that appeared ready to kid were kept in a corral. As soon as the kid was born and up on its feet, nanny and kid were staked beside a numbered box.<sup>23</sup>

By April when the kids were born the nannies had been sheared. Many ranchers painted a number on them to match the box, and when the kid was born it was immediately painted with the same number, to keep it from getting mixed up. When the kids and nannies had bonded sufficiently that they could find each other, usually two or three days, the kids were moved to a corral where they could exercise. After foraging all day the nannies came down the trail in an orderly line, “like beads on a necklace,”<sup>24</sup> bleating, and each nanny went right to her own box. A few had to be “mothered up,” but they soon all went directly to

their own kid. At night the nannies often lay in front of the boxes to protect their kids.

“Jump boards” were placed across open corral gates to keep the young kids in.<sup>25</sup> As soon as they were able to jump over the board, they were allowed out to graze with the band. During this time the herders watched closely for tired kids that lay down to sleep; they were “real coyote bait” if left behind. Aside from the hard work involved, everyone agreed that the young goats were a joy to watch. The kids were incredibly agile, able to go most anywhere, getting along better in the rocks than on flat ground. They ricocheted off buildings, hitting the walls with all four feet and then bouncing in another direction. Sometimes their antics left a vehicle in shambles.

Herders lived in small tents, or in board and tin shacks furnished with a bed and a wood stove, often putting up fences to keep the gentle, curious goats out of their camps. In 1930 herders’ wages averaged thirty dollars a



Rancher's kid visits a kidding camp in the desert.

month. It cost the growers an additional fifteen dollars to board them on staples including coffee, canned milk, flour, lard, salt pork, beans, chilies, canned tomatoes, raisins, dried apricots, and of course, goat meat. It was a solitary life, with only their dogs for company.

Starting at the age of about six months the goats were sheared twice a year, once during the last of February to the middle of March, and once during the last of August to the middle of September, giving their protective hair a chance to grow back before the onset of cold weather. Timing of the shearing was crucial, since Angora goats have no body fat layers and are especially vulnerable to the cold until their hair grows back. Keeping them dry and warm necessitated the use of long, low sheds with metal roofs, boarded on one or two sides. Summer showers were known to have killed whole bands, and bunching up in their attempts to keep warm smothered many more. Herders were required to get in the sheds and “loosen up the packed goats.”<sup>26</sup>

To maintain the health of the band and produce maximum weight, the goats were dipped for lice and scabies at least once a year, after shearing. Every rancher had a long dipping vat filled with “Cooper’s dip.” The goats were driven in at one end and forced to swim through the dipping trough to the other end where they emerged onto a draining platform. A few goat raisers did their own shearing. Most, however, preferred to bring in contract



crews of perhaps four to six men. Some shearers were local, but crews of Mexican or Texas shearers regularly started in Southern Arizona and worked their way northward, using different methods of shearing.<sup>27</sup> Inevitably there were nicks and cuts, which were doctored immediately to prevent screwworm infestations. A skilled worker could shear 150 to 200 goats in an eight-hour day. One of the Morales sisters from Octave was reputed to be able to shear more goats in a day than most men. The clips were sorted into two groups, kid and doe/wether and then rolled up, cut side in, and tromped into six-by-four-foot wool bags placed upright in a frame. Full, these bags weighed 350 to 500 pounds each. It took three or four men to roll them onto a truck for transport to the railhead at Kirkland or Wickenburg.

At the mills the mohair, in standard lengths of six inches, went through a series of steps before it was ready for use: sorting and grading by hand into seven degrees of fineness,<sup>28</sup> washing (there was a twelve percent shrinkage), mixing from different geographical areas for uniformity, straightening, combing (twice), carding, and spinning. Men who sorted took extra safety precautions not to inhale the dust from the fleeces, which sometimes contained anthrax bacillus and caused “wool sorters’ disease.”<sup>29</sup>

After clipping, the mohair was taken to central locations where the growers and buyers met, and sold at auction. (There was an auction barn at Kirkland Junction. If mohair prices were low, the stockmen often stored their clips in the barn until the following year.) The day after the auction the growers worked together to transport the mohair to the nearest shipping point, where the loading dock would be stacked high with big sacks of mohair, branded with the grower’s initials. Viola “Vi” (Irving) Warren was a mohair broker for many years. She owned and oper-

ated the Skull Valley store, where she extended credit to goat ranchers. Their accounts were paid up twice a year, after shearing. Mrs. Warren traveled all over Arizona, contracting for mohair to be shipped to mills in the East.

### **More Yavapai Goat Raising Stories**

*Twelve-year-old Dona Leffingwell was living on the old Walker ranch in 1930 with her mother and her siblings when she met Richard "Dick" Whitehead. Whitehead was a Virginian who came to Fort Whipple as a gravely ill tuberculosis patient, having been gassed in World War I. While hospitalized, he became interested in goat ranching and began learning about the business. Upon his recovery (he lived to be ninety-two), Whitehead homesteaded in the French Gulch area and bought goats, then acquired more land and more goats until he had established Yavapai County's largest goat ranch. Dona was interested in horses, and she began caring for Whitehead's horses on the Walker ranch.*

*Dona's family moved to nearby French Gulch and her mother commuted to Kirkland, where she worked as a cook at the hotel. As a teenager Dona began helping the Mexican herders on the Whitehead ranch, packing in supplies on horseback and learning the intricacies of shearing, herding, and kidding. When Dick acquired some polled Hereford cattle in the 1930s, Dona began riding with him. They married in 1936 when she was eighteen. The Whiteheads lived in a rock house built by Dick in one of the most remote parts of Yavapai County, where Dona broke horses and raised two sons in addition to helping with the goats. She remarked, "I didn't get out much socially. I was too busy trying to keep everything fed up."<sup>30</sup>*

*Mattie Sorrells and her husband David, a health seeker, homesteaded in Peoples Valley.*

*When she was widowed in 1925 and left with three small children, Mattie moved to Yava and carried the mail from the Hillside station. Meanwhile, she astutely added property to her holdings, buying parcels from neighboring miners and ranchers. Sorrells went into the Angora goat business with the help of her brother, Will Satathite. When she needed herders, she sat in her car along "Whiskey Row" or on North Cortez Street in Prescott to recruit them as they came out of the bars. When she was short of herders her daughter, Minnie Mae, helped herd on horseback. Mrs. Sorrells hauled supplies from Wickenburg in the winter, and from Prescott in the summer. When the introduction of synthetic fibers ended the mohair market in the mid 1940s, she sold and shipped her goats to Texas.<sup>31</sup>*

### **Fashion Plays a Negative Role**

"Flat fabrics" were displacing pile fabrics in automobile upholstery for two reasons. One, women "whose tastes and preferences dictate the sales of automobile and of household furniture," complained that the mohair fabrics were hot and uncomfortable, and that the pile surface irritated their skin through the sheer stockings and thin clothing they were wearing as fashions changed. Two, the advent of rayon and cotton blended fibers provided an attractive variety of textures and colors for upholstery. "Texture rather than service dictated the selection." Mohair growers were urged to consider both an educational campaign and a research program in an endeavor to stay in the market.<sup>32</sup>

*Nel Sweeten Cooper knew a lot about goat raising and the selling of mohair, since she was born in the Angora country of Texas. Nel was a regular visitor on the Aubrey Gist ranch in Skull Valley when she met Roy Cooper, who with his father John Thomas and his brother Will were in business as Cooper and Sons. In 1923 the Coopers had ten bands of goats and five bands of sheep, which she said,*

*“they moved about over the country much as did one of the nomads of Eastern Europe.” Nel and Roy were married in Prescott in February 1923, and they boarded the train to Congress Junction. Nel’s two-week “honeymoon” was spent in the Henderson Hotel, until the shearing was completed, the mohair and wool sold and shipped. She wrote:*

*“All this time, in the midst of the hectic shearing, a place for me to live was being prepared. It was a lovely camp, which was to be temporary. It was two tents, eight feet by ten feet, walled up with lumber two feet high. Our bedroom tent was floored with one-by-twelves. The kitchen tent faced the bedroom tent with a space between, shaded by a large palo verde [tree]. There I began my cooking “career.” I knew how to cook, but I didn’t know how to cook in great quantities . . . Now there was the kidding and lambing crew, the herders—twenty to twenty-five men. I made many mistakes, but I finally learned to put enough chili tepines [sic] in the beans to burn the bottom out of any herder’s cast-iron stomach.”<sup>33</sup>*

*After their marriage, Roy Cooper homesteaded near Wagoner, attracted there by the abundant Hassayampa River water and good grazing forage. Nel filed on her own homestead, giving them more range. Cooper kept some goats and added cattle to his enterprise. Soon he began buying out neighboring ranchers along the river, and he built cattle-shipping pens that doubled as shearing corrals for the goats.*

*Catherine Janes worked beside her husband Cecil, who ran 6,000 goats between Wilhoit and Wild Horse Basin on unfenced range. She remembered that in 1943 it took three days for them to drive a band of goats from Wilhoit to the Basin. Janes herded them on horseback and she drove a pickup truck which served as their chuck wagon. Janes not only*

*herded and sheared his own goats; he sheared for others. Catherine tromped the mohair into sacks. She related that one year they were asked to help with shearing at the Cooper ranch. When the Coopers discovered that Catherine and her one-year-old son were living in a camp under a tree, they insisted that she move into their home.<sup>34</sup>*

