

*Souvenir of the Dedication
of the*

**New Half Million Dollar
Community Water
System**



Distribution System 1883-1898. John Yost & Partner.

Flagstaff, Arizona
June 18, 1926

Cocconino Sun, Flagstaff

In about the year 1875, Bear Howard and Harry Melbourn were camped in the vicinity of the San Francisco Peaks on a bear hunt. Howard in his search for game tracks drifted into the inner basin canyon, followed the creek in the bottom of this canyon to its source and found a very large spring. The town of Flagstaff had not yet been established, but the location where it now stands was known as Antelope Park, having been so called by Tom McMillan, John (Slow) Wilson, and other early settlers. McMillan had a band of sheep in this neighborhood, his ranch being out at what is now known as the Clark Ranch, owned by the city of Flagstaff.

About this time a party of immigrants from Boston, who originally intended to settle on the Little Colorado River, became dissatisfied with the location and started for Prescott. Their trail took them near the little spring on the Clark place, where on the Fourth of July, 1876, they celebrated the occasion with a makeshift flag on the old original flag pole which they had improvised at that time. Slow Wilson and Gorham A. Bray (who later became the first mayor of Flagstaff) were members of this party. Tom McMillan, Sr., claims to have buried a nickel at the foot of this flag pole.

Bear Howard's home was on Oak Creek, and he is grandfather of the Purtyman boys.

About this time a great fire burned over the inner basin in the Peaks and Frank Hart, for whom Hart Prairie was named, described this fire as being a most tremendous and spectacular one. He claims Indian started the fire in order to drive the deer down from the mountains.

In 1893 Jack Smith and Jim Lamport located the spring which they called the Jack Smith Spring. Lamport sold his interest to Smith, who later gave a half interest to Mrs. Smith. She later became the wife of Joe Treat. Smith sold his remaining interest to H. C. Lockett, and Mrs. Treat and Mr. Lockett later, in about 1898, sold their entire interest to the Town for \$1,400.00.

During the period from 1883 to 1898 water was hauled to the people in town from Leroux Spring out Fort Valley way and from the Old Town Spring, and sold at 50 cents, \$1.00 and \$1.50 per barrel, depending upon the amount of water available. There were few if any bath tubs in town. The Old Town Spring would go dry occasionally but the Leroux Spring has never been known to go entirely dry, so that when the water was hauled from Leroux Spring it was scarce and expensive. Fire fighting was a heroic task in those days. An old wooden tank, 500 gallon capacity, which was kept up by the A. L. & T. mill, would race down from the mill and a long line made up of anyone who was available would haul the water from the tank and throw it on the fire. If the fire had gained any headway at all it always meant a total loss. In about 1895 the Town purchased a twelve-man hand pump and this was attached to the tank for pumping purposes. Continual dry spells and expensive water, added to a growing community induced the people to look about for water supply prospects. Jack Smith Spring seemed to offer the greatest advantages.

The Santa Fe Railway Company owned the land on which the Jack Smith Spring was located and Babbitt Brothers held a lease on the spring for a short period in about 1886 or 1887. It was decided to investigate the possibilities of a flow line from the springs toward town, and a preliminary survey was made by a Mr. McWilliams in about 1895. He was backed by Mr. Fleming (owner of the Fleming Building in Phoenix), and their plan was to supply the town with water at an annual cost of \$2,200.00 for 22 fire hydrants. This project never materialized, although the line as surveyed by McWilliams was practically the same as it exists today.

In 1898 Julius Aubineau, mayor of Flagstaff and to his untiring efforts are due in a large measure the final construction of the flow line and the first reservoir. He engaged the Railroad Company engineers to make a survey at a cost of approximately \$10,000.00. These engineers were George Buons, Chief Engineer on the project, Mr. Vanderwerker, Edward Louns, Mr. White, Mr. Harris (now Chief Engineer of the Santa Fe Railway), and James Lamport. A bond election was held and \$95,000.00 voted to be expended on the work. The Phoenix Constructing Company through Mr. Sturdevant, then Manager, took the bonds for this work and sold them at about 95 percent. Later an additional \$10,500.00 in bonds was voted to finish the project. All of these bonds have been paid off with the exception of \$10,000 worth, which are due for retirement between 1926 and 1928, when the last of them will be paid off.

