

GILBERT

SHSIDER
RMACY
BOTICA

SOUTH SIDE
YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUGGIST

Nobilgas

LIBERTY
AND MEAT
A COMPLETE FOOD

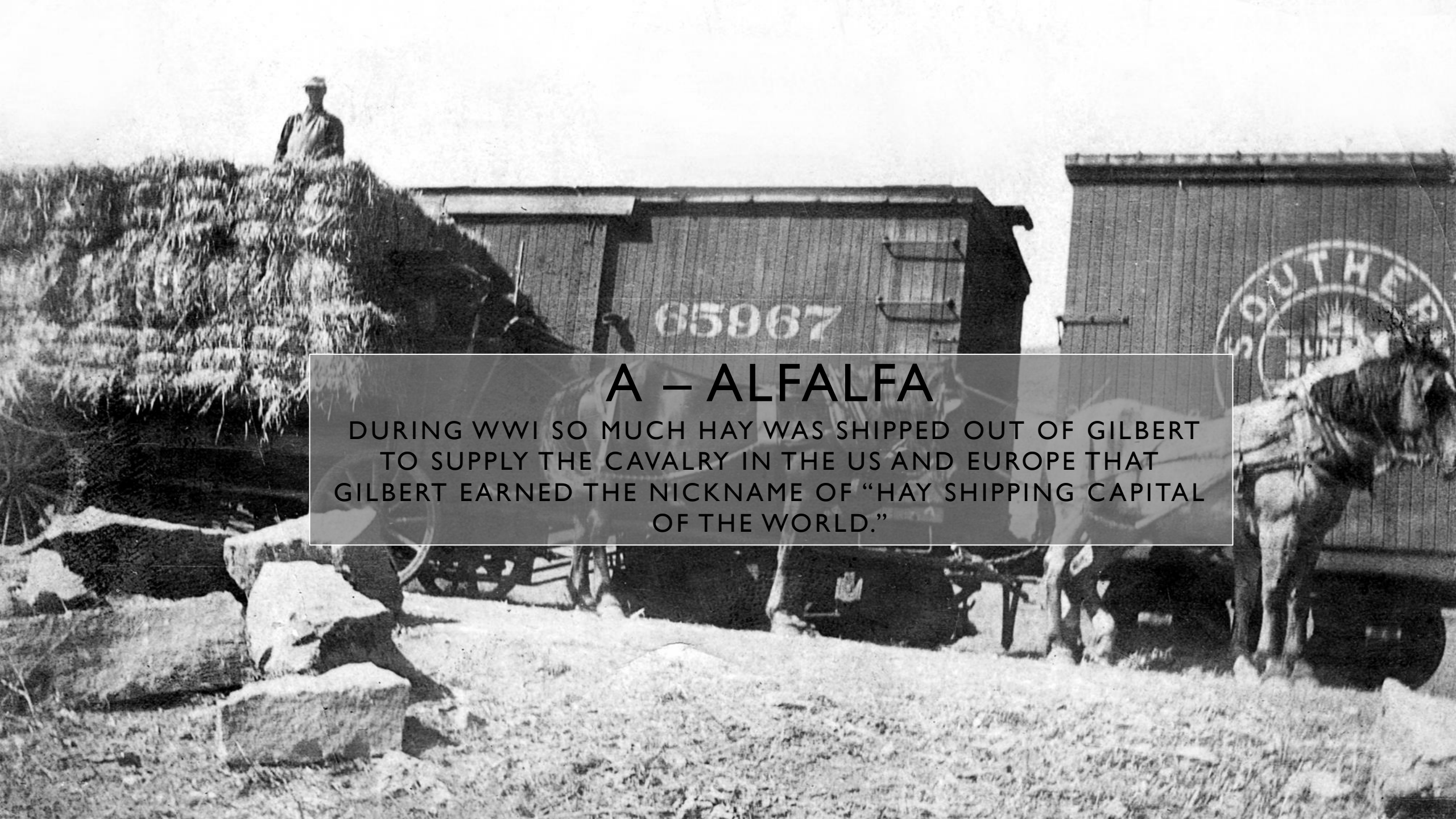


GILBERT

A-Z

STREET SCENE

1930s



A – ALFALFA

DURING WWI SO MUCH HAY WAS SHIPPED OUT OF GILBERT TO SUPPLY THE CAVALRY IN THE US AND EUROPE THAT GILBERT EARNED THE NICKNAME OF “HAY SHIPPING CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.”