*Mrs. W. B. “Hattie” Young was active in the Arizona Mohair Growers. She authored an article in which she described the goats in terms of personality:*

*“What sort of creature is this goat with his sudden snorts of distaste, his insatiable curiosity, this animal which cans the sunshine, wraps [it] into the long staple of his Mohair and holds it safe for ages, this animal with is beautiful long, curly, white coat of hair, this creature which is so fastidious and yet such a roughneck?*

*“If he is being herded and you remain perfectly still, curiosity will get the best of him and back he will come to investigate. If you’ll continue to remain still he will be nibbling your clothes in a few minutes, but he will not allow you to touch him . . . He is happiest when playing on large rocks, bending trees or your automobile.*

*“If he is accustomed to being herded, he loves his shepherd as his shepherd loves him. He requires a lot of attention but repays his master by producing a fiber, which has no substitute for quality and durability.”<sup>35</sup>*

*In 1931, 32-year-old Katie Van Cleve and her husband Manuel moved from Casa Grande to a 640-acre homestead east of Congress Junction, which took in Antelope Canyon and the surrounding hills. In their first year of goat ranching, the Van Cleves dealt with sheep encroachment on their grazing land, contentious miners, rustlers, inclement weather, and “baby goats everywhere” during kidding sea-*

son. In addition to canning, cooking, sewing, raising chickens, and fixing up a 13-by-14-foot cabin hauled in from Casa Grande, Katie hauled mohair to the warehouse, repaired fences, and helped in the branding, dipping, and shearing. She wrote in her diary, "Have been too busy and too worn out to write"; "Worry and hard work have made me look older"; and "A quiet depression of helplessness settles over all of us."<sup>36</sup> Not surprisingly, it was reported a couple of years later that Katie had run off with the postmaster at Congress Junction.

Press releases from the USDA document the upswing of the mohair industry after the disastrous year of 1934. In 1935 the outlook was favorable; consumption of mohair was up; prices advanced; surplus stock was reduced; goat numbers declined; and feed was plentiful. 1937 again brought higher prices and consumption, lower production costs, and higher goat prices. The outlook was for increased production. In 1939 prices were even higher and the clip had been sold by November 1. The war situation and the automobile output were "important strengthening influences on mohair prices."<sup>37</sup> 1940 saw the peak of the mohair industry in Central Arizona.

### **The Effects of World War II**

In the early part of World War II the demand for mohair increased when restrictions were placed on the use of wool for civilian use. Mohair, too, was restricted, but was deregulated in 1942.<sup>38</sup> At that time it was estimated that the War Production Board released twenty-five to thirty million pounds of mohair, "fibre [sic] unsurpassed in beauty, warmth, color values, and adaptability."<sup>39</sup>

In 1942 the future of mohair was more uncertain, as alluded to in an article in the American Wool Council newsletter: "War time [sic] elimination of automobile manufacturing, drastic changes in furniture manu-

facturing, and the cessation or limitation of other industries consuming mohair, have resulted in destroying a market for between 60 and 70 per cent of the total annual output."<sup>40</sup>

### **The End of an Era**

By 1945 the mohair market was still declining because (1) The OPA removed price ceilings on meat and the importation of cheap Argentinian wool. (2) There was uncertainty as to the continued use of mohair in manufacturing. (3) the predator problem on goat ranges was increasing.

As a result, most of the remaining goats in Arizona were sold to individual buyers and shipped to California or Texas. Yavapai County rancher Boyd Tenney ingeniously entered into a contract whereby he delivered fifty goats a week to feed the Navajo workers at the Bellmont Ordnance Depot fifteen miles west of Flagstaff.

The stockmen were happy to return to cattle ranching since it was much less labor-intensive, and few vestiges of the goat-raising period survive. There were a few feral goats in the Skull Valley area until the late 1940s. The overgrazed rangeland has long since recovered. In March 1952, the Arizona Mohair Growers treasury balance in the amount of \$798.36 was donated to the Arizona Boys Ranch and the group was dissolved because there was "no prospect of needing an organization for this industry in Arizona anymore."<sup>41</sup>



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### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> "Wealth on the Ranges". *Yavapai Magazine*, (April 1914): 7.

<sup>2</sup> Mattie Sorrells. Letter to author from Kathy Moore, Congress, AZ. 06 March 2003.

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<sup>3</sup> O. C. Fisher. *The Speaker of Nubbin Ridge: The Story of the Modern Angora Goat*, San Antonio, TX: The Tally Press, 1985.

<sup>4</sup> *Practical Angora goat Raising*. C.P. Bailey and Sons. San Jose, CA. 1905.

<sup>5</sup> "Wealth on the Ranges", *ibid.* 7.

<sup>6</sup> "Goat Men Prosper", *Yavapai Magazine*, (October 1916): 11.

<sup>7</sup> "Mohair: Most Versatile of Fibres Gains a New War-time Importance," Unidentified article Mohair Growers Association (MGA) Papers, c. 1942.

<sup>8</sup> Grace M. Sparkes, letter to Turville. January 2, 1935. MGA Box 2, F.7.

<sup>9</sup> Outstanding Projects of Arizona C.W.A., E.R.A. ERA Collection, Photo Box 19, Sharlot Hall Museum Archives, Prescott, AZ.

<sup>10</sup> Agreement between Mohair Growers Association of Arizona and Phoenix Packing Company. August 1938. MGA.

<sup>11</sup> "little goat" in Spanish.

<sup>12</sup> J. Verne Pace, letter to Cooper. June 3, 1939. MGA Box 2, F.7

<sup>13</sup> "The Angora Goat", USDA: 6.

<sup>14</sup> "Cooperative Range Goat Study Working Plan, Background and Objectives" April 1939, Box 2, F.7, MGA:18.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* 1.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 3.

<sup>17</sup> Jacob Prospect Weathersby and his son, Neuel O. Weathersby, of Klondyke, Arizona, raised some of the finest registered Angora goats in the country. "Weathersby Angoras' commanded good prices throughout the nation, with \$1,500 sales for an Angora sire not unusual. A Weathersby bred and owned Angora buck was the nation's grand champion one year." Richard G. Schaus in *The Arizona Cattlelog*, n.d. Box 12, Schaus Collection, MSS 6, Arizona Historical Foundation.

<sup>18</sup> Tenney built a milking shed with feed troughs on each side of an "alley," and installed a pasteurizing plant. In the shed were benches for the nannies to stand on while they were being milked.

<sup>19</sup> "The Angora Goat", U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin No. 1203, Washington, D.C. (November 1926): 10.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> The salaries of hunters employed by the Biological Survey were paid one-half from state funds and one-half from matching federal funds.

<sup>22</sup> The boxes were usually made from two twelve-by-one-half inch boards nailed at the top to make an A-frame, with a back. They had no floors and were easily stacked for storage between seasons. Some stockmen built square boxes with a floor.

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<sup>23</sup> Virtually all Arizona mohair growers used the "stake method" as opposed to the "corral method" where nannies and kids were all kept together.

<sup>24</sup> Pearl Satathite Ethridge.

<sup>25</sup> Made of a two-inch plank eighteen inches high with a four-inch strip on the top for a "nanny step," the jump boards were too high for the kids, but they allowed the nannies to leave the corral.

<sup>26</sup> Lyman Tenney.

<sup>27</sup> Will Satathite had a "shearing plant" where the contract crew stayed and worked. Neighbors brought their goats to his ranch for shearing. Belt-driven gasoline engines powered shearing machines fitted with combed cutter heads. Some shearers constructed board troughs, tied the goats up, and rolled them around in the troughs as they sheared. Another technique was to cut a square hold in the shearing-shed floor so that the shearer's right leg would fit into it to the knee. The goats were put into small pens so that the shearer could reach out, catch one, and throw it over his knee. Others sheared by the "sheep" or "Mexican" method, setting the animal on its rump, shearing the belly and between the front and hind legs, then quickly tying all four legs and rolling the animal on the floor to finish the job.

<sup>28</sup> Mohair sorters served a three-year apprenticeship and, with their delicate sense of touch, were able to determine the diameter of individual hairs. They also considered the length and color of the mohair. "Just A Hair's Breadth." Unidentified newspaper clipping, MGA.

<sup>29</sup> *Practical Angora Goat Raising*, *ibid.* 33.

<sup>30</sup> Dona Whitehead interview with author, 1995.

<sup>31</sup> Kathy Moore. Correspondence with author, March 6, 2003.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.* 2-3.

<sup>33</sup> Nel Sweeten Cooper in *Arizona National Ranch Histories of Living Pioneer Stockmen*, vol. 2. comp. and ed. Betty Accomazzo (Phoenix, Arizona National, 1979: 129-165.

<sup>34</sup> Catherine Janes. Letters to author, 1996.

<sup>35</sup> Mrs. W.B. Young. "Angora Goats," *Arizona Highways* (May 1940): 28.

<sup>36</sup> Bill Roberts. "A year in the life of a goat herder's wife", *The Traveler* (July-August 1997): 1, 4.

<sup>37</sup> USDA Press releases, 1936-1939. MGA Box 2, F.8.

