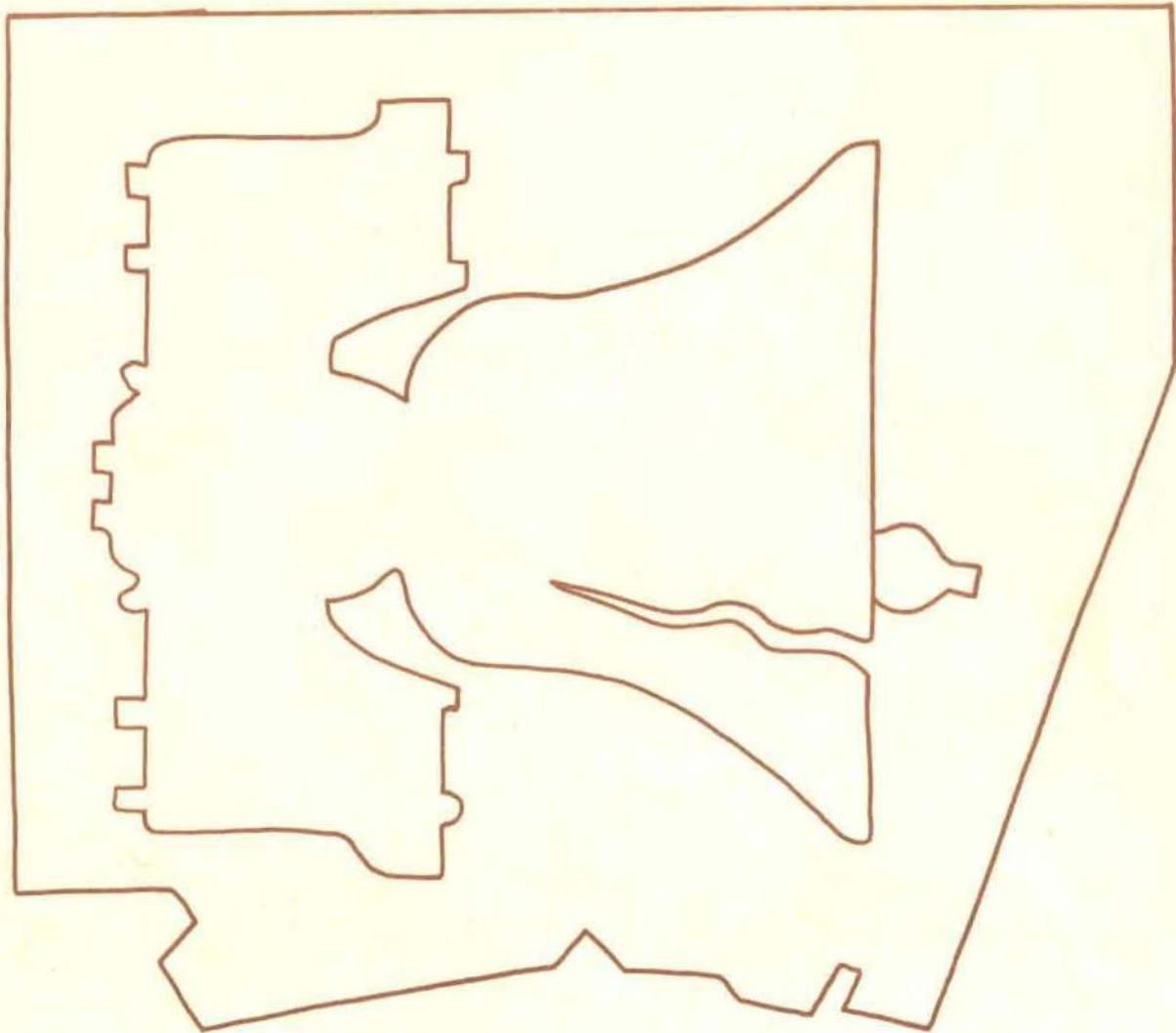


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CONTENTS

Heritage '76

3

November 7

by Jeanne L. Graham

19



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P. O. Box 818  
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HISTORICAL and ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 818  
Douglas, Arizona 85607

