

# The Coconino Sun

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## PRESIDENT PASSES THROUGH FLAGSTAFF

On His Way to the Grand Canyon Wednesday Morning—  
Early Watchers Disappointed

### FLAGSTAFF'S PATRIOTIC PEOPLE

FOLLOW HIM IN GOODLY NUMBER

To Do Honor to the Nation's Chief Executive—President Presents  
Diplomas to Flagstaff High School Graduates—The  
Citizens of Flagstaff Present Beautiful  
and Costly Navajo Blanket.

Wednesday morning a large number of Flagstaffians gathered at the railroad station in order to be on hand to take advantage of the necessary stoppage for water, should Mr. Roosevelt arise so early, of catching a glimpse of the nation's well-loved chief magistrate, President Theodore Roosevelt.

At 4:03 a passenger engine drawing six Pullman coaches flashed by the station, seeming to frighten the shadows of night which seemed averse to giving way to the just-breaking dawn, back from the railroad into the settled portion of the town, to come creeping back again when the engine had replenished its water supply and continued on its way. It was the Presidential train, and those who awaited with the expectation of catching sight of Mr. Roosevelt were disappointed, for he did not make his appearance. The train carrying the Presidential party continued on without material stoppage to Williams, thence over the Grand Canyon branch, arriving at Bright Angel at 9:30 a. m.

Excursionists from Flagstaff congregated about 5:00 a. m., and an hour later, at 6 o'clock, a train of five cars pulled out from this town bearing 301 enthusiastic people hot on the President's trail. The Flagstaff excursionists arrived at Bright Angel at 11:00 a. m. and found that the President had thoughtfully timed his return from a horseback trip begun earlier in the day, so as to be on hand for the arrival of the Flagstaff train.

The President held his reception at the Grand Canyon Hotel, from the balcony of which he addressed about eight hundred of as appreciative auditors as a public speaker ever confronted. Upon the balcony during the President's address, were most of the territorial and Federal officials of Arizona, together with many of Mr. Roosevelt's former comrades-in-arms. Gov. Alex. O. Brodie, who joined the Presidential party at Albuquerque, made the introductory address, after which Mr. Roosevelt spoke as follows:

#### The President's Speech.

"Mr. Governor, and you my Fellow Citizens, My Fellow Americans, Men and Women of Arizona: I am glad to be in Arizona today. It was

from Arizona that so many gallant men came into the regiment which I had the honor to command. Arizona sent men who won glory on hard-fought fields, and men to whom came a glorious and an honorable death fighting for the flag of their country, and as long as I live it will be to me an inspiration to have served with Bucky O'Neill. (Applause.) I have met so many comrades whom I prize for whom I feel only respect and admiration, and I shall not particularize among them except to say that there is no one for whom I feel more of respect than for your governor. (Applause.) I remember when I first joined the regiment that all of us were new to one another, but as soon as I saw the colonel (he was then major) I made up my mind I could tie to him. (Cries of 'Good!' Applause.)

"It is a pleasure to be in Arizona. I have never been in it before. Arizona is one of the regions from which I expect most development through the wise action of the national congress in passing the irrigation act. (Applause.) The first and biggest experiment now in view under that act is the one that we are trying in Arizona. (Applause.) I look forward to the effects of irrigation partly as applied through the government, still more as applied by individuals, and especially by associations of individuals, profiting by the example of the government and possibly by help from it—I look forward to the effects of irrigation as being of greater consequence to all this region of country in the next fifty years than any other movement whatsoever. I think that irrigation counts for more toward the achieving of the permanent good results for the community.

"I shall not try to greet in particular the members of my regiment now. I shall see them at half past five in my car. I have come here to see the Grand Canyon of Arizona, because in that canyon Arizona has a natural wonder, which, so far as I know, is in kind absolutely unparalleled throughout the rest of the world. (Applause.) I shall not attempt to describe it, because I cannot. I could not choose words that would convey or that could convey to any outsider what that canyon is. I want to ask you to do one thing in connection with it in your

own interest and in the interest of the country—to keep this great wonder of nature as it now is. (Applause.) I was delighted to learn of the wisdom of the Santa Fe railroad people in deciding not to build their hotel on the brink of the canyon. I hope you will not have a building of any kind, not a summer cottage, a hotel or anything else to mar the wonderful grandeur, the sublimity, the loneliness and beauty of the canyon. Leave it as it is. Man cannot improve on it; not a bit. The ages have been at work on it and man can only mar it. What you can do is to keep it for your children and your children's children and for all who come after you, as one of the great sights which every American, if he can travel at all, should see.