B – BOBBY GILBERT

BOBBY CAME TO ARIZONA IN 1882 WITH HIS PARENTS. IN 1898 HE PATENTED A 160-ACRE PIECE OF LAND, WHICH IS CLOSE TO WHERE THE WATER TOWER IS TODAY. BUT

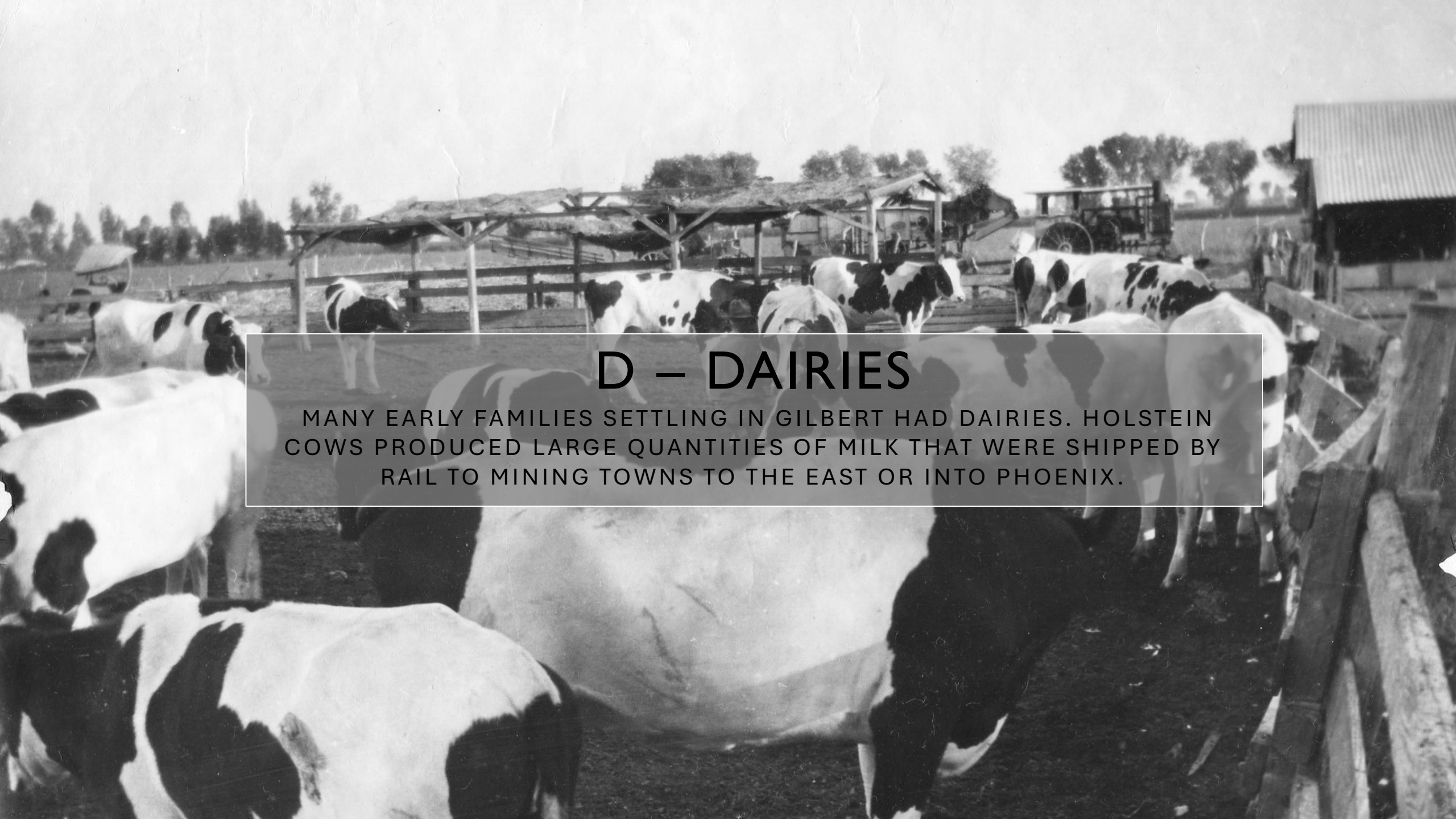
BOBBY NEVER LIVED ON THIS LAND. IN

1902 THE PHOENIX AND EASTERN RAILROAD WANTED TO BUILD A RAIL LINE FROM PHOENIX TO THE MINING TOWNS TO THE EAST. THEY WANTED TO PUT A SPUR LINE ON BOBBY GILBERT'S LAND. BOBBY SAID HE WOULD SELL THE RAILROAD HIS LAND IF