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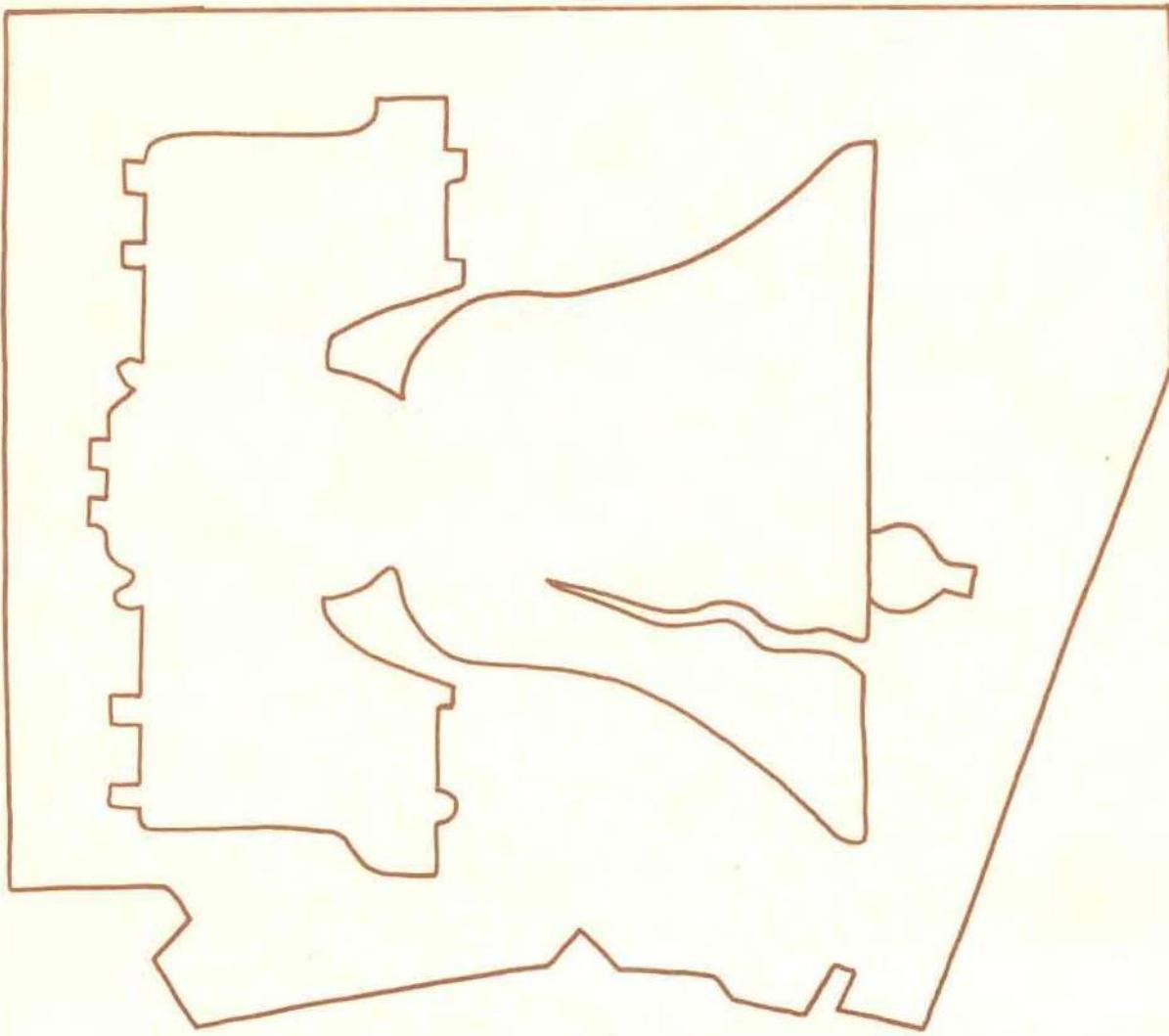
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## HERITAGE '76

Heritage is the contribution of the past to the present; the accumulation of characteristic qualities and historical events which form our country. The chronology herein provides a comparison of American and Arizonan history emphasizing those incidents that demonstrate the uniqueness of our background.



AMERICA	CHRONOLOGY	AL
Lief Erickson — landed on the North American Continent.	1000	Cochise People — Pr present-day Bisbee.
Thorfinn Karsofni — Attempted to settle in the new world.	1004	
	1100	Hohokam Indians —
	1200	over 200 miles of cana Anasazi Indians — Fi Oraibi — The oldest c ment in the United S
	1250	Disappearance of Mog lived in this area since
Greenland — Last verified record of Norse visits to America.	1347	
Sinclair and Zeno Possible visit to Nova Scotia.	1398- 1400	Hohokam Indians — Lo valleys
Christopher Columbus—landed in the New World. Amerigo Vespucci — explored the New World. Martin Waldseemulle—Suggested the New World be called America.	1492 1507	
John Cabot — Discovered Hudson Bay.	1509	
Juan Ponce DeLeon — Sighted Florida and explored the area briefly.	1513	
Panfilo DeNarvaez — Sailed from Spain and landed near Tampa, Florida.	1526	
Cabeza de Vaca — Expedition landed on west coast of Florida.	1528	Don Jose de Basconale on a trip to the Zuni t
Jacques Cartier — Ascended the St. Lawrence River.	1534	

## AMERICA

## CHRONOLOGY

Hernando de Soto — Left Cuba and explored much of southeastern North America.

1536 Cabeza de Vaca — Crossed Arizona from Texas in search of the Seven Cities of Cibola.  
Estevan — A Black Man, one of the first explorers of the Southwest.

1539 Marcos de Niza — A Franciscan friar sent from New Mexico to investigate the Seven Cities of Cibola.

1540 Francisco Vasquez de Coronado — Led an expedition into the Arizona region.  
Cardenas — One of Coronado's men located the Grand Canyon.  
Alarcon — Reached the Colorado River by boat, used small boats as the mouth of the Colorado.

Diaz — Made explorations in the Southwest.  
Diaz — Died in the desert.

Hernando de Soto — Crossed the Mississippi River south of Memphis.

1541 Diaz — Died in the desert.

Cabrillo — Died in an unsuccessful attempt to rendezvous with Coronado, thus postponing further Spanish exploration.

1542 Coronado — Returned to New Mexico after failure of his mission.

First European Settlement — St. Augustine, Florida, September 8.

1565

Espejo and Faran — Led an expedition north to Cibola (Zuni), New Mexico. They discovered silver mines in the Jerome area along the Colorado River.

Sir Walter Raleigh — Shipped immigrants to Roanoke Island.  
Virginia Dare — First English child born on the North American continent, August 18.

Jamestown, Virginia — First permanent English settlement founded, May 13.  
Hudson — Explored Canadian wilderness.