<sup>38</sup> Ackerman, F. Eugene. "A Survey of Mohair Markets, Past and Future," *Woolfacts*. American Wool Council, New York (c. 1942): 6.

<sup>39</sup> "Mohair: most versatile of fibres gains a new war-time importance." MGA.

<sup>40</sup> Ackerman: 1.

<sup>41</sup> MGA Minutes, February 7, 1947.

# Nellie Trent Bush: Arizona Politician, Lady Maverick

By Heidi J. Osselaer, Ph.D.

Arizona has a reputation for producing maverick politicians. Barry Goldwater and John McCain earned national reputations in the United States Senate, but were often at odds with the Republican faithful on specific issues. Long before either of these men ran for office, a schoolteacher from the tiny town of Parker challenged her party's leadership and established herself as a fixture in state government.

Nellie Trent Bush began a lifelong political career in 1916 and defied any notion that women were too delicate to handle the rough stage of western politics. She ran for numerous offices, lost a few bruising elections, and was threatened by the state's political leaders. Through it all, she proved that a woman could succeed in politics without bending to powerful male politicians.

Much of Arizona was still a frontier when Nellie first arrived in 1893 at the age of five. Her father suffered from a respiratory disease that often prevented him from working, so the family lived in poverty in a tent in Mesa. As a young girl, Nellie assisted with numerous chores to help the family survive, including helping her mother provide laundry services for others and working in the fields to earn cash for school clothes. After graduating from Tempe Normal School, Nellie went to work as a teacher in Mesa, and subsequently in Glendale, where she became reacquainted with an old school chum, Joe Bush. Bush,

who had pulled Nellie's pigtails when they were younger, had also completed a college degree and was now the inspector on the trolley line Nellie rode to work. After a four-

year courtship the two were married on Christmas Day in 1912, the year Arizona became a state.<sup>1</sup>

Joe was an engineer who liked to tinker and Nellie was interested in the law. Together they made an energetic pair, always searching for advancement. Joe set out for California to find new opportunities in 1915,

but was sidetracked in Parker, Arizona, where he bought a ferry business that conducted cars and freight across the Colorado River. Joe was effusive about the possibilities for the town of Parker in his telegrams to Nellie, but after arriving on a train during a sandstorm during her sixth month of pregnancy, she was not as enthusiastic about the desolate location as her new husband. There were about thirty-five people living there in 1915, only dirt roads, no electricity or running water, and just one phone line. She feared her husband had



State Senator Nellie Trent Bush, 1934

taken leave of his senses by investing in a business in such a remote and primitive locale and thought “she’d rather die than stay here in Parker.” After a good cry, however, she resolved to make a go of it, and began almost a half-century of business and political activity in Parker.<sup>2</sup>

Joe was correct: there was plenty of opportunity in Parker. Nellie soon was teacher and principal at the one-room school house, she earned her license to pilot ferryboats (becoming the first woman in the nation to do so) so she could help Joe with the family business, and she became a new mother. Together Nellie and Joe brought many services to their community over the years, including a hotel, a bank, a power plant, and a water company. In the early days, the Bush family lived on a houseboat on the still untamed Colorado River. Later Nellie recalled, “Waves sometimes would be 8 feet high . . . Many a time when the sailing was dangerous and I thought about my baby in the pilot house, I’ve uttered a little prayer, ‘Now if you’ll just let me get this kid off of here alive, I’ll never bring him back on board again.’”<sup>3</sup> Over the years in the riverboat

business, Nellie encountered her fair share of thieves, drug runners, bootleggers, and other notorious characters, including her friend Wyatt Earp. Compared to her experiences navigating the Colorado and confronting gun-toting outlaws, the world of Arizona politics she would soon enter looked tame by comparison.

Arizona was one of the poorest states in the nation and few families could afford the luxury of domestic servants or stay-at-home wives, and like most married women in Arizona of her time, Nellie worked her entire life. During the first years of her marriage, money was so tight that Nellie had to pawn her wedding ring to afford the train ride back to Phoenix when it was time to give birth to her son. As equal participants in the work force, Arizona women were well aware of the injustices facing them in the legal system. Arizona became an early suffrage state when Frances Willard Munds and Pauline O’Neill led a successful initiative campaign to give women the vote in the fall of 1912. In 1914, Munds was elected to represent Yavapai County in the Arizona State Senate and Rachel Berry of Apache County was elected



Nellie Bush at the helm of the Parker auto and freight ferryboat, circa 1920s.

to the Arizona House of Representatives, establishing a tradition of female office holding in Arizona that has been consistently above the national average. In a state where women were so vital to the economy, voters often supported female candidates for the state legislature, and an extraordinarily ambitious and talented politician like Nellie Bush was given tremendous latitude in reaching public office.<sup>4</sup>

Bush first ran for the position of school trustee in 1916 and then ran for justice of the peace and coroner in 1918. During the justice of the peace contest, she pulled out all the stops, running a campaign ad emphasizing her education and experience as a teacher, complete with a photo in the front page of the *Parker Post*, the local paper, an unusually extravagant tactic for a low-level office seeker.<sup>5</sup> Her investment paid off, however, and she narrowly defeated the incumbent, 67 to 54.<sup>6</sup> She took her work seriously and began a correspondence course in law to help with her duties, and when some people suggested that her position overseeing marriages, inquests, and burials was an inappropriate job for a woman, Bush retorted, “As if it were any more difficult for me than for a man.”<sup>7</sup> This would become a recurrent theme throughout her political career, denying that women could not serve in office as well as men. Many observers felt that women were too uninterested and uninformed to enter into debate with men on public policy and too delicate to address coarser issues. “I am a firm believer in women going into politics—the more the better,” Bush said when she first ran for the legislature in 1920. “They simply have to eliminate some of their old fashioned ideas regarding the differences in the sexes.”<sup>8</sup>

Using her success as justice of the peace, Bush quickly launched her next campaign for representative from Yuma County in the Arizona House of Representatives. She

campaigning on her six years as a teacher in the public schools, her experience as a bookkeeper for her family business, her law studies, and as a long-time resident of the state.<sup>9</sup> In 1920 the voters of Yuma County selected two women, Nellie Trent Bush and C. Louise Boehringer, to represent them in the Arizona House. Again, Bush’s election raised the question of gender and whether a young mother was an appropriate choice for a public official. She replied that it was “all foolishness, this idea that a woman can’t hold two positions and do justice to them. The man is the head of the family, and of his business, yet no one accuses him of neglecting the one for the other. Then why put women in the feebleminded class?”<sup>10</sup>

Eight women had already served during the three sessions since women received the right to vote, but most were, like Bush, schoolteachers, and therefore usually served on the education and public welfare committees, wielding little power. Bush quickly realized that most of the leaders in the legislature were lawyers, and if she hoped to chair important committees she would have to continue her legal studies. She spent the next three years at the University of Arizona law school, one of only two women in her class. When the dean warned her not to attend class when rape cases were discussed because the topic was too disturbing for a woman, Nellie responded with characteristic good sense: “I asked if they had ever heard of a rape case that didn’t involve a woman. They let us in after that.”<sup>11</sup> She was admitted to practice law in Arizona in 1923, and in California and the federal courts in 1927. She soon had a thriving law practice and was hired to provide legal representation for the city of Parker and the Southern Pacific Railroad Company.<sup>12</sup>

Bush served in the state legislature when Governor George W. P. Hunt and his Democratic party reigned supreme. Two-

thirds of the registered voters in Arizona at the time were Democrats, but such dominance came at the cost of dissension within the party ranks. As political scientist David Berman demonstrates in his research, Arizona Democrats were split between conservative members who supported the large mining and railroad corporations in the state and the more liberal labor union supporters. The conservative, or corporation, Democrats argued that low taxes for corporations and limits on union activities would attract business and promote economic growth. Governor George Hunt led the anti-corporation forces and worked for progressive labor laws that protected workers from oppressive employers. Both factions were notorious for using corruption to advance their causes. Corporations like Phelps Dodge and the Southern Pacific Railroad were accused of bribing legislators to keep them from passing bills that hurt business interests, and Hunt used political patronage to secure control of government agencies, most notably the Highway Department, to win election to office.<sup>13</sup>

Most early Arizona female office holders campaigned on anti-corruption platforms and eschewed partisan politics to avoid entanglement in the factional debates of the Democratic Party. In the 1910s, suffrage leader and Democratic state senator Frances Willard Munds often crossed party lines to support candidates from other parties if they supported woman suffrage, prohibition, or eliminating gambling. Most Arizonans believed women to be above partisan politics and supported female candidates who promised to work for the good of the state rather than their personal enrichment. However, once in office, women found that their nonpartisan stance was a sore subject among career politicians who branded them as party renegades and asserted that if a woman was “to remain in politics in Arizona

she will ascertain that one of the prime requisites to success is party loyalty.”<sup>14</sup> Nellie Bush joined the female politicians who came before her and refused to take a position in Arizona’s factional political debates, declaring in 1920 when she first ran for the legislature, “Party? Why, I’m a Democrat, but I don’t believe in party politics to the exclusion of all else. I intend to vote for the measure which will serve the greatest interests of the state, regardless of party lines.”<sup>15</sup>