Keep the Grand Canyon of Arizona as it is. We have gotten past the stage, my fellow citizens, when we are to be pardoned if we simply treat any part of our country as something to be skinned for two or three years for the use of the present generation. Whether it is the forest, the water, the scenery, whatever it is, handle it so that your children's children will get the benefit of it. Handle it that way. If irrigation, apply it under circumstances that will make it of benefit, not to the speculators to get profit out of it for two or three years, but handle it so that it will be of use to the homemaker; to the man who comes to live here and to have his children stay after him; handle it so as to be of use to him and those who come after him. Keep the forests in the same way. Preserve them for that use, but use them so that they will not be squandered; will not be wasted; so that they will be of benefit to the Arizona of 1952 as well as the Arizona of 1903.

"I want to say a word of welcome to the Indians here. In my regiment I had a good many Indians. They were good enough to fight and to die; and they are good enough to have me treat them exactly as square as any white man. There are a good many problems in connection with the Indians. You have got to save them from corruption, save them from brutality, and I regret to say that at times we have to save them from the unregulated Eastern philanthropist, because in everything we have to remember that although perhaps the worst quality in which to approach any question is hardness of heart, I do not know that it does so much damage as selfishness of head. All I ask is a square deal for every man. Give him a fair chance; do not let him wrong anyone, and do not let him be wronged. Help as far as you can, without hurting in helping him, for the only way to help a man in the end is to help a man to help himself. Never forget that you have to have two sets of qualities; the qualities that we include under the names of decency, honesty, morality, that make a man a decent husband, a good father, a good neighbor, fair and square in his dealings with all men, and in his dealings with the state; and then, furthermore, the qualities that have to be shown by every man who is to do his work in the world. Virtue is good, but the virtue that sits at home in its own parlor and talks about how bad the world is, never did anything and never will. I want to see the qualities that the men

of '61 to '65 had, my comrades. You had to have a man patriotic in those days, but it did not make any difference how patriotic he was, if he did not fight he was no good. So it is with citizenship. I want to see decency and then I want to see the hardy virtues; the virtues we speak of when we describe anyone as a good man. I am glad to see you today. I wish you well with all my heart. I know that your future will justify all the hopes we have." (Cheers and applause.)

Following the speech, Principal Russell, of the Flagstaff High School, presented, in turn, each of the members of the graduating class of his school to the President, who presented to them their diplomas, accompanying each with a few happy felicitations, which we venture to say will live in the memories of the fortunate youngsters all their lives. It is not every graduate who is fortunate enough to have the chief magistrate of the nation as sponsor for the efficiency of the system of education as taught in our public schools as a weapon in the battle of life, and they should always bear in mind that they have a greater than ordinary incentive to right living and right doing. Following are the names of the justly-proud members of the graduating class: Denny Hibben, Helen Merritt, Esther Hibben, Edna Vail, Amelia Jacoby.

After the diploma presentation, the class presented to the President a very pretty Navajo buckskin boot handsomely and elaborately ornamented, accompanied by the following versical gem from the pen of County Superintendent of Schools Harrison Conrard:

"Drawn from the deer that track our wild,  
Tanned by the skill of a bronze-hued child.  
Shaped by the magic of his deft hand,  
And hither borne by our little band—  
Accept this tribute from us who bring  
Our loyal love with its offering;  
Nor ours alone, but, the love of all,  
Whom, bending the ear to wisdom's call,  
The term of youth has not yet spanned  
The golden love of a golden land."

After this pretty ceremony the assemblage lined up, and passed in file before the President, each in turn grasping the hand of the nation's chief, and Arizona's guest again took up the sightseeing part of the day's program, the party probably following the course taken by Coronado's band, so many generations ago.

The A. L. & T. Co.'s band accompanied the Flagstaff excursionists and furnished excellent music throughout the day.

After the reception of the Rough Riders at the President's car at 5:30 o'clock, Messrs. F. W. Sisson, E. S. Gosney, C. J. Babbitt, Prof. W. H. Russell and Harrison Conrard were invited into the car, and through Mr. Sisson presented the President a Navajo blanket of rare weave and of great value. Mr. Roosevelt was delighted with the token of esteem from the citizens of Flagstaff, and asked a great many questions about the blanket.

The President told them the day had been the most enjoyable one of the trip, and that his impressions of Arizona were most pleasant ones. The President made a most favorable im-