Pilgrims — Signed Mayflower Compact in Provincetown Harbor November 11, and landed at Plymouth, December 26.

Witch hunts — Salem, Massachusetts.

South Carolina — First introduction of rice.

1582 Antonio de Espejo — I covered silver deposit cott.  
1583-1585 Antonio de Espejo — westward into Arizona  
1587  
1599 Juan de Onate — En Grande; followed almost  
1607  
1609 Santa Fe — First permanent in the American southwest.  
1620 Franciscan Missionaries to the Arizona, hoping to convert  
1680 Pueblo Revolt — Hungry Indians driven out of New Mexico  
the missionaries  
1692 Father Kino — Began missions in the Gila River, Tucson, and San Pedro Valley  
1696  
1697 Tumacacori Mission —  
1700 San Xavier del Bac Mission —  
1711 Founded by Father Kino.  
Death of Father Kino — and almost forgotten  
and missionaries for the Gila River.

AMERICA	CHRONOLOGY	
French Troops — Attacked an English fort in the Ohio Valley; captured five colonials.	1751	Tubac — Establishment
	1752	Pima Revolt — Pimas sue priests.
	1756	Spanish Troops — Esta
French and Indian War — Began. George Grenville — While Prime Minister Parliament began passing oppressive legislation against the American colonies.	1763	settlement, a fort at T
Treaty of Paris — Ends French and Indian War. Quartering Act — Required colonists to house British troops.	1765	
Stamp Act — Passed by Parliament in spring. Stamp Act Congress — Held its first meeting in October.	1767	Royal Decree — Ordered
British Treaties — Ratified with the Cherokees, Creeks, and Iroquois to obtain more land.	1768	dominions in both the
Boston Massacre — Five were killed in a mob attack on British soldiers, March 5.	1770	Father Francisco Gar
Boston Tea Party — Sons of Liberty dressed as Negroes and Indians.	1773	took charge at San Xav
First Continental Congress — All colonies sent delegates except Georgia, September 5.	1774	Garces — Explored mo
		Anza and Garces —
		along the Gila River.
		Garces — Followed the California side and crossed the Hopi Villages.

AMERICA	CHRONOLOGY
Battles of Lexington and Concord — Began the American Revolution, April 19.	1775
Declaration of Independence — Adopted July 4. Thomas Paine — Publishes <i>Common Sense</i> .	1776
British — Surrender at Yorktown, Virginia.	1781
Treaty of Paris — Ends the American Revolution on September 3.	1783
Virginia — Abolishes religious restrictions for elected officials.	1786
Constitutional Convention — Drafted the United States Constitution.	1787
Delaware — Became the first state to enter the Union on December 7.	
George Washington — Became the first President of the United States on April 30.	1789
Rhode Island — Thirteenth colony to become a state on May 29.	1790
Bill of Rights — The first ten amendments established the limits of the national government, as originally drafted.	1791
Eli Whitney — Invented the cotton gin.	1793

AL  
Tucson — Established  
Fathers Escalante and  
Found a place to cross  
Yuma Massacre — White  
Father Garcés — Slain  
Mexican Military Force  
Indians.  
Friars of San Xavier  
laid foundation for pr  
Bernando de Galvez —  
Spain."  
Peace with Apaches —  
Golden era of Pimeria  
marked by the expansi  
of ranching.

AMERICA	CHRONOLOGY	
John Adams — Became the second President of the United States.	1797	San Xavier Mission after 12-14 years of
Alien and Sedition Acts — Placed restrictions and limitations on aliens.	1798	
Eleventh Amendment — Judicial Power.		
Capital — Moved to Washington, D. C.	1800	
Louisiana Purchase from France — Nearly doubled the size of the United States, for \$15,000,000.	1803	
Twelfth Amendment — Separate choices of President and Vice President, limited the terms of Representatives.	1804	
Lewis and Clark Expedition — Explored the Missouri and Columbia Rivers to the Pacific Ocean.	1804-	Navajo Indians — R
Robert Fulton's steamboat — makes first trip on Hudson.	1806	Spanish in Canyon d
	1807	Lt. Zebulon Pike —
	1810	officials at Santa Fe.
War of 1812 — Ends with Treaty of Ghent.	1812-	Father Hildalgo — Le
Washington, D. C. — burned by English troops.	1814	Spain for independe
Rush-Bagot Agreement — Canadian-United States border demilitarized. Longest unfortified border in the world.	1818	
Cumberland Road Completed — main artery to the west.		
Spain — cedes Florida.	1819	
Missouri and Maine — entered the Union as slave and free states respectively as a result of the Missouri Compromise.	1820	Navajos — return to
	1821	
		Arizona — Became a
		Santa Fe Trail — Tr

## AMERICA

## CHRONOLOGY

Monroe Doctrine — became a principle of American diplomacy to protect the Western Hemisphere from European powers.	1823
Erie Canal — Completed.	1824
James Fenimore Cooper — <i>Last of the Mohicans</i> was published.	1826
Jedediah Smith — Was the first American to make a transcontinental crossing to California.	1827
Texas — revolts against Mexico. The Alamo — taken March 6.	1830
Panic of 1837 — severe depression caused state and national bankruptcy.	1836
Samuel Morse — invented the telegraph.	1837
Iowa — became a state, December 28. Compromise of 1846 — Oregon boundary dispute with Great Britain was settled.	1838
Mormon migration to Utah — started.	1846
Mexico — cedes territory now part of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, and California.	1847
	1848

Navajo Peace Treaty Government.