Throughout her career, Bush bowed to no one, rankling party leaders as she gained increasing clout in the legislature. During her first session, Bush served as a member of the Highways and Good Bridges Committee, which oversaw expenditures on road construction, the largest portion of the state budget. She criticized Governor Hunt for using the Highway Department to finance elections and appoint officials to patronage positions. Hunt responded by telling Bush “that he’d get me out of the Legislature one way or another.”<sup>16</sup> She later recalled, “I had gone into the Legislature with a determination to represent my county as seemed best to me. Actually I had given small thought to the Governor’s opposition. I knew he liked complete power, that he expected ‘his people’ to stand solidly behind him. I had even supported him whenever I could convince myself that what he wanted was for the public good. But I never considered myself ‘his person.’ I had considered myself as representing the voters of Yuma County and when it was necessary I stood up to be counted against him.”<sup>17</sup>

Bush soon discovered how dangerous it was to cross the governor of Arizona. In the fall of 1926, a woman had drowned under suspicious circumstances when a car Joe Bush was ferrying plunged into the Colorado River. Although Joe had done everything to save the

woman, he was sued for \$50,000 in a wrongful death suit. Nellie agonized over the ramifications of their situation: "I sat there thinking of what a fifty thousand dollar judgement [sic] against us would do, wipe out all the years of work and probably defeat me in the next election. The sure place in the world that I wanted for my son would be gone. I might even have trouble finding a job teaching school." Nellie quickly realized that the legal team behind the suit was the same one used by Governor Hunt and surmised this was a ploy to silence her opposition to Hunt's policies and the governor was making good on his promise to run her out of the legislature. The suit was dropped when it was determined the man suing Joe Bush falsely claimed to be the husband of the drowning victim. It was now Bush's turn to go on the offensive against Hunt.<sup>18</sup>

In 1927, Nellie Bush returned to the legislature with increased stature as a licensed attorney who served as a U.S. Commissioner for Arizona and, as the *Los Angeles Times* put it, "a thorn in the side of Gov. Hunt."<sup>19</sup> She became the first female to chair the powerful Judiciary Committee and was a member of the joint senate and house committee formed

to investigate the Highway Department. Bush and her fellow committee members concluded that the highway "department had been converted into a political machine," by the governor. The legislature proceeded to pass a bill limiting Hunt's ability to control patronage, which he promptly vetoed. In an

effort to curb his opponents in the legislature, the governor also vetoed many of their bills, including Bush's legislation to fund a facility for mentally disabled children. Bush was able to find sufficient votes to override Hunt's veto of this popular bill, but the lines between the two politicians had been clearly drawn.<sup>20</sup>

Bush impressed voters and her fellow lawmakers with her refusal to bend to special interests and to work for her constituents, even when her personal interests were

threatened. In 1931 she introduced a bill to provide funding for a bridge in Parker which ended the need for her ferry operation. House Speaker Michael J. Hannon voted for the billing, noting "I've ridden on Mrs. Bush's ferry. I know what she has there as a business...Mrs. Bush is hurting her own business by sponsoring this bill, I'm voting yes." Other important legislation sponsored by Bush during her long career included bills



Mrs. Bush at the Colorado River pontoon bridge that ended her long-running ferry business.

that created soil conservation districts, a water and power authority act, and the woman's jury bill.<sup>21</sup>

In 1934, Bush received enormous publicity during the Parker Dam controversy, which further elevated her profile in the state. Governor B.B. Moeur was determined to make a statement that he opposed California's

move to take more than its fair share of Colorado River water and proclaimed martial law on the Arizona side of the river to halt construction of the Parker Dam. Moeur authorized National Guard troops to intervene and commandeered Nellie and Joe's ferry boats to bring the troops across the river. Although the national press treated the "Parker Dam War" as a joke, Moeur achieved his desired effect which was to force Interior Secretary Harold Ickes to reexamine the water issues facing western

states. In the process, the national press featured numerous articles about Nellie Bush, dubbed the "Admiral of the Arizona Navy," and her photo appeared around the country. One Los Angeles reporter even wrote a poem commemorating her exploits and noted muckraker Ida Tarbell wrote an article about her in the *Boston Globe*. Nellie relished the publicity and used it to her advantage in

seeking higher office. She won a seat in the state senate in 1934 and contemplated a run for governor before deciding to seek Isabella Greenway's seat in Congress in 1936.<sup>22</sup>

Although Isabella Greenway had become Arizona's first congresswoman in 1933, some political observers still believed women had no business in politics, especially high office.

In 1935, while a state senator, Mrs. Bush countered this by telling audiences that what Arizona needed was "more she legislators instead of he legislators ... since women, [Bush] believes are more quick witted than men, more interested in the general welfare and less inclined to view an individual situation from a personal standpoint."<sup>23</sup>

To emphasize the irrelevance of gender to the congressional race, Bush chose as her campaign slogan: "The Best 'MAN' in the Race for Congress."<sup>24</sup>

The wide-open 1936 Democratic primary for Congress attracted thirteen candidates, but

Nellie Bush was considered the front runner because of her distinguished service in the legislature and the national notoriety gained during the Colorado River controversy. After she had learned to fly in the early 1930s, Joe had bought Nellie a single-engine plane, which she used to campaign around the state. She spoke to farmers, ranchers, and businessmen, outlining her platform for



Nellie Bush and the plane she piloted when campaigning and to the state capitol.

“social security, furtherance of education, development of a national farm program and aiding by tariffs and other means Arizona agriculture and industry.” As the owner of numerous small businesses with her husband in Parker, Nellie had always championed the small business owner. But she had also gained many enemies during her years in the legislature, and although George Hunt had died in 1934, many of his colleagues in labor continued his battle against Bush. The *Arizona Labor Journal* backed John R. Murdock and tried to brand Bush as a conservative Democrat because she was employed by the Santa Fe Railroad to conduct legal work in Yuma County. She was condemned as being “cold-blooded for the ‘vested interests’ of the state” and dubbed “Santa Fe Nell” for representing the railroad.

Although she had backed numerous labor bills over the years, she was faulted by organized labor for failing to support a minimum wage bill for women in 1936. Like many other professional and business women in the state, Bush did not support this particular bill because it equated women with children in the workforce and gave men a distinct advantage over women in obtaining employment. As she testified during a legislative hearing in 1937, “I won’t want men to say I can’t take any job for whatever wage I want to take it for.... If you men are afraid of your jobs, why don’t you legislate for yourselves and let us alone.” However, her attempt to obtain equal rights for working women enabled the pro-labor press to label her a corporation Democrat.<sup>25</sup>

Bush continued to attack Democratic leaders during her congressional run, blasting Governor Moeur for continuing Hunt’s practice of using the Highway Commission to control party patronage. She told a meeting of Flagstaff Business and Professional Club women the Arizona Highway Commission

was a “. . . trading machine that participated in personal politics and ordered roads on a political basis.”<sup>26</sup> However, her hopes of assuming Greenway’s seat were dashed when Martin Phelps entered the race supporting a radical old-age pension plan. Although the plan was popular with voters, Bush condemned it as a useless scheme. Her refusal to pander to popular issues and the attacks on her by the labor unions hurt her at the polls. She came in third in the primary, behind Murdock and Phelps, but her defeat for the congressional nomination did not end her political career. Yuma County voters returned Bush to the legislature in 1940 for one final session, where she narrowly lost an election that would have made her the first female speaker of a state legislature in the United States.<sup>27</sup>

During the 1940s she became a grandmother, but she did not slow down. She was appointed by Governor Osborne to represent Arizona on the Arizona Colorado River Commission in 1943 and headed the state women’s scrap metal drive during World War II. In 1955 she was named Woman of the Year for Arizona and toured Europe and the Middle East as a member of the Women’s Civil Defense Executive Board. In 1963, at the age of seventy-five, she was serving on the Parker City Council and still practicing law when she died unexpectedly of a kidney ailment.<sup>28</sup>

Bush never considered her gender to be a deterrent to office holding and expected “nothing more from a man, in politics, that he gives another man. If he wants to smoke, I say, ‘Go ahead and smoke.’ And if he wants to swear, I’ll sit by and enjoy hearing him do it. If it doesn’t hurt him, it certainly isn’t going to hurt me.”<sup>29</sup> Throughout her long career in Arizona politics, Nellie Bush took orders from no one. During an era when politicians were expected to do their party’s

bidding, as one newspaper put it, she “traded blows with the best the state offered, and asked no quarters,” establishing a tradition as a maverick politician that would well serve future generations of Arizona politicians.<sup>30</sup>



