

HISTORY OF THE QUARRIES OF BOWIE

**\$150,000 Already Spent De-
veloping Stone and Put-
ting It on Market.**

**SURPASSES ANY
DOMESTIC STONE
Grades Up Equal to Marbles
of Italy and Is in Constant
Demand.**

The history of the Arizona marble deposits near Bowie is interesting. In 1905, a prospector from Arizona sent samples of the marble to the Kerr Marble and Stone company, of Denver, to be tested. The sample was placed on the desk of J. G. Kerr, president of the company, who has been making a study of marbles for the past 15 years. He has examined every deposit in the United States, either by personal visits to the quarry sites or by means of samples from quarries. In February, 1905, he visited the deposit, as yet unworked, in the Chiricahua mountains of Arizona. So favorably was he impressed with the formation of the deposit and the high quality of the marble that he returned to Denver, arranged for the organization of a company to develop the project and disposed of his holdings in the quarry company to Lawrence C. Phipps, of Pittsburg, one of the famous Phipps family, who are heavily interested in the steel business at Pittsburg. Gerald Hughes, son of United States senator Hughes, of Colorado, is also interested in the Arizona company. It is capitalized for \$1,000,000, and has already invested \$150,000 in developing the quarries near Bowie.

Finest in Country.
The Bowie marble is pronounced by New York and other eastern architects and builders as being the finest in the United States, surpassing the Vermont, Georgia and Tennessee marbles, and equalling the world famous Italian and Grecian marbles. It tests 99.88 percent pure in carbonate of lime and has a crushing strength of 12,000 pounds to the square inch. Mr. Kerr has a number of photographs of marble slabs which have been taken from the Arizona marble company's quarries, showing the beautiful stratification, which makes it so valuable commercially. All contracts made by the company for its product specify matched marble, giving the building in which it is used the appearance which is sought for by the famous architects. One slab of the Arizona marble is shown in a photograph with a perfect compass and square formed in the compound veining. This is formed by reversed chevron veining, and is considered one of the finest pieces of matching ever quarried. Another photograph shows a sample of the marble with a Japanese lily showing plainly in the dark colored veining.

Samples Gratifying.
Samples of the southwestern marble were placed on exhibition in the Metropolitan Life building in New York, and were also exhibited before the leading New York architects and pronounced the equal of the high grade marbles quarried in Italy and Greece. Messrs. Mess & White, Carrare & Hastings, Case Gilbert and other famous architectural engineers declared the output of the Arizona quarries far superior to the other native marbles of the United States.

The new First National bank, of Denver, which is now being built, has specified the Bowie marble for its interior and exterior decorations. In the new \$1,800,000 building, not a course of construction. Other large buildings in the southwest, including a number of the new El Paso structures may be ornamented with the Arizona marble, as Mr. Kerr has been in conference with a number of the business men who are planning to build soon.

The present plant of the marble company includes all the machinery used in a modern quarry plant. A battery of three chandling machines, a 250 horse power boiler and all accessories and drills are installed and in operation on the ground. A small mill is now being operated to finish the materials for a number of contracts where it is not possible to finish the marble on the job. A general store is also conducted by the company to provide the force of 45 men employed at the plant with supplies. Later the plant will be extended and the entire deposit of marble worked as it is needed. The company is planning to develop the property as rapidly as possible and expect to be supplying the east Texas, California and southwestern demand for building marbles within the present year.

Faith in the West.
"It is extremely gratifying to me," Mr. Kerr said, "to see the Texas cities demanding a higher grade of marble for their building than those of the east and north. That is true right here in El Paso. The new bank buildings specify marbles which are the equal of any in the country, and the bank structures will be a credit to any city in the United States. I have cast my lot with the southwest because I believe in it. Not only in my own pocket, that of producing marble, but in the great possibilities of the southwest in every branch of industry. Marble quarrying is as exact a science as copper mining and milling, and we propose to produce and prepare the output of our property for the market in the most modern way possible."

"Our mill was built of the first car of concrete shipped by the Southwestern Portland Cement company, of El Paso, and all of our machinery has been shipped either from here or through here. While I am not an agriculturist, I can see the greatest possibilities for the valleys surrounding El Paso on all sides. The trend of immigration is southward in its direction, and as soon as the government puts water on these lands there will be no limit to the resources of the southwest."