Traders — began exp  
Bill Williams — trap  
far south as Sonora.  
Kit Carson, Sylvester  
came trappers in the

New Republic of Me  
ending the Missionary  
Paulino Weaver —  
travels in Arizona.

Tubac — became a p  
Mormon Battalion —  
and raised the Ameri  
from Santa Fe to the  
Road.

Treaty of Guadalupe  
north of the Gila River  
making Arizona part

## AMERICA

Gold Rush — to California.

Compromise of 1850 — attempted to smooth ill feelings over slavery as a result of the Gold Rush. California — became a State.

Kansas-Nebraska Act — one of the major causes of the Civil War.

Dred Scott Decision — demonstrated southern domination of the national government.

Minnesota — became a State, May 11.

Oregon — became a state, February 14.

Abraham Lincoln — elected President. South Carolina — secedes from the Union.

Kansas — became a state, January 29. Fort Sumter Firing — began Civil War.

## CHRONOLOGY

1849	John C. Fremont — Seminoles westward down Charles E. Pamcoast — Gila River. The trip was made by Gila Howard, the first white man to do this territory.
1850	Steamboating — became a reality on Colorado River.
1853	Territory of New Mexico — formed. The Gadsden Purchase — the region south of the Rio Grande became part of Mexico.
1854	Peter Kitchen — became a rancher in Arizona. Charles D. Poston, Father of Arizona.
1857	First regular stage line between San Francisco and San Diego Stage Line.
1858	Butterfield Overland Stage Line — between San Francisco and San Diego.
1859	Weekly Arizonian — first newspaper published at Tubac.
1860	Publishing — first book published in Tucson.
1861	Apache Indians led by Geronimo — began their raids on settlers.

Homestead Act — offered free land in the West.	1862	The Westernmost battl zona's only Civil War b cho Peak by Carleton's Jefferson Davis — declar territory.
West Virginia — became a state on June 20. Emancipation Proclamation — declared all exist- ing slaves free.	1863	The Territory of Arizona as the capital by Preside John N. Goodwin — F
Nevada — became a state on October 31.	1864	Most of Navajo surrend miles from Ft. Defiance Four counties establis Yuma, and Pima.
Thirteenth Amendment — abolished slavery. Civil War — ended. Lincoln — assassinated by John Wilkes Booth on April 15.	1865	Colorado River Indian Mohave and other Indi
Alaska — purchased from Russia.	1866	Juan Candelaria — bro sheep into Arizona.
Fourteenth Amendment — granted citizenship to Negroes.	1867	Territorial Capital — m Prescott and Tucson — opened.
First Transcontinental Railroad completed on May 10, with driving of a golden spike.	1869	Navajo Reservation — northeast corner of Ar of New Mexico. Comprehensive School schools.
		Major John Wesley Po exploration of the Gra

AMERICA	CHRONOLOGY	A
Fifteenth Amendment — right to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.	1870	Silver Bonanzas — In Mountains, the Bradsh
	1871	County. Camp Grant Massacre
	1873	peace policy started i
	1875	Maricopa County — c and Yavapai Counties
Alexander Graham Bell — invented the telephone.	1876	Cotton — first cultiva
Compromise of 1877 — marked the end of the Re- construction Era.	1877	Clifton — First big co
	1878	Pinal County — crea
Thomas Edison — invented the first workable in- candescent light.	1879	and Yavapai Counties
	1880	Territorial Prison — o
Helen Hunt Jackson — The publication of her book, <i>A Century of Dishonor</i> , led to the formation of the Indian Rights Association.	1881	Flagstaff — named by
American Federation of Labor was organized.		brating the 4th of Jul
		Territorial Capital —
		The Bank of Arizona
		bank was established
		Congress remonetized
		ment in western mine
		Apache County — cre
		Tombstone — founded.
		Southern Pacific — fi
		it stimulated the copper
		Lumber industry — s
		Graham County — cre
		Counties.
		Cochise County — cre
		Gila County — create
		Pinal and Yavapai co

AMERICA	CHRONOLOGY	A
Pendleton Act — Civil Service reform.	1883	Santa Fe Railroad — a
	1885	Tenth Cavalry — stati
	1886	Tempe Normal School
		Geronimo and his Apa
		to the United States A
		Train Robbery — first
		\$20,000.
Interstate Commerce Act — first federal program regulating private business.	1887	Copper — leads gold
	1888	Arizona.
North Dakota and South Dakota — became states November 2. Montana — became a state on November 8. Washington — became a state on November 11. Sherman Anti-Trust Act — passed. Census Bureau — declared the end of the American Frontier.	1889	Territorial Capital — v
		Spotted Fever — epi
		tlement.
	1890	
	1891	University of Arizona
		Citrus — large scale co
		Coconino County — cr
		Stagecoach — service
		and Grand Canyon.
	1892	
Henry Ford completed the first gasoline powered car.	1892	Navajo County — crea
	1895	Three regiments of Fi
Spanish-American War — United States acquired the Republics of Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines.	1898	ttingent — organized in
		William (Bucky) O'Neil o
		Rough Riders.
	1899	Northern Arizona Nor
	1901	Senatorial Committee
		New Mexico and Arizo
		was opposed by Arizo