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#### ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> *Arizona Gazette*, 16 November 1934; *Arizona Alumnus*, 1963 commencement issue, vol. XL, No. 4, p. 26, Nellie T. Bush biography file, Arizona Collection, Hayden Library, Arizona State University (ASU).
- <sup>2</sup> Nellie T. Bush biography file, Ruth Manning oral interview by Dean Smith, and “History of Parker,” n.d., p. 6, all in the Arizona Collection, ASU; *Arizona Republic*, 16, 17, and 18 January 1963; *Parker Post*, 9 December 1918.
- <sup>3</sup> Arizona Women’s Hall of Fame, Nellie T. Bush, Arizona Department of State Library, Archives, and Public Records (ASLAPR).
- <sup>4</sup> Heidi J. Osselaer, “‘A Woman for a Woman’s Job’: Arizona Women in Politics, 1900-1950” (Ph.D. dissertation, Arizona State University, 2001), passim.
- <sup>5</sup> *Parker Post*, 31 August and 9 November 1918.
- <sup>6</sup> *Arizona Republic*, 1 March 1936.
- <sup>7</sup> 1 January 1920 unidentified newspaper article, Nellie T. Bush biography file, Arizona Collection, ASU.
- <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>9</sup> *Yuma Morning Sun*, 5 September 1920.
- <sup>10</sup> 1 January 1920 article, Nellie T. Bush biography file, Arizona Collection, ASU.
- <sup>11</sup> *Arizona Alumnus*, Nellie T. Bush biography file, Arizona Collection, ASU.
- <sup>12</sup> Legislative file, Nellie T. Bush, ASLAPR; *Arizona Alumnus*, Nellie T. Bush biography file, Arizona Collection, ASU; *Arizona Republic*, 17 January 1963.
- <sup>13</sup> See David R. Berman, *Reformers, Corporations, and the Electorate: An Analysis of Arizona’s Age of Reform* (Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1992), passim.
- <sup>14</sup> *Dunbar’s Weekly*, 10 October 1914.
- <sup>15</sup> 1 January 1920 article, Nellie T. Bush biography file, Arizona Collection, ASU.
- <sup>16</sup> “Life Story of Nellie Bush,” p. 313, Bush Collection, Parker Area Historical Society (PAHS); Neil R. Peirce, *The Mountain States of America: People, Politics, and Power in the Eight Rocky Mountain States* (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1972), p. 221; J. Morris

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Richards, *History of the Arizona State Legislature, 1912-1967* (Phoenix: Arizona Legislative Council, ASLAPR, 1990), pp. 14-18.

<sup>17</sup> “Life Story of Nellie Bush,” p. 317, Bush Collection, PAHS.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 314-15.

<sup>19</sup> Arizona Legislature, *Journal of the House*, 1927; *Los Angeles Times*, 16 November 1927.

<sup>20</sup> *Dunbar’s Weekly*, 19 February 1927.

<sup>21</sup> *Arizona Republic*, 11 February 1931; Arizona Legislature, *Journal of the House and Senate*, 1920-1940.

<sup>22</sup> Nellie T. Bush biography file, Arizona Collection, ASU; *Arizona Republic*, 3 November 1934; *Arizona Gazette*, 19 November 1934; *Los Angeles Times*, 8 and 12 March 1934; *New York Herald Tribune*, 14 November 1934.

<sup>23</sup> *Imperial Valley Press*, 11 April 1935.

<sup>24</sup> *Dunbar’s Weekly*, July 1936; *Arizona Republic*, 6 November 1936.

<sup>25</sup> *Arizona Republic*, 4 August 1936; *Arizona Labor Journal*, 23 July 1936; Arizona Legislature, *Journal of the House* 1937, p. 134; *Dunbar’s Weekly*, 3 February 1933.

<sup>26</sup> *Arizona Gazette*, 4 March 1936.

<sup>27</sup> *Arizona Republic*, 9 October 1936; “Twenty-Second Annual Convention of the Arizona State Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, 24--26 April 1942,” Business and Professional Women’s Club Collection, ASLAPR.

<sup>28</sup> Bush collection article, PAHS; Edward H. Peplow, *History of Arizona* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1948), p. 225; *Arizona Days & Ways*, 17 April 1955, in Nellie T. Bush biography file, Arizona Collection, ASU; *Arizona Republic*, 3 November 1942; *Arizona Republic*, 18 January 1963..

<sup>29</sup> 1 January 1920 article, Nellie T. Bush biography file, Arizona Collection, ASU.

<sup>30</sup> *Arizona Republic*, 19 May 1940.



# Robert E. Morrison: Pioneer Lawyer and Public Servant

By Jack Pfister

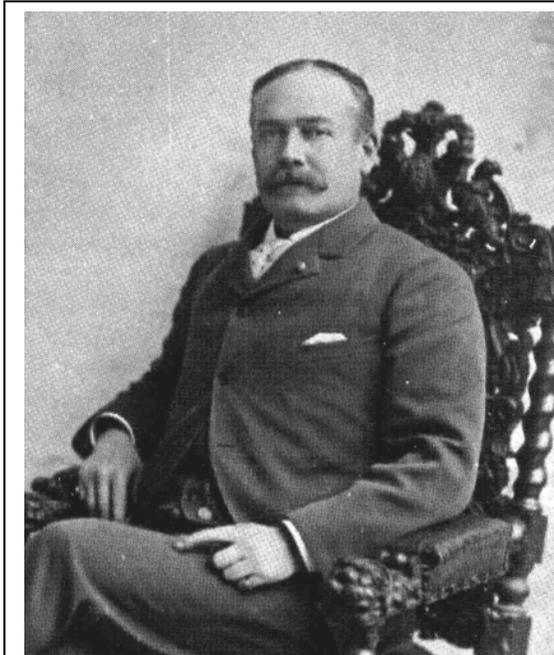
**D**uring almost 45 years in Arizona Territory, Robert E. Morrison was one of its most prominent lawyers and public servants, holding both elected and appointed offices, including three terms as Yavapai County District Attorney and one term as the United States Attorney for Arizona Territory. He also played a prominent role in the hard fought struggle for Arizona's acceptance as a state separate from New Mexico

One noteworthy sign of Morrison's contributions to Arizona is a world-famed equestrian statue on Prescott's courthouse square. As Chairman for the commission appointed to obtain a monumental tribute to Arizonans who served in the "Rough Rider" regiment of the Spanish American War, he was able to commission one of America's most famed sculptors of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries to execute the monument despite a severely limited budget.

Morrison first came to Arizona Territory in 1882 and settled on a ranch near St. Johns. His record of public service in Arizona began when he helped to clean up Apache County politics in the late 1880s, running for county office on a reform ticket. In 1891 he moved to Prescott where he resided until his death in 1927.

The oldest of six children, Morrison was born in 1856 to Jane Clark and Alexander L. Morrison. Alexander Morrison immigrated to the United States from Ireland when he was sev-

enteen years old, and soon afterward joined a New York regiment to fight in the Mexican War. Following his discharge, Alexander took up chair making in New York. He later moved to Chicago and, while continuing his trade as a chair maker, studied law.



Robert E. Morrison

According to a family historian, Alexander Morrison was a fiery, little Irishman with an intense hatred of the British. He was a member of a group, which pledged to free Ireland from British control, and returned to Ireland for that purpose. Shortly upon his arrival, Alexander was captured and imprisoned. While in prison,

he and his fellow members pledged to name their first daughter, "Erin." They returned to the United States in irons. Alexander's first daughter was indeed named Erin, and this family tradition continued for several generations.<sup>1</sup>

Back in Chicago, Alexander passed the Illinois bar and practiced law in Chicago until 1881 when President Chester Arthur ap-

pointed him to the position of Territorial Marshal for New Mexico.<sup>2</sup> Alexander and his wife moved to Santa Fe, where they were later joined by some of their children. Within a couple of years, several of the Morrison sons had established a ranch at the headwaters of the Little Colorado River in the Escadilla Mountains in east central Arizona. They gave the name Erin to a small lake just over the nearby New Mexico border.

Meanwhile, the eldest son, Robert Morrison, had followed in his father's footsteps, graduating from law school at Union College in 1877. He practiced law in his native Chicago until 1883, when he went west to help his brothers on their Arizona ranch. Soon Robert was admitted to practice law in Apache County. His name appears for the first time in county court records as legal counsel in 1884. At this time, the county seat was St. Johns, a farming and ranching community of less than 500 with an interesting history of its own.

In 1879 the Arizona State Legislature had created Apache County by carving out a portion of Yavapai County. The early period of the county was rife with political intrigue, since it consisted of a complex mixture of Latino sheep men, cattle ranchers (many of whom were from Texas), Mormons who had been ordered to settle along the Little Colorado River, and an eclectic group of other settlers who had come west to seek their fortune. Many within these different groups of settlers harbored longstanding resentments, and a constant struggle for political advantages in the area ensued. By 1884, the county was under the control of a corrupt gang known as the "St. Johns Ring," which was headed by Solomon Barth, a local merchant and sheep man. The county's many cattlemen soon became frustrated with this gang and the inadequate law enforcement of Sheriff Don Lorenzo Hubbell.

So before the 1886 county election, a group of these cattlemen organized a reform ticket, named the "Citizen's Ticket," in order to oust the "St. Johns Ring" and establish law and order in Apache County. Their ticket boasted Commodore Perry Owens for Sheriff, to replace the frequently absent and ineffective Hubbell. Owens, a native Tennessean with a reputation as a fearless marksman, had settled in the Arizona Territory around 1880. The "Citizen's Ticket" was comprised of several other prominent Apache County citizens, including the newly settled Robert E. Morrison for the combined offices of Probate Judge and School Superintendent. In opposition, the "St. Johns Ring" sponsored the "Equal Rights Ticket," which included several of its own members and Sheriff Hubbell. Both tickets conducted vigorous campaigns, with each ticket supported by one of the area's newspapers. In the end, the "Citizen's Ticket" won all but one of the races for county officers, and Owens beat Hubbell by 71 votes.