El Pasoans Honor Pioneer City Builder



**Gen. Anson Mills Is Guest of
Honor at Banquet at
St. Regis Hotel.**

**Tribute Is Paid to Man Who
Really Laid Out and
Started El Paso.**

It is not often given to a man to be honored by his fellowmen while yet alive and able to appreciate the tribute of friendship.

Friday evening, surrounded by the companions of his early manhood and the business men who know and appreciate what the distinguished soldier-diplomat-citizen has done for El Paso, Gen. Anson Mills, brigadier general (retired), founder of El Paso and its most prominent citizen, was paid the highest human tribute, the acknowledgement of a debt of gratitude and its payment in full measure.

Responding to the sincere tributes of his friends, Gen. Mills renewed his faith in the city of his early manhood, the city which he loves second only to the town of his nativity, by declaring that he would build a monument to himself and to the old El Paso which would take the form of a modern building, the finest in the southwest.

The banquet was spontaneous, was planned by the business men of the city, and was an appreciation of what the distinguished citizen has done and is doing for the city of his choice.

The Speakers.

W. H. Burges presided as toastmaster at the banquet. "We have many things to be grateful for," he said at the beginning of the speech, "making it a pleasure to have gathered here to testify to our good friend, Gen. Mills. We have the Mills building, are going to have the Mills dam, and I am reliably informed that we are to have a new Mills building. No one will doubt that the things which El Paso has to be proud of are due in no small extent to our guest of this evening. You all know him and words are superfluous. We want to honor him."

Capt. Beall, business associate and close personal friend of Gen. Mills, paid the first tribute to the distinguished guest, the tribute of a friend to a friend. "We are here to pay a tribute of honor to one of the city's pioneers. He came here more than a half century ago when this city was known as Smith's ranch. It was not even dignified as a town or village. Later it was named Franklin after the Christian name of Franklin Coons. Thereafter it was changed from Franklin to El Paso. You have here now as the guest the man who had the honor of naming this place (applause). From that time until he left us, he was active in the interest of El Paso. He mapped out the Mills property on the first map. I think we now have the most prominent of all citizens El Paso has ever had and we all delight to honor him this evening. He was active, zealous and faithful. We cannot go back to any enterprise without finding the name of Mills associated with them. Gen. Anson Mills now comes back to us. He inaugurated the project which for years was known only as the Mills dam. The name of Mills was potent in getting resolutions passed in the first irrigation congress for the Elephant Butte dam. Under treaty stipulation the dam is to be built and we are the beneficiaries of it. We want to hear from Gen. Mills. He has been a part of everything pertaining to El Paso. Gen. Mills, we want to hear from you."

Gen. Mills Speaks.
The applause when Gen. Mills arose to speak was prolonged and he was forced to bow his acknowledgments a number of times before the grizzled old veteran, the hero of war and peace, could speak.

"It is a proud thing to be entertained as I have been here tonight. I take it for granted that this is not the result of other than sentimental motives. I was told I would be expected to reminisce. If I had a younger audience I would feel more free to tell more liberal stories. But here on my

right is a companion of my youth (Joseph Magoffin). He was here before I was. I came here as a discharged cadet. I was appointed by a member of congress from Indiana. I did not make good. Realizing my failure, I was ashamed to go home to my father. I started to go as far away as I could get and I landed here with \$10. I had known some of the officers stationed at the post here, back at the academy. I told them I had failed at school and wanted a chance. James Magoffin, the father of my friend here, found that I had had some engineering. He asked me if I could survey land. They had elected a man named Rufus Doan as surveyor and he did not know a compass from a teapot. I was sworn in and given a barrel of maps."

Early Day Reminiscences.
Gen. Mills then indulged in reminiscences of the early days in El Paso while he was the surveyor and was intimately associated with the men of the old times. He told of the attempted raid on the Mexican jail to liberate a miserable gambler who had been locked up, and how a young man named Henry had met his death. He also told of the Cutting affair, when a similar attempt was planned but was given up when the seriousness of the move was realized. He told of the Lieut. Flipper affair at Fort Davis and of the part that the late John Dean played in the affairs of the southwest. Gen. Mills has a fund of reminiscence and has a whole-some humor which makes his stories doubly interesting. His stories of the

old days were the feature of the speaking and he was urged to tell more before he ceased talking.

"I'm Going to Build."

After he had taken his chair amid the applause of his friends Gen. Mills asked to be permitted to speak again briefly. "I forgot something I was going to say," the general modestly said. "I just wanted to say to you here that I am going to build."