AMERICA	CHRONOLOGY	A
Wright Brothers — first successful flight. Panama Canal Zone — acquired by the United States. Oklahoma — became a state on November 16.	1902 1903	Santa Cruz County — Tonto Basin Dam — f authorized by the fed
New Mexico — became a state on January 6.	1907 1909 1911	Anti-gambling — law Greenlee County — cr Roosevelt Dam — dedic Roosevelt.
Sixteenth Amendment — Income Tax. Panama Canal — opened. Seventeenth Amendment — gave people power to elect senators. Pancho Villa — raided Columbus, New Mexico. Pershing's expedition into Mexico started. United States enters World War I — Congress declared war on Germany on April 4-5.	1912 1913 1914	Arizona — became the George P. Hunt — el state. Seven-time gove honored in the history Women — first 8 hour into effect.
Armistice — signed by Germany on November 11.	1916 1917 1918	Arizona National Guar Villa's raid on Columb Thomas E. Campbell — gurated as governor. Tenth Cavalry — retu longest march made in tive expedition agains Nation's first municip 25,000 men from Arizo —3,000 were killed in George W. P. Hunt — after Supreme Court

	AMERICA	CHRONOLOGY	ADDITIONAL NOTES
	Eighteenth Amendment — prohibition.	1919	Thomas E. Campbell —
	Nineteenth Amendment — gave women the right to vote.	1920	Grand Canyon — became a National Park.
		1921	Phoenix Junior College established.
	American Indian — declared a citizen.	1923	Arizona entered period of copper mining.
	Charles Lindberg — flew the first solo non-stop Trans-Atlantic flight.	1924	George W. P. Hunt —
		1927	First regular express established.
	Depression — begins with stock market crash in New York.	1928	Coolidge Dam — dedicated.
		1929	John Calhoun Philips —
	Roosevelt's New Deal — legislation passed to end the depression.	1930	Planet Pluto — discovered in Flagstaff.
	Twentieth or "Lame Duck" Amendment passed.	1931	George W. P. Hunt —
	Twenty-first Amendment — repealed prohibition.	1933	Benjamin Baker Moeur —
	Civilian Conservation Corps — established to provide employment and training of young men during the depression years.		First Civilian Conservation Corps established in May; developed soil conservation methods.
	Social Security Bill — made law by Congress.	1935	Hoover Dam — completed.
		1937	Rawghlie Clement Station —
		1939	Robert Taylor Jones —

AMERICA	CHRONOLOGY	ARIZONA
Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7.	1941	Sidney Preston Osborn — second native Arizonan elected governor. World War II brought many military operations and plants to Arizona.
First Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on August 6.	1945	
United Nations Charter drawn up and signed in San Francisco on April 25-June 26.	1946	Arizona right to work law — industry and manufacturing took on new importance.
Philippine Islands granted independence by United States.	1948	Arizona Indians given the right to vote.
Marshall Plan — provided economic assistance to European nations.	1949	
North Atlantic Treaty Organization — First peace-time military alliance in history.	1950	Junior Colleges in Arizona established.
Korean War ( 1950-1953) brought about the first military action of the United Nations.	1951	Howard Pyle inaugurated as governor.
Twenty-Second Amendment — Presidential office limited to two terms.	1953	United Verde Extension Mine in Jerome closed.
Southeast Asia Treaty Organization signed.	1954	
Supreme Court declares racial segregation in public schools illegal.	1955	Ernest W. McFarland inaugurated as governor.
A.F.L.-C.I.O. merger.	1956	San Manuel Copper Mine — one of the largest in the United States opened near Tucson.
First United States Space Satellite launched into earth's orbit beginning the Space Age.	1957	Arizona State Parks Board created with special attention given to historic preservation.
	1958	Colorado River Boundary bill signed by President Kennedy; approved the compact with Nevada.

## AMERICA

Alaska became a state on January 3.  
 Hawaii became a state on August 21.  
 Twenty-third Amendment — Electoral College.  
 Space — first American astronaut orbits earth.  
 President John F. Kennedy assassinated on November 22.  
 Twenty-fourth Amendment — Poll tax barred.  
 Civil Rights Act passed.  
 First United States troops arrived at DaNang, Vietnam.  
 Surveyor I — first moon landing.  
 Twenty-fifth Amendment — Presidential succession.  
 Apollo II — first manned moon landing.  
 Neil Armstrong — walked on the moon.  
 Twenty-sixth Amendment — Gave 18-year-olds the right to vote.  
 Vietnam cease fire.  
 Apollo-Soyuz — First American-Russian joint space project.

## CHRONOLOGY

1959	Paul J. Fannin inaugurated as governor.
1961	
1962	Kitt Peak Observatory — World's largest solar telescope dedicated.
1963	Colorado River Water — Arizona won United States Supreme Court decision.
1964	Glen Canyon Dam completed.
1965	Samuel P. Goddard inaugurated as governor.
1966	Loyalty Oath ruled unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court.
1967	Jack Williams inaugurated as governor. Indians — First American Indian elected to the State Legislature.
1969	Navajo Community College — First college ever built on an Indian Reservation opened at Many Farms.
1971	
1973	
1975	Raul Castro inaugurated as the first Mexican-American Governor.

## ARIZONA

This material was made available to us through the courtesy of the L. R. C. at Cochise College and the Department of Education of Arizona, Carolyn Warner, Superintendent. It is a portion of the material found in the Arizona Bicentennial Resource Manual.