The new officers made a concerted effort to clean up Apache County. First they turned their attention toward Solomon Barth, who had been indicted prior to the election for defrauding the county. Under the new administration his trial proceeded, and he was convicted and sentenced to the Yuma prison. Then early in 1887, grand jury indictments were issued against twenty-five troublesome individuals, most charged with rustling.

To accelerate the clean up, the Apache County Cattlemen's Association, impatient to bring law and order to the county, allocated \$3,000 from its own treasury for a range detective. The Association hired the deputized J. V. Brighton, who in June of that year had shot and killed Ike Clanton, one of the surviving members of the Clanton Gang of OK Corral fame.<sup>3</sup> According to Will Barnes, Secretary of the Association, Brighton's killing of Ike Clanton brought fear to the hearts of these

bad men, and they started to leave the area to get away from “the unknown officer who shot first and read the warrant over the dead bodies of the men he was after.”<sup>4</sup>

Two other incidents contributed to cleaning up Apache County. One was the shootout in Holbrook, where Commodore Owens killed Andy Cooper. Owens carried a warrant for the arrest of Cooper, who participated in the Pleasant Valley War and was allegedly involved in rustling activities. Owens had avoided confrontation with Cooper, but in September of 1887 after being pressured to serve the warrant, he found Cooper at his mother’s home in Holbrook. When Cooper appeared at the door with gun in hand, Owens shot and killed him and two other occupants that Owens said were carrying guns and he seriously wounded a third. This incident elevated Owens to the status of a legendary gunman in western history.<sup>5</sup>

The second incident was the hanging of Jeff Wilson, Jimmy Scott, and Jamie Stott for alleged involvement in rustling activities.<sup>6</sup> The hangings were carried out by a group of vigilantes that included J. D. Houck, Jim Tewksbury, one of the principals in the Pleasant Valley War, and Tom Horn, who later was hired as a range detective by Wyoming cattlemen, but then hung for murdering a child. The shootout at Holbrook, and these hangings made it clear that Apache County was no longer a hospitable environment for thieves and crooks.

But not everyone agreed that the clean up of Apache County was complete. On November 17, 1887, an anonymous article appeared in the Albuquerque Daily Citizen entitled “Run by a Ring.” The author alleged a variety of disreputable activities by the Apache County District Attorney, Harris Baldwin, and his brother-in-law, T. W. Johnson. The article claimed that Baldwin and Johnson were par-

ticipants in a scheme to inflate the tax assessments of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad to a level that assured the railroad would protest and that Baldwin recommended to the County Board of Supervisors his brother-in-law be hired to defend the lawsuit. The article also claimed that indicted criminals were advised to dismiss their lawyers and hire Johnson to defend them and that they would receive more favorable treatment from the District Attorney. Several criminals who hired Johnson to defend them were permitted to plead guilty and leave the county rather than go to prison.

After determining that the anonymous author was Robert E. Morrison, Johnson filed a civil suit in Apache County for libel, and the District Attorney obtained an indictment against Morrison for criminal libel. Morrison’s defense was that the charges they claimed to be libelous were in fact true. But after a short jury trial, a judgment was entered against Morrison for \$500. The impartiality of the trial judge, James H. Wright, was called into question after Wright and Morrison’s attorney exchanged hostile comments at the conclusion of the trial.<sup>7</sup> So Morrison appealed the lower court’s decision to the Territorial Supreme Court, which reversed the civil judgment and ordered a new trial.<sup>8</sup> Morrison was, however, found guilty of criminal libel.

A review of the Apache County court records and the newspapers for the period in question suggests that the basic facts put forth in “Run by a Ring” were essentially correct. Yet there is little recorded evidence to confirm Morrison’s charges of criminal intent in the case of Baldwin and Johnson. However, in his autobiography the territorial pioneer, Albert Franklin Banta, who was elected Apache County District Attorney in 1888 in a race against Robert E. Morrison, does confirm the scheme to inflate the railroad tax assessment in order to provide a mechanism for siphoning

county funds, as legal fees, to Baldwin and his brother-in-law. After his election, Banta had obtained approval from the Board of Supervisors to enter into an agreement with the railroad to dismiss the litigation and reinstate a prior agreement on the level of railroad tax assessments. He convinced the Board of “the rotten condition in which they were floundering: that the schemers had gotten up an endless chain of graft.”<sup>9</sup> The new civil trial ordered by the Territorial Supreme Court never occurred. The cases were dismissed, and Morrison reached a settlement on the civil and criminal cases. The details of the settlement are unknown.

Not long after this sordid affair, on November 26, 1890, Robert married Johnnie Stinson Logan, the widow of W. T. Logan, who was a business partner in the Morrison ranch near Lake Erin.

Logan had died on May 9, 1889 from an overdose of morphine that he had self-administered to relieve the pain of a serious infection on his finger. His widow Johnnie returned to her native Kansas after his death. Robert followed her to Kansas, where they were married shortly thereafter. The couple soon returned to St. John’s, and Robert resumed his legal practice. But in 1891, disheartened by his defeat in the 1888 county election in which he had run against Banta on an anti-Mormon ticket for District Attorney, as well as his loss of the civil and criminal libel suits, the Morrisons left Territorial St.

Johns and moved to Prescott, where Robert reestablished his law practice.

Morrison quickly became involved in Yavapai County politics and was elected its District Attorney in 1892. His opponent in the race was Democrat Reese M. Ling, a native of Ohio who had moved to Arizona in 1884.<sup>10</sup> Morrison won the race by 200 votes in an election that saw both Republicans and Democrats elected to Yavapai County offices. In 1894 Morrison ran for reelection against Democrat John Frank Wilson and won by 78 votes. A few years later in 1902, Morrison would run for Congress against this same Wilson.



Elizabeth “Lizzie” Kneipp Morrison

Now settled in Prescott, the Morrisons had three children: Erin Morrison, born on July 2, 1892, Emmett T. Morrison, born on December 22, 1893, and Juanita

Morrison, born on August 5, 1896. Unfortunately, Johnnie died on August 13, 1896, from complications with her last pregnancy, leaving Robert a widower with a newborn and three small children, including a son from her previous marriage.

Following the election of President William McKinley, Morrison was appointed to the prestigious position of United States Attorney for Territorial Arizona. The U. S. Senate confirmed the appointment on February 8, 1898. Although he served with distinction, Morrison did not seek reappointment, explaining that it had been an imposition on his family respon-

sibilities and had reduced the fees from his law practice.<sup>11</sup>

During a Territorial business trip to Washington, D. C., Robert stopped in Chicago to see old acquaintances and made contact with Elizabeth “Lizzie” Kneipp. Robert and Lizzie had been childhood friends, and Robert had practiced law in Chicago with Lizzie’s deceased husband, Mathew Charles Kneipp. Mathew had abandoned Lizzie, and they had subsequently divorced. Lizzie and her two children, Leon and Inez, had then moved into her parents’ home in Chicago. To support her family, Lizzie had begun working as a sales clerk. When Robert and Lizzie reconnected, Robert proposed marriage, but Lizzie felt that she was unable to move to Arizona because she was the sole caregiver for her widowed father. However, Lizzie’s father died shortly after Robert’s marriage proposal. So, after confirming that Mathew Charles Kneipp was indeed deceased in order to satisfy Catholic requirements for the remarriage of divorced women, Robert E. Morrison and Elizabeth Augusta Klar “Lizzie” Kneipp were married

in Chicago on August 9, 1898.

Lizzie and her sixteen-year-old daughter, Inez, (the author’s grandmother) promptly moved to Prescott with Robert, who soon adopted Inez. She entered St. Joseph’s Academy in Prescott and would graduate in May of 1901. At the time of the move, Lizzie’s eighteen-year-old son, Leon, remained in Chicago. But at the urging of his stepfather, Leon ultimately moved to Prescott and took a job as a Forest Ranger in the newly created Prescott Forest Reserve. He began in April of 1900 at a monthly salary of \$60.00, half of which he would spend just to feed his horse.<sup>12</sup> Yet Leon advanced rapidly and took on positions of increasing responsibility. After 46 years of distinguished service, he retired from the National Forest Service as the Assistant Chief of the Forest Service in Charge of Land Acquisition. Leon Kneipp died in 1966 just shy of his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday.<sup>13</sup>

When Robert and Lizzie married, he made two promises, a new home in Prescott and domestic help. So, shortly after their arrival,



R. E. Morrison home on South Marina Street, Prescott, circa 1902

Lizzie began planning the family home. In 1902 the Morrison's Queen Anne-style home was completed at 300 S. Marina. Today this house is one of Prescott's most outstanding territorial homes. It was certified for the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 and was refurbished in the 1990s. Robert kept the second promise when Bette Washington and her two young children moved into the Morrison's new home. Bette, described in the 1900 U. S. Census reports as "colored help," helped with the housework and caretaking of the Morrison children.

