



Arizona Historical Society

founded by Arizona pioneers in 1884

Headquarters • 949 East Second Street • Tucson • Arizona 85719 (602) 628-5775

March 10, 1992

Dorothy V. Gilbert
480 E. Ocotillo Rd.
Phoenix AZ 85012

Dear Mrs. Gilbert:

I am pleased to notify you that your paper has been accepted for presentation at this year's Arizona Historical Convention. Your session is scheduled for 10:00-11:15 a.m. on Friday, April 30.

Please remember that time is limited. You should confine your presentation to no more than 20 minutes (10-12 double-spaced typed pages). Notify me as soon as possible if you will require audio-visual equipment (slide projector, etc.).

If you submitted a proposal and wish to be included in the competition for Best Convention Paper or Best Graduate Student Paper, you must submit your completed paper to me no later than April 1.

Registration materials will be in the mail during the week of March 15.

Thank you for participating in the Arizona Historical Convention. We look forward to seeing you in Bullhead City.

Sincerely,

Bruce J. Dinges, Ph.D.
Director of Publications

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Dorothy V. Gilbert
480 East Ocotillo Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
March 29, 1993

Bruce J. Dinges. Ph. D.
Director of Publications
Arizona Historical Society
949 East Second Street
Tucson, Arizona 85719

Dear Dr. Dinges:

I am submitting my paper on the "History of the Phoenix Mountains Preserve" for presentation at the 34th Annual Convention of the Arizona Historical Society. I understand I am to present the paper Friday, April 30, at the 10a.m. session.

I will not require audio-visual equipment. I will appreciate the opportunity to compete for Best Convention Paper.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to meeting you in Bullhead City.

Sincerely,

Dorothy V. Gilbert

Dorothy V. Gilbert
480 East Ocotillo Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(602) 265-8397

A HISTORY OF THE PHOENIX MOUNTAINS PRESERVE

By Dorothy V. Gilbert

Paper Presented at 34th Annual Convention
Arizona Historical Society
Bullhead City, Arizona
April 30, 1993

Dorothy V. Gilbert
480 East Ocotillo Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(602) 265-8397

A HISTORY OF THE PHOENIX MOUNTAINS PRESERVE

By Dorothy V. Gilbert

Submitted to the Arizona Historical Society March 29, 1993
Paper Presented at A.H.S. Annual Convention, April 30, 1993

A HISTORY OF THE PHOENIX MOUNTAINS PRESERVE

By Dorothy V. Gilbert

Phoenix has no rugged shoreline, no white sand beaches, no shimmering lakes. Its rivers are normally dry gullies of sand and rock. But, within its city limits, Phoenix has what no other city in the country can claim - natural desert-mountain Preserves, still inhabited by coyotes, jackrabbits, even an occasional javelina. In this wilderness wonderland, the hiker, bicycler or horseman can top a ridge and dip into a valley surrounded by, but totally removed from, the sights and sounds of dense urban areas. How did it happen?

Turn back the pages of history to the mid-1950s. The city limits of Phoenix ended at Camelback Road. Glendale Avenue was a two-lane road with dirt shoulders and it ended just past the Arizona Canal where it now veers south and becomes Lincoln Drive. A little wagon road led into the mountains where Squaw Peak stood in lonesome majesty, the centerpiece of a mountain range known as the Phoenix Mountains. A trail had been constructed to the top of the mountain, along with a hitching post to tether the horses from the Arizona Biltmore resort. To the north of the Phoenix Mountains, the desert stretched endlessly.

But there were people with vision. One of them was Ben Avery, outdoor writer for the ARIZONA REPUBLIC. Through his efforts and the determination of the Maricopa County Supervisors and manager, the County acquired grazing leases on Squaw Peak, which were held by the Arizona Biltmore and by Viola Smith, widow of a former State Land Commissioner.¹ In 1958, Squaw Peak became a county park leased from the State Land Department.