## NOVEMBER 7

By Jeanne L. Graham

What does this day mean to you? A birthday, maybe, or an anniversary. Maybe it is a day when a personal momentous occasion took place? Could it be a day that almost didn't happen? For the residents of Nacozari, Mexico, it was a day never to be forgotten.

November 7, 1907 began wrong and got progressively worse as the day progressed. The usual colorful dawn was delayed by an iron gray overcast. The smoke from the wood fires used for heating and cooking by the residents of Nacozari hung low across the valley instead of going upward and disappearing in the crisp, cool atmosphere. The exhaust vapors from the smelter mingled with the low lying smoke and added to the discomfort of the early morning hour. The church bells, that called the faithful, resounded over Nacozari with heavy, harsh groans. If all this wasn't enough, there were signs that the Indian Summer was coming to an end and the cold, soaking winter storms were on their way to this valley.

About the only good thing that happened was that the law enforcement officers and the hospital had a very quiet night. The residents, well, some had their sleep disturbed by the barking dogs who were answering the yipping coyotes that hung around the outskirts of town. Other residents had their sleep disturbed by some thoughtless individual who insisted upon playing his guitar and serenading the ladies all night long.

Unlike the other rural communities of the area who woke up to one activity at a time, Nacozari found that everyone must follow "imposed schedule"<sup>1</sup>, that has been set by the North Americans.

Along with this hustle was a strong feeling of anxiety as the small community was overcrowded with the extra laborers needed for the construction of the new concentrator mill being built down river from Nacozari.

By 7:00 a.m. the activities of the working force were beginning to take shape with a few exceptions. The mine superintendent, J. S. Williams, must assume double duty today as the general manager was out of town. Marten Corral, chief carpenter, was off to the construction site to see that all the laborers were working as the new mill was badly needed as the result of new ore discoveries. Miguel Quiroz and Rafael Moreno were busy at the assay office making the necessary analysis of the ore samples brought earlier.

The engineer of the narrow gauge train that ran from

1. GOODBYE GARCIA, ADIOS, Dederia Robles p. 38

Sonora. Douglas's final sentence truly marked the heroic and unselfish act of Garcia—"He died heroically."<sup>10</sup>

Later on the same morning, Douglas sent another letter to General Torres, giving more details of the tragedy. In this letter, Douglas concluded by saying, "This terrible misfortune is a source of grief, but the courage exhibited by the entire crew helps to bear the burden to a certain extent. The young Jesus Garcia, in particular, can be considered a hero."<sup>11</sup>

The November 8th issue of the DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL-AMERICAN devoted most of its front page to the tragedy. The headlines read:

"HEROISM OF MEXICAN SAVED NACOZARI  
DELIBERATELY GAVE UP LIFE IN  
PERFORMANCE OF DUTY.  
PERISHED WITH FOURTEEN OTHERS,  
WHILE TAKING BURNING TRAIN OF  
DYNAMITE OUT OF CAMP."

The Arizona Star devoted considerable space in its November 9th issue to the tragedy, also stressing the heroic act of Garcia.

A wake was held on November 7-8 for Garcia. Among the mourners was James S. Douglas. Garcia had been in the Douglas home many times, and was a companion of Douglas's son Lewis. In fact, Garcia was considered more of a son to the Douglas family than just a friend. In Cuauhtemoc L. Teran's book, JESUS GARCIA, THE HERO OF NACOZARI, he records that James Douglas, Sr. stood before the casket of his favorite employee, his eyes fixed as to look beyond the body as though reviewing the many occasions he had enjoyed this young man's company. As the tears rolled down his cheeks, he managed to praise his friend, "Jesus, you are indeed a hero."<sup>12</sup>

Despite the inclement weather on November 8th, thousands crowded into the small cemetery, paying their last respects and tribute to a hero. Within a year, Garcia was joined in death by his beloved Jesusita who died of a "broken heart."<sup>13</sup>

In May, 1906, by an Act of Congress, Garcia was awarded the American Cross of Honor. Monuments honoring Garcia began appearing all over Mexico and as far away as Cuba, Guatemala, England and Germany.

The most fitting and handsome of all monuments was reserved for Nacozari. With the various contributions made by the Mexican government (\$5,000), donations made by the mining

10. Op. Cit p. 74.

11. Op. Cit. p. 76.

12. Op. Cit. p. 80.

13. Op. Cit. p. 80.

Romero, also dazed and deafened by the explosion. Without pausing he also repeats, "He ordered me to jump. I wanted to stay but he ordered me to jump."<sup>7</sup>

The destruction at Number Six was of such magnitude that Don Pepe fainted at the sight of it. Sadly, and still in the state of shock, the residents of Nacozari began the count of the injured and identification of the dead.

The Chisholm boy, found some two hundred meters from where he stood waiting for the train, was found dead—struck dead by a bullet-like rivet. The bodies of four lounging miners were found—all dead.

The wooden, wrecked rubble that was once the wooden section house, covered the bodies of seven women and children. The off-duty miners, trained in first-aid, busied themselves applying tourniquets, splinting fractures and bandaging the wounded. Eighteen were known injured and fourteen dead.

The rescue party finally reached the locomotive. One report told that the train "is dismangled...car obliterated...cab destroyed. Engine off tracks...a crater...Jesus Garcia is identified by his boots."<sup>8</sup>

Another report tells, "Strangely, the front portion of the locomotive and its stack were found intact and relatively undamaged. The only identifiable part of Garcia's body was a hand tightly clutched around the throttle."<sup>8</sup>

It was up to the brothers and brothers-in-law to recover the body of Garcia and take him home...home to a mother who was so certain that tragedy would strike today.