THEY WOULD NAME THE SPUR LINE AFTER HIM. SO, THEY NAMED IT THE GILBERT SPUR.

C – CHANDLER-GILBERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CGCC WAS FOUNDED IN 1985 TO SERVE THE
HIGHER EDUCATION NEEDS OF
THE SOUTHEAST VALLEY.



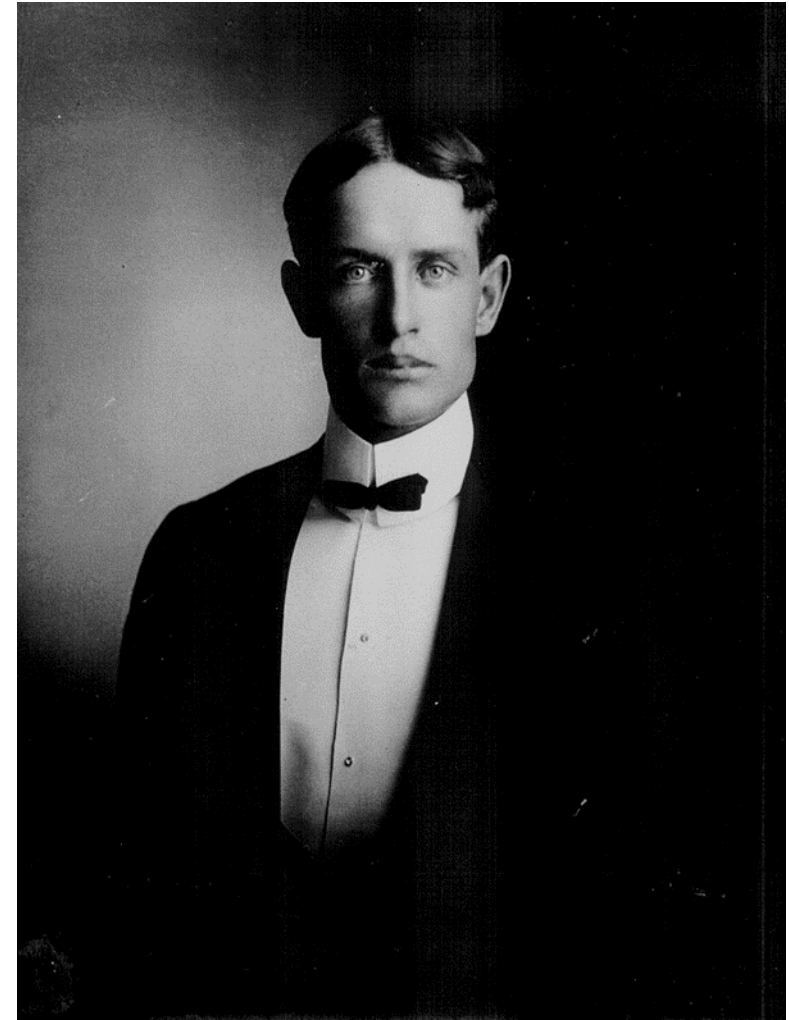


D – DAIRIES

MANY EARLY FAMILIES SETTLING IN GILBERT HAD DAIRIES. HOLSTEIN COWS PRODUCED LARGE QUANTITIES OF MILK THAT WERE SHIPPED BY RAIL TO MINING TOWNS TO THE EAST OR INTO PHOENIX.

