

# Geographical Location Gives Summer Climate The Year Around

## Climate Of Valley Leaves Nothing To Be Desired

(By Section Director R. R. Briggs)

Without the confines of the state descriptive article the climate of the Salt River Valley can probably best be treated by the introduction of some prefatory remark upon the climatic characteristics of Arizona, lying wholly within the area popularly known as the "Arid Southwest."

Without the confines of the state it is far from a matter of common knowledge that Arizona possesses climatic features more diversified than any other section of the country, not excepting Southern California, whose interior valleys are but a continuation of Southwestern Arizona. In fact, it may be safely asserted that a considerable portion of the actual residents of the state little realize the extraordinary range in climate and would be surprised by a statement that more difference exists between the mean annual temperature of Flagstaff and that of either Yuma, Phoenix, or Tucson, than between Boston and Jacksonville, Chicago and New Orleans, or Portland, Ore., and San Diego.

This great diversity is due both to geographical location and to varied topography. Geographically, the state lies well to the south and without the region of storm tracks; in altitude it ranges from a few feet above sea level to habitable plateaus having an elevation of more than 7,000 feet, topped by mountain peaks several thousand feet higher, and intersected by innumerable short mountain ranges over its entire extent. The abrupt and decided changes in temperatures common to the eastern and the more northerly western sections are infrequent occurrence, and, relatively, the temperature advances and recedes gradually with the progress of the seasons. For the state as a whole, altitude is the most important factor affecting both the temperatures and the precipitation of the various localities. To further emphasize the effect of topography upon the climate within narrow areas it might be cited that the Weather Bureau maintains two stations at the Grand Canyon not two miles apart and have nearly as much difference in temperature as that between New York City and Jacksonville, Fla. Again, the flora will frequently furnish mute testimony to these marked differences within surprisingly small distances. At various points in the southern half of the state, within from 15 to 30 minutes' drive by automobile, one can pass from the region of the subtropical mesquite and giant cactus to the oaks and pines of the temperate zone.

Over the lowlands of the extreme southwestern section, but little above sea level, the summer daytime temperatures appear torrid in character, often during the hottest months reaching a maximum of from 100 to 110 daily for long periods, while extremes of 120 degrees or above are not infrequent. Owing to the relative dryness of the atmosphere, however, and the resulting cooling effect from rapid evaporation, the temperature actually felt by animal life is many degrees lower. As in all arid sections, radiation is rapid, resulting in an excessive range between the day and the night extremes, and for this reason, even in the hottest weather, the nights are generally comfortable. A daily range in temperature of 40 degrees or more is not unusual. In this section the temperature seldom falls below the freezing point, and the winters are delightful.

This, too, is the region of least rainfall, the annual average being below five inches. The annual precipitation increases with increase of altitude, eastward and northward, averaging from 11 to 17 inches over the southwestern counties and above 20 inches at the higher levels of the east-central and northern districts.

In the southeastern counties the summer heat is not so intense, and the winters are slightly cooler. But little snow falls in winter, except upon the higher peaks, and the lowest temperatures are well above zero. To the northward, in the mountain regions of the central portion of the state, the summers are still cooler, the winter extremes frequently fall below zero, and heavy snowfall occurs at times. Still farther north

and east, in portions of Coconino, Navajo and Apache counties, at still higher elevations, the summers are cool, frosts have been known to occur in every month of the year, heavy snow lies on the ground much of the winter, and temperatures of from 15 to 20 degrees below zero are not unusual.

Moderated by an elevation averaging approximately 1,100 feet, in climate the Salt River Valley is intermediate between the extreme southwestern and the southeastern sections. In common with the greater part of the state, it is a land of excessive sunshine and extremely low relative humidity, the essential factors that have given its climate widespread and justifiable fame as beneficial in pulmonary, asthmatic, and rheumatic affections. At Phoenix, centrally located in the valley, the official record shows that the duration of sunshine averages approximately 84 percent of the amount possible, that there is an annual average of 161 days with 100 percent sunshine, 267 days with 80 percent or more, 16 days with less than 20 percent, and an average of only four days in the year when the sun does not appear.

Winter days are mostly bright and sunny, and the temperature at night infrequently reaches the freezing point. The history of the few relatively cold spells that have occurred shows that but one has been known in which the temperature fell below 29 degrees and that in about half of the years the lowest winter extreme is above 25 degrees. In most cases, also, freezing temperatures are of such short duration in the morning hour as not to endanger the staple agricultural and horticultural products of the valley.