The already cloudy skies darkened and by late afternoon the sky cracked with lightning and thunder echoed among the ancient mountains. The rain came in the form of a cloudburst more ferocious than anyone could remember. The ringing in Jose Romero's ears was diminishing and he heard the tempest. He was heard to remark, "Even the heavens cry tonight."<sup>9</sup>

At the time of the disaster, Mr. James S. Douglas, general manager, was visiting another mining interest at Cananea, Sonora, Mexico. When told of the disaster, he lost no time in returning to Nacozari. When he arrived back at Nacozari at 1:25 a.m. on November 8, he found the town wide awake and quite eager to give him the facts—all of the facts.

After piecing the story together, Douglas telegraphed the event of the tragedy to Governor Luis E. Torres, Hermosillo,

7. Op. Cit. p. 70.

8. Brewery Gulch Gazette 11-2-72 p. 3.

9. GOODBYE GARCIA, ADIOS p. 70.

Pilares, came up with the idea that maybe he could lift the smoking dynamite box out of the car and bury it in the ground. But as the fresh air flowed between the boxes, the smouldering boxes burst into flames, driving Francisco away from the car. Frantically the crew removed their jackets and attempted to beat out the flames, but to no avail. Despite their futile efforts, the flames spread.

Garcia was now faced with another problem....he knew that dynamite could burn without exploding as it needed fuses and detonating caps to work effectively. If he only knew where the fuses and caps were packed. How close to the burning dynamite were they now? Garcia also knew that if they were packed close to the dynamite and if the fire reached them, not only would the train blow, but most if not all of Nacozari as well.

There was no hope now of extinguishing the fire. Garcia threw the throttle open and ordered the crew to jump off and save themselves. He told the fireman not to worry about him, "I'm going to run my luck and I'm going to my death." "Tell Father," say mass over what is left of me.",

The housewives of Nacozari were clearing away the dishes from the noonday meal. The men of Nacozari were returning to their various jobs; the children returning to school for the afternoon session. Suddenly, this small community of some 4,000 people was ripped by a tremendous explosion. The blast was so great that there was scarcely a window in town that was not cracked or shattered. The air was filled with flying metal pieces—parts of the train landed two or more miles away from the original location of the blast. Pieces of metal landed in the yards of the town of Nacozari. Mrs. Williams, who just minutes before had been peacefully working in her garden, watched as a piece of flying metal sailed across the sky and landed at her feet. This flying object turned out to be a sculpture of two rails that had been twisted and fused together.

Panic struck the shaken, stunned community. Some of the residents ran in the direction of the gas tanks...some ran in the direction of the powder magazine. When they were able to collect themselves, they realized that the explosion was from Number Six. Rescue posses were hurriedly organized, not knowing what they would find and fearing the worst.

As the rescue posse rushed up the railroad tracks, they were met by the brakeman, Hepolito Soto, dazed and babbling as if he were insane, "The powder! The powder! It exploded! Everything is gone."<sup>6</sup> So great was the shock that friends of Soto led him away to the hospital.

A short way farther up the tracks, the posse met Jose

5. Op. Cit. p. 64.

6. Op. Cit. p. 68.

or automobiles, everything was within walking distance. He walked by the hustling offices of the mining company, the workshops, storehouses. As he walked across the bridge of the mainline railroad that spans the now swollen Nacozari River, he glanced downstream and saw that the new concentrator was fast rising on the left bank of the river.

As he neared home, Garcia was stopped by a boy, John Chisholm, who asked if he could ride the afternoon train to Pilares. Garcia couldn't say no to his young friend and told him to catch the train at Number Six where the empty ore cars were located.

When he entered his home, he found his mother even more distressed than before. She told her son of her strong premonition. "Now the roosters are crowing in the middle of the day."<sup>3</sup>

"But mother, everything is going perfectly well at work. Two more trips to the mine and my day will be done," said Garcia as he attempted to chase her fears away.<sup>4</sup> The train crew was already one man short and Garcia dared not heed her pleading warning. With a robust hug and soft words, he attempted to console his mother and then returned to the railroad yard and to work.

When Garcia reached his train, he found the freight had been loaded but failed to note that the dynamite had been loaded on cars that were directly behind the locomotive instead of at the rear of the train as was customary. Also, the yard workers had allowed the fire in the firebox to almost go out which resulted in the loss of needed steam pressure. Taking everything in his stride, Garcia patiently helped the fireman, Jose Romero, to rekindle the fire and slowly the needed pressure began to build up.

Trying to use as little of the needed steam pressure as possible, Garcia slowly backed the train onto the switchback. As the switchman opened the switch, Garcia threw the throttle open, hoping to make most of the four percent grade uphill run. As the little locomotive labored in the uphill climb, live cinders, sparks, and smoke were thrust up through the faulty smokestack.

As the small train gathered speed, the wind also increased in velocity causing the live cinders and sparks to fly back over the train. Some of the cinders and sparks settled among the boxes of dynamite and, within a short period of time, began to smoulder and sent up a thin line of smoke.

It wasn't until the train passed a group of bystanders that they were made aware of the fire on the dynamite car. Garcia yelled to the crew to try to put the flames out and slowed the train down. Francisco, an off duty brakeman who was hitching a ride to

3. Op. Cit. p. 48.

4. Op. Cit. p. 50.

he found himself in complete charge of the day's activities for this small train—something which he was apprehensive about.

