

Life in Arizona after February 14, 1912

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On February 14, 1912, Arizona changed from a territory to a state. Because Arizona became a state, this had an impact on different areas such as education, economy, industry and transportation. George P. Hunt, who later became Arizona's first governor, happily walked from his hotel to watch President Taft sign Arizona into statehood. On March 27, 1912, Henry F. Ashurst and Marcus A. Smith were chosen as the first U.S. Senators from Arizona and women gained the right to vote. Who knows what would have happened to Arizona if it didn't become the beautiful state we know.

In 1912, the Arizona Department of Education was created. The Constitution, Article V, created the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction to supervise public education. In 1912, tuition for Arizona State University was \$5 per quarter. Tuition was free to all students who entered into college with the intention of graduating. Registration was \$5 per year, room and board was \$16.50 per month and books were \$10 - \$15 per year. Today it can range anywhere from \$6,000 to \$10,000 per year. Isn't this ridiculous how expensive education has become?

Children were taught the five "C's that pertained to Arizona's economy and industry in school. The five "C's" were "Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus and Climate." In the twentieth century, Arizona was the leading copper producing state. Because Arizona was the leading copper state, Arizona's nickname was the "Copper State." Sheep ranching used to be popular. By 1917, the number in Arizona peaked at 1.42 million head. Lots of sunshine came down,

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which made the trees and crops grow. Cotton planting peaked at 690,000 acres in 1953. By 2008, Arizona cotton farmers grew 2.4 million tons of fiber.

In 1912, people got around by buckboard, streetcar, horses, automobiles and walking. During the early years of statehood, “prison workers were used on some of state’s most notable projects, including the Tempe Bridge built in 1913, the Phoenix-Tempe highway, the Bisbee-Tombstone highway, and a new bridge over the San Pedro River at Fairbank.” In 1912, the state highway system consisted of 1,500 miles of roadway. In 1913, the National Old Trails Highway, Arizona’s first transcontinental highway was announced to be constructed.

In conclusion, a lot has changed over time, certainly the transportation of course, but a lot has remained the same, such as the industry. Arizona has become a powerful state.

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