The same year their home was completed, Robert E. Morrison ran for Arizona's U. S. Congressional seat against John Frank Wilson. Born in Tennessee on May 7, 1846, to a slave holding family, Wilson had fought for the South in the Civil War. Rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel, he would thereafter become known as Colonel Wilson. After the war, he had a variety of occupations before finally becoming a lawyer. Wilson practiced law in Arkansas before relocating to Territorial Arizona, where he established a successful practice. Like many other territorial lawyers, Wilson had an eclectic practice, but tended to specialize in mining law. In 1896 Territorial Governor B. J. Franklin appointed Wilson to Territorial Attorney General, a position in which he served until a change of parties in 1897, when he returned to his law practice. In 1898 Wilson challenged incumbent Mark Smith for the Democratic nomination to Congress. However, Smith withdrew from the race because of his wife's poor health, and Wilson became the nominee. His opponent was Republican Alexander O. Brodie, well known in Territorial Arizona as the commander of the Rough Riders who had succeeded Theodore Roosevelt. After a campaign in which both candidates visited the entire territory, Wilson had 8,212 votes and Brodie had 7,384. Although Brodie lost this race, his former commander, President Roo-

sevelt, appointed him Territorial Governor, effective July 1, 1902.<sup>14</sup>

Mark Smith again sought the Democratic nomination in 1900 and opposed Congressman Colonel Wilson. The delegates to the September 12 convention were unable to select a nominee, so Smith and Wilson continued to campaign for the nomination until October 12, when Wilson withdrew to unite the party.<sup>15</sup> Smith went on to win the General Election, but decided not to run for reelection. So at the 1902 Democratic convention, former Congressman Colonel Wilson was nominated by acclamation. His Republican opponent would be Robert E. Morrison.<sup>16</sup>

Both Wilson and Morrison conducted spirited campaigns, traveling around the entire Territory. A delegation of local party officials would meet them when they arrived in a town, and a rally would be held. Lizzie Morrison, often accompanying her husband on these campaign trips, would usually meet with a group of the town ladies. A party dignitary would introduce the candidates, and they would give a rousing speech. Both Wilson and Morrison were widely known for their oratorical skills, and newspapers reported that they were enthusiastically received. Yet the two candidates made only one joint appearance—in Holbrook.

The newspapers of the era were highly partisan, and the reports on the campaign appearances, depending on the paper's political leanings, contained either complimentary or derogatory observations about each candidate. Yet the focus of the campaign remained on two key issues: the populist theme of the plight of the workingman and statehood for the Territory separate from New Mexico. Both Wilson and Morrison felt that their election would improve Territorial Arizona's chances for statehood separate from New Mexico. Since Oklahoma and New Mexico,

both seeking statehood as well, would likely elect Republican congressmen, Wilson felt that electing a Democrat to the U. S. Congress would improve the Territory's chances. Morrison, of course, held a contrary view. Former Congressman Smith returned from a trip to Europe in time to support Wilson's campaign and also argued that a Democrat would be the most useful in securing passage of a statehood bill.<sup>17</sup>

The final election tally was 9,716 for Wilson, 9,239 for Morrison, and 733 for minor party candidates.<sup>18</sup> Having won a close race, Wilson went on to serve his second term in the 58<sup>th</sup> Congress, while Morrison returned to his law practice.

Morrison, however, remained active in Territorial politics. He was elected Yavapai County Attorney in 1906, and in that year he chaired the Yavapai County Republican delegation to the Bisbee convention and was unanimously chosen the permanent chairman of the convention. He responded to complaints that the rights of delegates to the convention who supported a joint statehood resolution were "ruthlessly trampled upon" in a letter to his friend Governor J. H. Kibbey, "After reviewing the convention process, Morrison asserted that "there was absolutely no coercion or unparliamentary (sic) treatment of joint statehood delegations in the convention."<sup>19</sup>

While Morrison pursued his political and legal endeavors, his family was maturing. Sometime after she graduated from St. Joseph's Academy, Inez began seeing Dr. John K. McDonnell, who had arrived in Prescott in 1892 after graduating from Dartmouth College. McDonnell initially worked for Harry Brisley as a pharmacist. However, by the time he and Inez met, he worked at Crown King. The two were married in 1904. Their daughter Roberta was born in 1905 and was

soon followed by Kathryn in 1906 and Betty in 1908.

Unfortunately not long after this, Morrison would experience a series of tragedies. In 1910 his wife Lizzie died from Bright's disease after a prolonged illness.<sup>20</sup> The choir at the Catholic Church of Prescott would miss Lizzie, once a leading soprano at St. Patrick's in her native Chicago. Morrison's son-in-law, Dr. McDonnell, died in 1911 from a ruptured appendix in Jerome, where he had moved his family for his medical practice. Inez and her three children then moved back to Prescott to live in the house on Marina Street, where she assumed management of the household.

Morrison's son Emmett attended Georgetown University from 1911 to 1914 and then went to law school at Northwestern University. Afterward, he returned to Prescott to practice law with his father. He also served in World War I, but despite letters of recommendation from many of Arizona's political elite, he was not admitted to officers' training. In 1921 Emmett married Libby Akin, and their daughter Erin Mary Morrison was born in 1923. Yet after her birth, something happened that made Emmett leave Prescott and abandon his family. There is reason to believe that he may have embezzled money from one of his father's clients.

Soon thereafter, Morrison began a downward spiral of health and financial problems that would lead to his death in 1927. He had mortgaged the family home to a bank in order to raise funds to cover his debts. Morrison then transferred the title to the bank with an understanding that he could live there and pay rent until the bank sold the house. But after disposing of all of his assets, there were still insufficient funds to pay all the creditors, who in the end received less than 25% of their claims against his estate. This was a tragic conclusion to a distinguished career of an in-

dividual who always prided himself on his integrity and professionalism and who struggled to rectify his son's misdeeds. Emmett did not attend his father's funeral, and his adult daughter later was unable to trace his wanderings after he left Prescott.

In addition to his professional and political legacy in Arizona, one of Robert E. Morrison's most enduring contributions is the role he played in the Rough Rider Monument that today graces the Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza. Morrison was chairman of a commission appointed by the Arizona Legislature to select a suitable memorial for Arizona's Rough Riders. He volunteered to go east to consult with a sculptor, but became discouraged when he was unable to find one who would complete the project for the amount of funds allotted by the legislature. However, noted sculptor Solon Borglum heard of the project and offered to create the monument. When Morrison told him that they had only \$10,000, Borglum is reported to have said, "Mr. Morrison, you shall have your monument." What is reputed to be one of Solon Borglum's finest works now sits upon a piece of Prescott granite, facing north as a proud tribute to the Rough Riders and Captain William O'Neill. The Monument appropriately includes, among other names of the Memorial Commission, Robert E. Morrison.<sup>21</sup>



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#### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Leon F. Kneipp, "Family History Notes," August 1947. A copy of this unpublished manuscript is in the possession of the author.

<sup>2</sup> James H. McClintock, *Arizona, Prehistoric, Aboriginal, Pioneer, Modern: The Nation's Youngest Commonwealth Within a Land of Ancient Culture*, Vol. 3 (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1916), 175-76.

<sup>3</sup> Harold L. Edwards, "The Man Who Killed Ike Clanton," *True West* 38 (1991): 24-29.

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<sup>4</sup> Will C. Barnes, *Apaches & Longhorns: The Reminiscences of Will C. Barnes*, ed. Frank C. Lockwood (Los Angeles, CA: The Ward Ritchie Press, 1941), 132-34.

<sup>5</sup> Larry D. Ball, "Commodore Perry Owens - The Man Behind the Legend," *The Journal of Arizona History* (Spring, 1992): 27-56.

<sup>6</sup> Recent research, however, has raised questions about their guilt. See Leland J. Hanchett, *The Crooked Trail To Holbrook* (Phoenix: Arrowhead Press, 1993).

<sup>7</sup> *Apache Review* (May 30, 1888).

<sup>8</sup> *Johnson v. Morrison*, 3 Ariz. 109, 21 Pac. 465, (1889).

<sup>9</sup> Frank D. Reeve, ed., *Albert Franklin Banta: Arizona Pioneer*, Publications in History, *Historical Society of New Mexico* XIV (1953): 119-24.

<sup>10</sup> Ling had been one of the first graduates from the Normal School in Tempe, where he then taught for several years before going to law school at the University of Michigan. After law school, Ling practiced in Chicago for six months before returning to Prescott.

<sup>11</sup> John S. Goff, *The Secretaries, United States Attorneys, Marshals, Surveyors General and Superintendents of Indian Affairs 1863-1912 (Arizona Territorial Officials)*, Vol. 4 (Cave Creek, AZ: Black Mountain Press, 1988), 94-95.

<sup>12</sup> Kneipp, "Family History Notes"

<sup>13</sup> FHS,

[http://www.foresthistory.org/Research/usfscoll/people/WO\\_Staffs/Kneipp.html](http://www.foresthistory.org/Research/usfscoll/people/WO_Staffs/Kneipp.html).

<sup>14</sup> John S. Goff, *The Governors 1863-1912 (Arizona Territorial Officials)*, Vol. 2 (Cave Creek, AZ: Black Mountain Press, 1978), page. 178

<sup>15</sup> Jay J. Wagoner, *Arizona Territory, 1863-1912: A Political History* (Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1970), 361-62.

<sup>16</sup> Morrison had won the nomination over William F. Nichols by a narrow margin. See John S. Goff, *The Delegates to Congress, 1863-1912 (Arizona Territorial Officials)*, Vol. 3 (Cave Creek, AZ: Black Mountain Press, 1986), 164-65.

<sup>17</sup> Jay J. Wagoner, *Arizona Territory, 1863-1912: A Political History* (Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1970), 400.