Slowly with a steamy cough, the little locomotive chugged away from the roundhouse and down the tracks to a point where Garcia could reverse the direction of the locomotive and head it uphill toward Puertecitos. As the little locomotive disappeared through the pass, a farewell message was warbled which sounded something like "till we meet again young lady!"<sup>2</sup>

Within minutes of leaving the roundhouse, the locomotive rolled into Puertecitos and the upper yard, paused long enough to couple onto a string of empty ore cars. With the screeching of the little whistle and the clang of the bell, the little locomotive and empty ore cars began the strenuous six mile journey to Pilares where the copper mine was located.

The six miles between Pilares and Nacozari were over rough, rugged terrain—over curves and up inclines, through tall granite mountains, over timber trestles that span ravines hundreds of feet deep; through hardwood canyons that teem with wild life.

As the small train wound its way up the steep grades, Garcia noted that the specially built smokestack was in need of repair as sparks and live cinders were escaping from the stack.

At long last the train reached Pilares and made its way to a switching area where, by using the link-and-pin couplers, trains were prepared for the journey down to Nacozari for further processing. Here, Garcia needed only to drop off the empty cars and hitch up to loaded ore cars and head back down the mountain.

The journey back down to Nacozari, however, wasn't as easy as the one coming up to Pilares. Misfortune, even death was ever present with the crews that operated these ore trains. Everyone had to be on their toes, ever watchful for anything that could cause death or destruction.

So far, the day had been merely a routine day for Garcia and his crew. On the second trip back to Nacozari, however, his luck changed.

Supplies were needed at the mine and Garcia was told to report to the lower yard and talk with Mr. Elizondo who would tell him what materials and supplies he was to bring back on the next trip. Four tons of dynamite were to be transferred from the powder magazine to two of the ore cars.

"Be careful with those boxes, boys," Garcia advised the loading crew. "Handle them as if they were angels from heaven."<sup>3</sup>

As Garcia walked home for the noon meal, he could perceive almost every element of Nacozari. Because there was no trolley

2. Op. Cit. p. 44.

3. Op. Cit. p. 48.

Nacozari and Pilares, Jesus Garcia, was tired but happy after spending the entire evening serenading.

Garcia's mother, Mrs. Rosa Coronavieda de Garcia, a superstitious woman by nature, spent a sleepless night listening to the omens—a sign of death for someone in the town of Nacozari. Garcia sensed his aged mother's concern, urged her not to worry as he would be all right as the death omen was not meant for him today.

At 6:00 a.m. Garcia arrived at the roundhouse where his locomotive for the narrow gauge railroad was housed. Although the locomotives were small in size, they were just as difficult to operate as the larger ones.

The narrow gauge railroad had three engines, the largest weighed approximately 30 tons. Two of the three locomotives were designated 0-6-0 (this means there were no small wheels on either side of the six large driver wheels). In order to obtain maximum pulling power, the weight was placed upon these wheels. Additional weight was added by the water that was stored in the tank which wrapped around the boiler like a saddle. Either wood or coal was used for fuel.

The smaller 0-4-0 locomotive, the smallest of the three was kept at Pilares and was used in switching cars and making up trains.

Garcia's engine was Number Two and was more handsome now than the day it was delivered. As the time permitted, Garcia painted some decorations on his locomotive and kept the copper and brass highly polished. Within the spotless cab of the locomotive there was a special place for the photograph of his beloved Jesusita.

Although small in size, there was much to do to get and keep a locomotive in operating condition. For instance, there was the dome located above the boiler that must be filled with sand (to be used to prevent the wheels from spinning in bad weather); fuel and water supplies must be replaced at every stop; the fire started so that a good head of steam was built up. The rods, valves and other mechanisms were greased and constantly inspected for wear and/or damage. The lantern and torches topped with signal oil and kept in readiness, just in case.

At every stop Garcia took an inventory of the tool chest: hammer, wrenches, hook and flares and today, for some reason, Garcia took extra care to see that all the tools were there and in working order.

At last the little engine was ready for the day's work. The two brakemen reported for work and brought news that the most important member of the crew, the conductor, was unable to report for work because of illness. This news troubled Garcia as

company and also by private citizens, a memorial was built. It is a single column of gray granite, that stands 30 feet high on a square base. There is a plaque bearing the likeness of Garcia and beneath is the coat of arms of the Republic of Mexico.

The monument was dedicated November 7, 1909 with various Mexican and American dignitaries in attendance. Dr. James Douglas delivered the eulogy.

In 1917, General Pouriartco Elias Calles suggested that the remains of Garcia be transferred from the Nacozaari cemetery to a grave at the base of the monument and another plaque was placed on the monument:

“HUMANITY SALUTES AND WITH RESPECT  
WORSHIPS YOU. REST IN PEACE.”

Since 1944, November 7th has been recognized as the National Day of the Railroader.

Each year, on November 7th, a train leaves the Agua Prieta railroad station loaded with those who wish to pay their respects to a brave man—a hero. Box cars are also loaded with floral tributes from those who are unable to make the journey.

On that fateful day not so long ago, a young man made a decision—death for himself so that his beloved Nacozaari could go on and live forever. No, he didn't have to make the decision he did...he had so much to live for and so many plans for his future with Jesusita. He could have jumped along with the rest of the crew and let fate take its course. But he didn't—he showed to the fullest extent his true love for his brother man.

Sources used:

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