

Phoenix

The name Phoenix comes from the fabulous Phoenix Bird which takes us back to some of the oldest known civilizations on earth - to ancient Egypt and India, where the symbol of the bird plays an important part in mythical accounts of the creation of the world.

Geb, the earth, and Nut, the sky, produced a mighty egg - the germ from which the whole universe was born. Out of this egg came the fabulous Phoenix, symbol of the sun, a bird which primitive Christianity adopted as a representation of Christ because of the peculiar way in which it is supposed to die and come to life again.

(Webster's Phoenix - "In Egyptian religion, a miraculous bird, the embodiment of the Sun God. The bird was fabled to live for 500 years, to be consumed in fire by its own act and to rise in youthful freshness from its own ashes.")

Darrel Duppa, an Englishman, is credited with suggesting the name of Phoenix. "We will name the settlement Phoenix for, as the ancient Phoenix bird of mythology arose from out of its own ashes, so will Phoenix arise from out of the ashes of the ancient Ho Ho Kam who's civilization once flourished here in the Valley of the Sun Centuries ago."

Ho Ho Kam culture flourished here under the sun from AD 400 to AD 1300. They depended almost solely on agriculture which in turn was dependent upon irrigation. The canals they used for watering their corn and squash along the river are still in evidence. The big mystery - from whence came they and whithersoever did they go. The ultimate fate of the Ho Ho Kam is shrouded in the veil of antiquity.

Later Events:

1827 - Kit Carson had his first fight with Apache Indians on the Salt River.

1845 - U. S. declared war on Mexico May 14th. Colonel Phillip Cooke led a Mormon Battalion thru the southwest enroute to the Pacific Coast.

1848 - Treaty with Mexico set Gila River as the International Boundary.

1864 - The first white man to pitch his tent on the site of Phoenix was P. T. Smith who made a hay camp to supply the army at Fort McDowell

1865 - Fort McDowell was established as an important army post on the west bank of the Verde River by Brigadier General John S. Mason. First permanent white settlement near this valley was at Fort McDowell. Phoenix was nothing but an Indian village in the center of the desert.

1867 - Jack Swilling, Confederate leader, built the first white man's canal from the Salt River into what is now Phoenix.

1868 - The Phoenix settlement was first called Mill City. "Phoenix" the name which had been given to the settlement by Darrel Duppa a year or two before was used officially by the Board of Supervisors of Yavapai Count when they formed an election precinct and called it Phoenix.

1869 - A post office was created near modern Phoenix on June 16th with Jack Swilling a postmaster.

1870 - Townsite of Phoenix was laid out on October 20th. 320 acres were purchased for \$50 which was raised by popular subscription for the townsite. 61 lots were sold at an average of \$48 each. Judge Berry of Prescott paid \$116 for first town lot on the southwest corner of First and Washington Streets.

1871 - Phoenix population was 300. Phoenix was named as the county seat of the newly formed Maricopa County.

1872 - Three Chinese started a laundry in Phoenix. The military telegraph reached Phoenix from Maricopa Wells. Morris Goldwater became the first operator of the Phoenix telegraph station. (E. Note: I asked U. S. Senator Barry Goldwater if this was his dad or grandfather and he said it was his uncle. He said the first time his uncle Morris got on the wire, his operation of the telegraph key was so poor that some operator on the other end of the wire told him to get the H--- off the line.) First public school was opened September 5th with attendance of about 20.

1875 - 16 saloons in Phoenix, 4 dance halls, 2 monte banks and 1 fargo table.

1877 - First paper in Phoenix "Salt River Valley Herald".

1878 - Ice was first manufactured in Phoenix.

1880 - Phoenix population 2,453 of which 109 were Chinese.

1881 - City of Phoenix first incorporated in February. Phoenix established a transportation record when stage arrived and departed on the same day. First city elections held. Alsap was elected Mayor.

1887 - First Southern Pacific train arrived in Phoenix on July 4th.

1889 - State Capitol was transferred from Prescott to Phoenix.

1895 - The Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix R.R. finished in March and connected with the southern transcontinental rout at Phoenix.

1901 - Ten acre plot was donated for the new State Capitol.

1903 - Roosevelt Dam was authorized by Congress on March 10th.

1907 - Telephone service was installed in Phoenix by the Sunset Telephone and Telegraph Company. Phoenix population was 15,000. Top salary for telephone lineman was \$45 per month - 10 hours day.

1908 - There were 12 telephone employees. There were about 300 subscribers. A telephone line between Phoenix and Tucson was finished. Night telephone service was first established.

1910 - There were two telephone companies with a total of 1000 subscribers. A few automatic telephones were installed that year. Through telephone service connected Phoenix with the Pacific coast. Roosevelt Dam was constructed.