

CARRILLO, LEOPOLDO

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WRITTEN BY A. W. P.A. WORKER

CARRILLO, LEOPOLDO. Born May 25, 1836, in Montezuma, Sonora, Mexico. From there he came to Arizona in 1859. He made his start in the Territory by freighting for the government between Yuma and Tucson, and El Paso and Tucson. He built a brick building on the east side of Main Street (Main and Broadway). When completed, about April 25, 1869, it towered above all other buildings in the Pueblo. He rented part of the lower floor to a Mr. Jarvenillo, a general merchandise merchant from New Mexico. The second story was divided into a commodious hall and a beautifully furnished saloon, where wines and ice-cream and other refreshments were served. He also owned the property on the west side of Main Street between Congress and Broadway, a ranch at the mouth of Sabino Canyon and another just across the international line from Nogales in Mexico.

But his chief interest was the Carrillo Gardens, a landscaped wooded park and pleasure resort in which were boating in the small lake, a saloon, bathhouse, and refreshment stands. He "brought from California and from Mexico some of the rarest vines and trees available at that time. They were planted artistically....A small zoo was maintained; ponies, ridden by monkeys, were often started in races on the small race course. Boating, dancing, shooting galleries and many other amusements were provided."

He was also a capitalist.

While in Sonora on business, Leopoldo Carrillo was taken prisoner, during a fight between the state troops and the rebels, and held for

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ransom and brought him back to Tucson. That following September 15, Mexican Independence Day, Carrillo refused to celebrate.

He was a Republican, and took part in every political campaign during his life-time.

He died of consumption, December 9, 1880[?] at 2 o'clock in the morning. He was 54 years of age and had resided in Tucson for 30 years.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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 April 24, 1869.
 May 1, 1869.
 June 26, 1869.
 September 4, 1869.

Weekly Arizonian, December 31, 1870.

Arizona Citizen, May 24, 1873.

Arizona Citizen, July 19, 1873.

Arizona Citizen, October 22, 1874.

Carrillo, Leopoldo, Jr., Reminiscences, Mss. file, Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, Tucson.

Hand, George O., Diary, August 27, 1875; Sept. 4, 1875; Sept. 15, 1875.

Arizona Citizen, December 9, 1890.

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Pioneers' Minutes, December 10, 1890.