<sup>18</sup> John S. Goff, *The Delegates to Congress, 1863-1912 (Arizona Territorial Officials)*, Vol. 3 (Cave Creek, AZ: Black Mountain Press, 1986), 165.

<sup>19</sup> Robert E. Morrison to Hon. J. H. Kibbey, 12 September 1906. A copy of this unpublished letter is in the possession of the author.

<sup>20</sup> Bright's disease, known today as nephritis, is a historical classification of kidney diseases no longer in use.

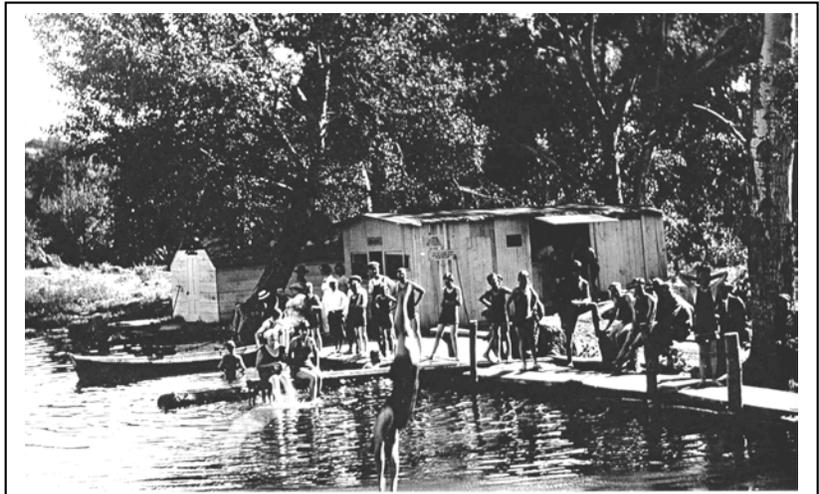
<sup>21</sup> "The Arizona Rough Rider Monument and Captain W. O. O'Neill," Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott Evening Courier,

## Snapshots from the Dells: Prescott's Summer Playground

From Prescott's earliest days the area of spectacular rock formations known as Point of Rocks located several miles northeast of town was a popular place for outings by both local residents and the military from Fort Whipple. These picnics had an added dose of spice because of the occasional presence of local Indians who were slowly getting used to the white man and his ways.

The area remained mostly wild and undeveloped until the 1880s when the Thomas Wing family homesteaded a quarter section of land that they named Granite Dells, a name that gradually came to replace Point of Rocks as the area's name. The Wing property had an abundance of natural beauty and a good supply of water that they used to irrigate a variety of crops they sold in town and at Fort Whipple.

Granite Dells also contained a small rainwater-fed lake that was noted for "moss, seaweed, cat tails and water bugs." Despite these unattractive features, the lake was a magnet for the Wing



The original Granite Dells bathhouse

sons and their friends and it became the unofficial town "swimmin' hole."

After a disastrous flood in the summer of 1891, the future of Granite Dells changed beyond farming. Various entrepreneurs leased

parts of the land, including the lake, as a summer resort that offered picnicking, bathing, boating, dancing and other entertainment. Special trains ran to the resort from town on weekends. Free bathing was offered for ladies who provided their own bathing suits. By 1903 the resort boasted a canvas-covered dance pavilion that could accommodate between 300 and 400 people. There also was a baseball field with grandstand seats fronted by wire screens to protect the spectators.

After World War I, the Payne brothers, descendants of Thomas Wing, determined to begin extensive



The new Granite Dells bathhouse and concession stand

improvements to the resort, beginning by cementing the swimming pool's bottom and building a new dance pavilion. They also dredged out a new lake 500 yards north and it became the boating and fishing lake. When the pool was cemented, a well was dug to provide fresh water to fill the pool and a ditch carried the overflow to the boating lake. Over the years, further improvements were made including a new bathhouse and concession stand and yet another replacement dance pavilion.

The Dells fared well as a resort during the 1920s and 1930s. The dance hall was popular and the swimming pool was full all summer. A number of small cabins were available and well occupied



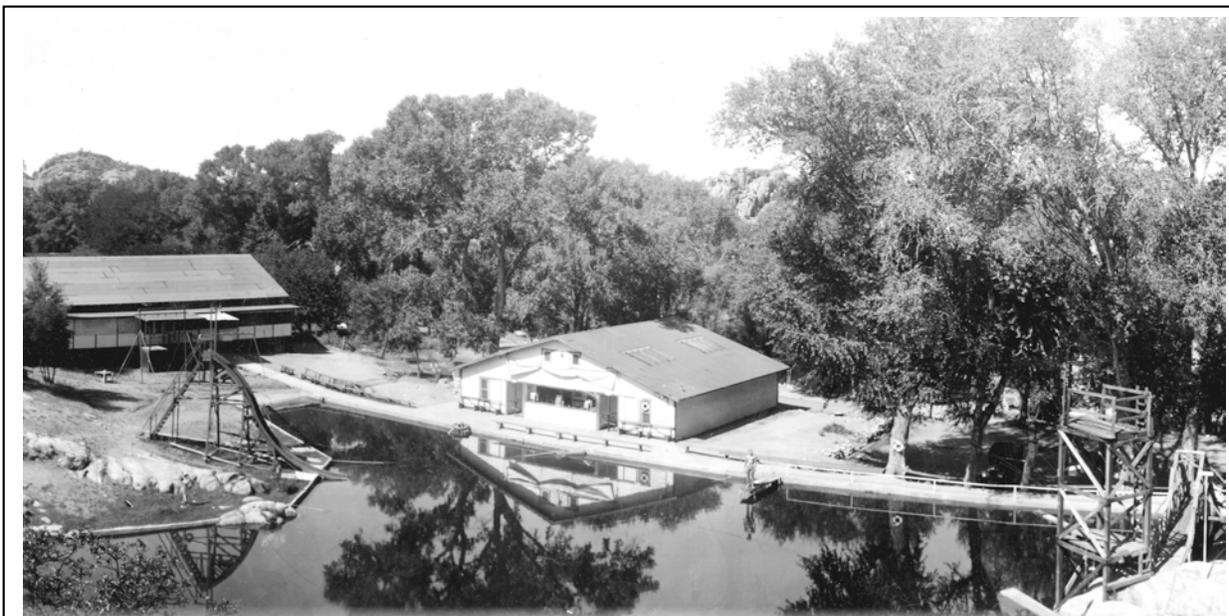
Dells Pool with screened dance pavilion in background

in season. With its multiple offerings Granite Dells was a well-rounded resort for its day.

Over time tastes changed, the twice-weekly dances ended and pool attendance waned. The doors to Prescott's first resort closed about 1971 due to Morris Payne's declining health plus

sharply rising insurance costs and expensive new safety regulations. The last dance pavilion and bathhouse still stand but the pool has been drained and partially filled with rubble.

*Sources: Oral Histories of Morris Wing Payne and his son, Sherman Payne at the Sharlot Hall Museum.*



Overview of Granite Dells Resort showing pavilion, bathhouse and island diving platform

## ***ABOUT US***

The Prescott Corral was founded in 1962 as an affiliate of Westerners International, an organization dedicated to the preservation of the real history of the American West. Its original membership list, which included such well-known residents as Budge Ruffner, Gail Gardner, Danny Freeman, Bruce Fee and George Phippen, comprised a virtual “Who’s Who” of local historians, a tradition that is continued today by the 200 members of the 2008 Prescott Corral.

The Prescott Corral has a well-earned reputation for excellence with respect to the Western history programs it presents to its members and guests during its monthly dinner meetings at the historic St. Michaels Hotel and for the annual Western History Symposium it co-sponsors in the fall of each year with the Sharlot Hall Museum.

## ***ABOUT THE AUTHORS***

**Mona Lange McCroskey** is a fourth-generation Arizonan, and a member of a pioneer ranching family in Yavapai County. She grew up on the Yolo Ranch near Camp Wood and the SV Ranch northeast of Wikieup. Mona has bachelors and master’s degrees in southwest history from Arizona State University and a master’s of library science from the University of Arizona. In 2000 Mona received the Sharlot Hall Award for her contribution to the preservation of Arizona history, mainly from her work as Sharlot Hall Museum’s oral historian. In 2005 she was selected as an Arizona Culture Keeper.

**Heidi J. Osselaer** received her undergraduate degree in History at the University of California, Berkeley, and earned both her master’s degree and doctorate in U.S. History at Arizona State University. In the Spring of 2009, the University of Arizona Press will publish her book, *Winning Their Place: Women in Arizona Politics, 1883-1950*. Her paper, “Nellie Trent Bush: Arizona Politician,” garnered two awards at the 2008 Arizona Historical Conference. Currently she teaches U.S. History at Arizona State University, Tempe, and serves on the Scholars’ Committee of the Arizona Women’s Heritage Trail.

**Jack Pfister** is a third generation Arizonan who was born in Prescott. He obtained engineering and law degrees from the University of Arizona. He practiced law in Phoenix before joining the Salt River Project where he served as general manager for fifteen-years. Following his retirement from SRP he taught and held administrative positions at Arizona State University. He retired from ASU in 2002. His numerous community involvements include a term on the Arizona Board of Regents. Robert E. Morrison was his step-great grandfather.

The PRESCOTT ARIZONA CORRAL of



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