This was enough. The crowd broke into cheers and the general was again forced to acknowledge the ovation to him. When the applause had subsided, he continued: "I have raised \$200,000 and I am going to put it all into the building. It will be as much as eight stories possibly nine. It may be ten and possibly 12. I want you all to help me. I want you to sympathize with me for I am tearing down a building into which I put \$60,000 and from which I am getting \$1000 a month in rents. Only the shame of having that building in the center of a progressive city has led me to build. I am leaving something of a monument to the town

to which I became attached more than to any town save the one where I was born."

Fewel Speaks.

Major W. J. Fewel, who has often made the boast that he would erect a building one story higher than the highest in the city, was called upon by Mr. Burges to announce his 14 story building, after Gen. Mills had finished. "I know major Fewel is superstitious and will not build 13 stories. It is up to him to build a 14 story building. We want to hear from major Fewel."

Major Fewel responded by saying that when he made the statement he would erect a building one story higher than the highest there were only a few three story structures in the city.

Postoffice site—postoffice site—who is going to sell the government a post-office site? This troublesome question continues to haunt the owners of downtown property. Sites have been proposed in every part of the district included between the union station and Campbell street, and even north of the tracks.

The Z. T. White property, on San Francisco street, seems to be ahead in the running, although nothing definite has yet been announced.

The bill appropriating money for a site is expected to pass congress at the present session, and a selection of a site will be made as soon as this is done, it is thought.

The government requirements call for a site large enough to permit a one story building, well lighted and ventilated, to be built on the site without approaching nearer than 40 feet to an adjoining building.

This puts a number of the proposed sites out of the running, and reduces the sites to a few having the necessary ground to comply with this clause, and at the same time be reasonable enough in price to permit the government to purchase.

**MASONS HAVE A
NEW CLUB ROOM**

**Scottish Rite Chapter Makes
Improvements in Its
Hall.**

When the Scottish Rite Masons came to El Paso from all parts of the southwest for the semiannual reunion this month, they will be unable to find the little Scottish Rite club room, which was the lounging place for them at the former reunions. Instead there will be a large, newly furnished club room, with reading and writing tables, easy chairs and a billiard room in connection.

The partitions and closets in the southeastern corner of the Masonic temple have been removed, making the corner into one large club room, which opens directly into the Scottish Rite assembly hall.

Three rooms have been made into one, and the second floor lodge room, as well as the club, has been repainted and papered.

Pictures of Albert Pike have been hung over the altar of the lodge room, facing the altar which he made while in El Paso years ago. On the opposite wall is a picture of James D. Richardson, sovereign grand commander of the Scottish Rite for the southern jurisdiction.

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**MRS.
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WHERE WILL THE POSTOFFICE BE?

**SURVEY MADE FOR
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**Engineer for Chicago Pack-
ers Is Here Inspecting
Plans.**

Surveys are being made in the Santa Fe reservation for the new International Stockyard company's yards, which are to be built between the Santa Fe yards and the river.

E. J. Parrot, construction engineer for the Nelson Morris company, the Chicago packers, has been here inspecting the plans for the stockyards. This firm of packers, which is extending its business through the west and southwest, is behind the movement to give El Paso adequate stockyards for the handling of Mexican and Arizona cattle. Charles E. Hupt and Frank M. King, of El Paso, are promoting the plan for the new stockyards and Mr. King will be the general manager of the yards when they are completed.

The yards of the International company will have a capacity of 250 cars and will be built from the most modern plans. The yards will be paved with vitrified brick and the streets will be of the same construction. A warehouse, office and other buildings will be built at the stockyards, the total cost of the entire yards being estimated at \$15,000.

**RUMBLE OF THE
CONCRETE MIXERS**

**Drowns Out the Noise of the
Knockers in Business
Section.**

The rumble of the concrete mixers has drowned the wall of the knockers in El Paso. On almost every street in the business district the concrete mixers are grinding out their buildings in the rough and the mixture of El Paso cement, El Paso stone and good El Paso sand is wheeled away by El Paso laborers to be poured into boxes to form El Paso skyscrapers.

The mixers have been started at the new Roberts-Banner building, at the K. Z. & M. site two big mixers are at work, rushing the concrete for this business block, and the Schutz building will soon be ready for the concrete workers. The Reckhart building, further down on San Francisco street, will soon be ready for the builders.

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