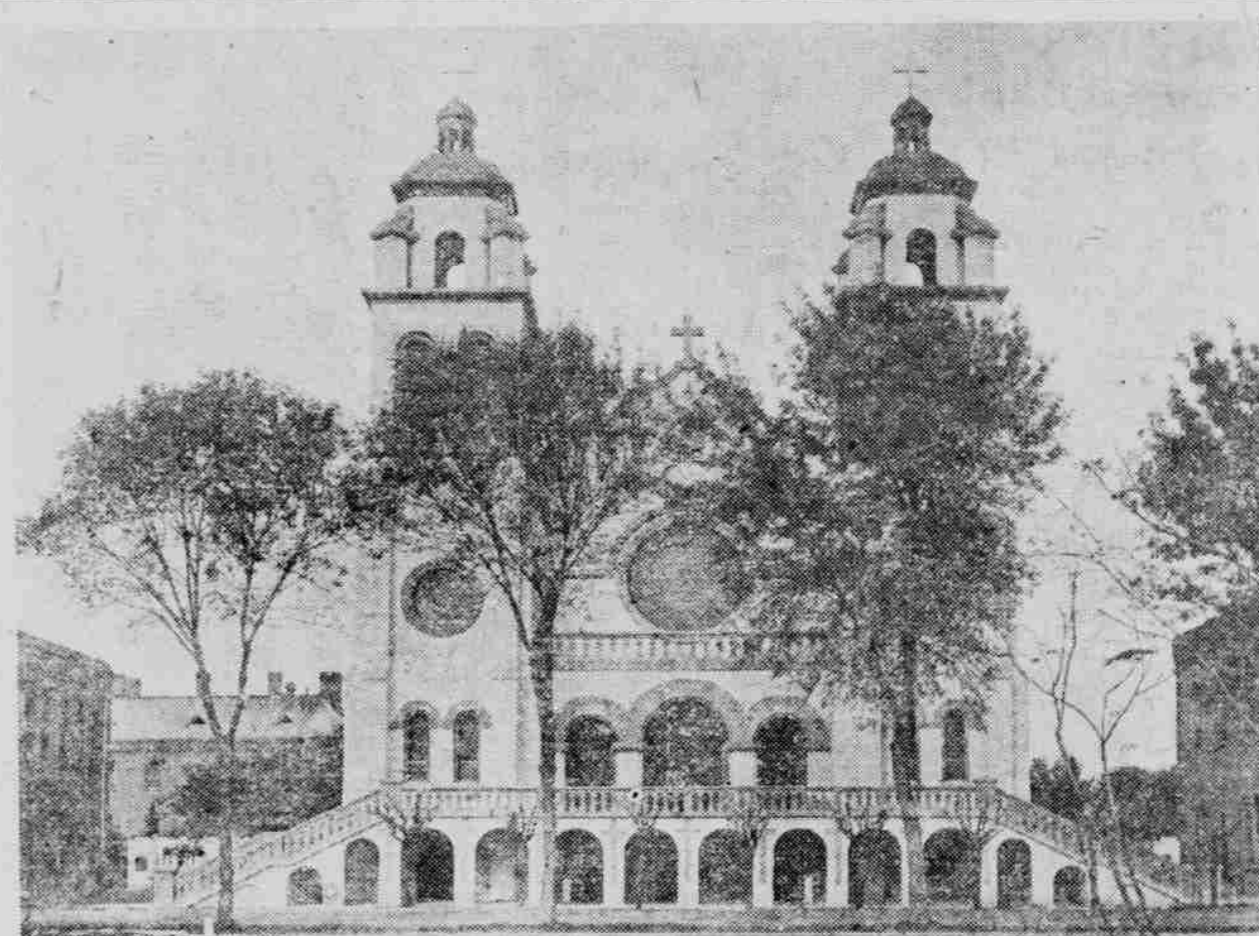
Altogether, the autumn, winter, and spring months are delightful. There are occasional spells of disagreeable weather, but it would be difficult to point out any other locality with so high a percentage of pleasant days

as obtains in these sections of the interior southwest of which the Salt River Valley is representative.

It will be noticed that no allusion was just made to the summer months whose soaring daytime temperatures are heralded abroad in terms of three figures and no doubt are regarded with something akin to horror by all who have not passed a summer here. The omission was intentional and to the end that an account of them may be precluded by the admissions that the summer is long, the sun shines hot, and that the afternoon extremes may reach 100 degrees or more for days or even weeks at a time. With this, the worst is said, for, surprising as it may seem, one pursues his way during these hot months with as little heed and discomfort as attends the average summer day in the middle west or upon the Atlantic seaboard. Furthermore, the sleepless nights and attending lassitude or the utter exhaustion and possible collapse experienced whenever the temperature in the more humid sections mounts to approximately 90 degrees for a few consecutive days are here practically unknown. Excluding the autumn and spring, one can find many here who actually prefer the summer to the winter climate. A study of the records for relative humidity, sensible temperature, and the range between the night and the day will readily show why the seemingly appalling maximum temperatures common here in summer are really quite as endurable as those of from 15 to 20 degrees lower in more humid regions.

It is proposed, however, to deal sparingly with actual data. The story of the climate can well be told by some account of how we live and dress and what we grow. A statement that overcoats are never the rule upon the streets and are little worn except in driving; that there are many here who neither possess

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ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
One of Arizona's finest church edifices. It cost \$125,000.