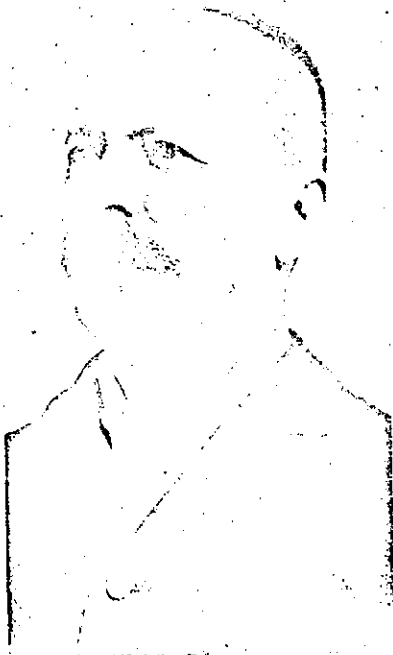
As part of this work a six-inch vitrified pipe line was constructed from a dam at

Jack Smith Spring to a three-million gallon reservoir, which still stands not far from the present reservoir. This pipe was connected with the dam up at the springs, but the dam later became useless on account of leaks, and in the summer of 1899 the present tunnels leading to the water sources were dug by John Marshall. From the reservoir to the town there was laid an 8-inch cast iron pipe. This system was completed in 1899 and about 300 service connections were made.

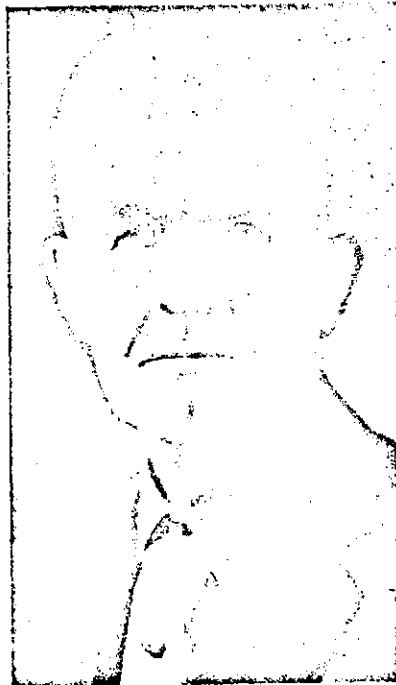
In about the year 1900 it was found advisable to install a pipe line from the Flagstaff and Snowslide Springs to the Jack Smith Spring intake, and the Arizona Lumber & Timber Company advanced the money for the development of these springs and the installation of a four-inch riveted steel line.

When the water system was completed into town hose carts were donated by Ed Ayer, D. M. Riordan and Mr. Nevin, and volunteer fire companies were organized. This system continued in use until 1915 when the Santa Fe Railway Company constructed a 50-million gallon reservoir and installed an eight-inch vitrified flow line to it from the springs. This work was done under the direction of Mr. George Millet of the Santa Fe Railway Company. He and his associates were very helpful to the town in this work. To connect with this new reservoir the town installed an eight-inch cast iron line to the town limits.

About this time in 1903, the Officials of the Arizona Lumber & Timber Company, appreciating that the water situation with the town as well as the Railroad Company was a serious and most important one and required drastic measures if the industries of the town and of the Santa Fe Railway Company and the stockmen were to be taken care of, proceeded on their own account by the expenditure of approximately \$50,000, to impound the waters in the canyon southeast of town by the building of a dam about 1,000 feet in length and 40 feet in height, creating thereby the magnificent body of water seven miles long, which is now known as Lake Mary. This lake was named after the eldest daughter of T. A. Riordan, President of the Company.



*Julius Aubineau, Mayor of
Flagstaff, 1898*



*John Marshall, Water Superintendent
1906-1926*