## Why Not Phoenix As Leading Winter Resort Of Country?

(By ROBERT PAUL HOLLIDAY)

Phoenix as a winter resort? Yes, why not Phoenix as the leading winter home town in the United States. Where else can a city boast of a winter climate that produces barely one day during that season, in which the sun does not shine. True there are days when it is not much in evidence, but it is a most exceptional day when a few hours of warmth giving rays do not gladden the valley.

With an average temperature in the winter time of 69.4, the absence of damaging frosts, and a tropical verdure coupled with green lawns throughout the winter season, Phoenix indeed is the Mecca of the wandering pilgrim searching for the ideal spot in which to escape the rigors of a northern winter. Every winter, the thousands of tourists flocking to the valley testify to the

to the beauty of those acquainted with the wonders of the Salt River Valley, to withstand the call of warmth, sunshine a vitalizing air and a hospitality that is the ever conspicuous feature of the Southwest. Nowhere in the West, can more beautiful homes be found than in Phoenix. The California bungalow, has been excelled, and the essentials enlarged upon. For the family desire to make this city their home for the winter, these bungalows are to be rented fully furnished at a moderate price. For those preferring hotels or an apartment home, the accommodations offered could hardly be equaled in a city twice as large. The city schools of Phoenix, are said to be the most up-to-date in the west. Only a few days ago, a noted lecturer of the East, said in an address before an audience

of Phoenix citizens, "That the sight of the wonderful schools you have erected throughout your city, makes one want to come back and entrust the education of his children to them." The corps of well paid and satisfied teachers, devote their efforts to the upbuilding and the physical education of their pupils as well as to the mental.

The wandering tourist seeking environment, different from any to be found in the old eastern states, or in Europe or Asia, will be sure to be satisfied. A few hours ride in either direction from the city will take one to the desert, to the Apache reservation, with its wonderful colony, its great variety of semi-tropical growth and its marvelous mountain back-ground.

Social life in Phoenix in the winter time is of the gayest order. Entertainment is to be obtained at any time of the day or night at a minimum effort. Theatres are to be found throughout the downtown district. The formation of a Drama League insures that during the coming season, drama of a high order will be presented in Phoenix.

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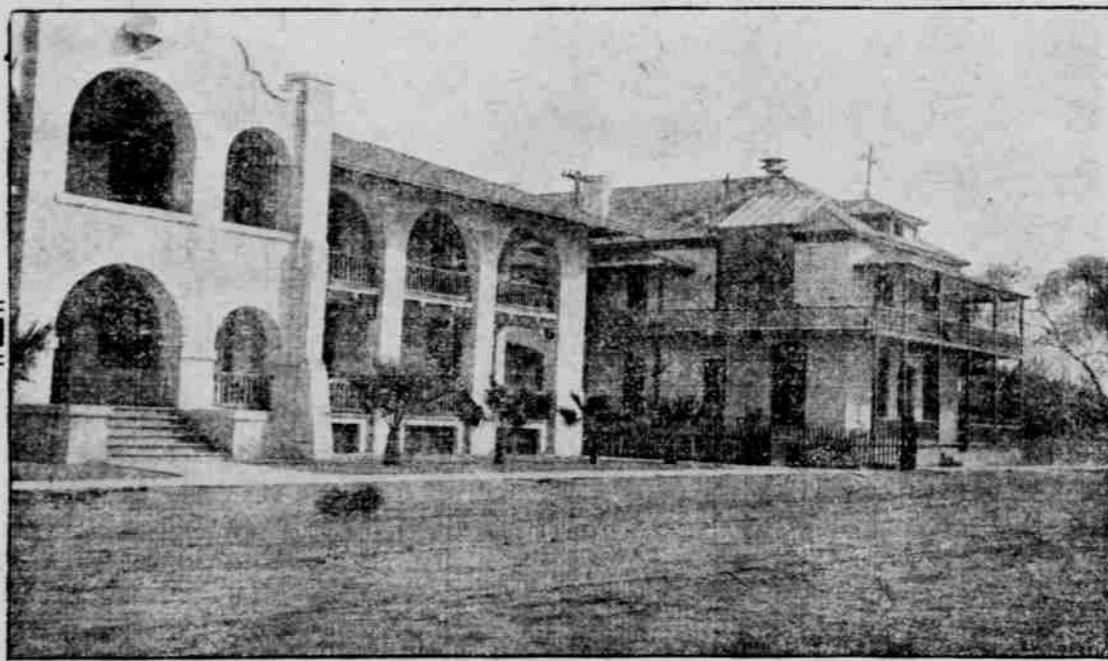
MODERN FIGHTERS OF FIRE

The Auto truck Fire Department of Phoenix answering an alarm. In the background is "Korrick's," a new department store building, also the Dorris-Heyman building.

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