E - EVERETT R. WILBUR

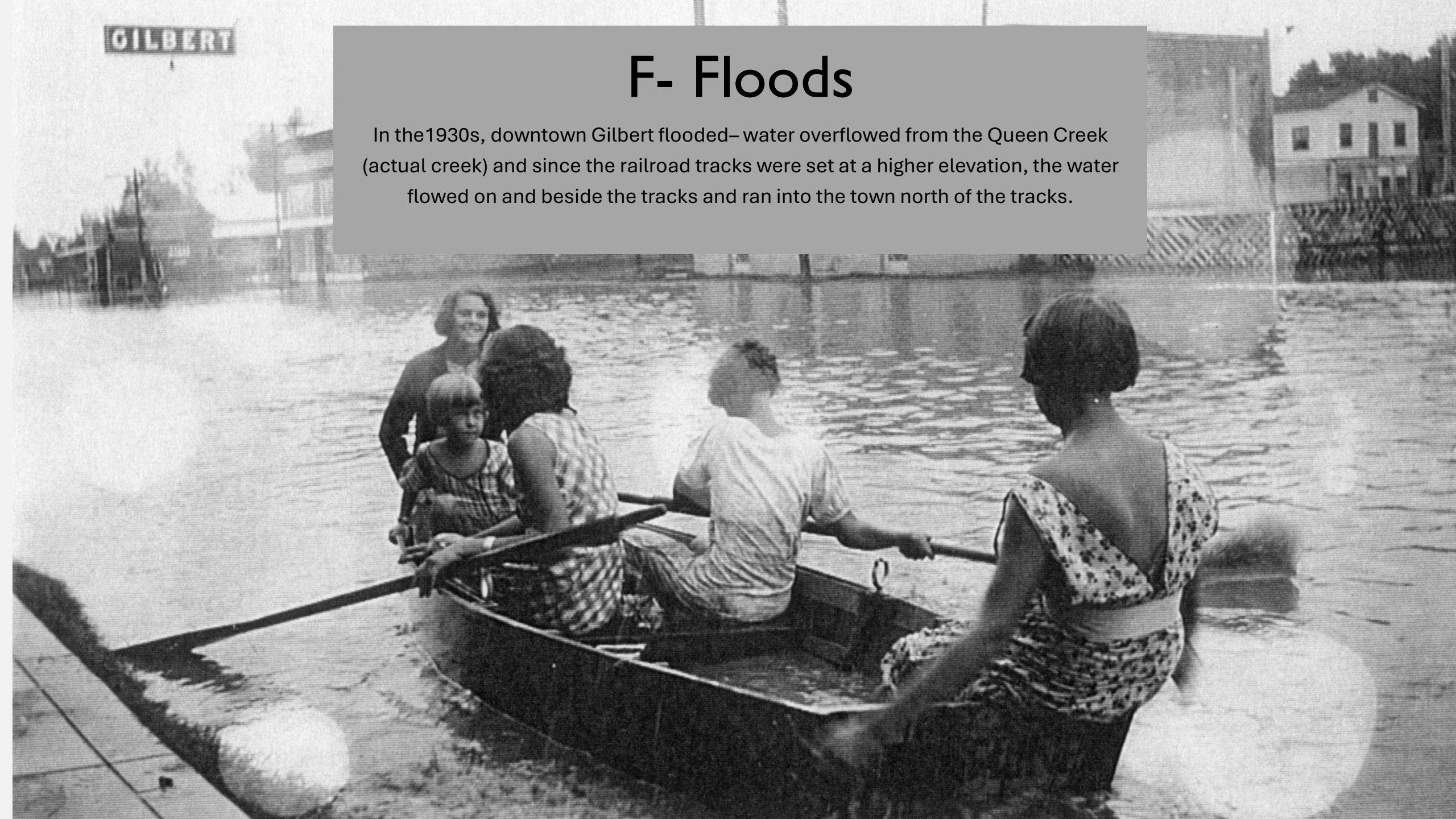
EVERETT WILBUR WAS THE FIRST MAYOR OF GILBERT. IN 1914 HE MOVED TO GILBERT WITH HIS WIFE NELLY AND THEIR FOUR CHILDREN. EVERETT WAS A DAIRYMAN, BLACKSMITH, MACHINIST, AND INVENTOR. MANY OF HIS DESCENDANTS ARE STILL IN THE AREA.

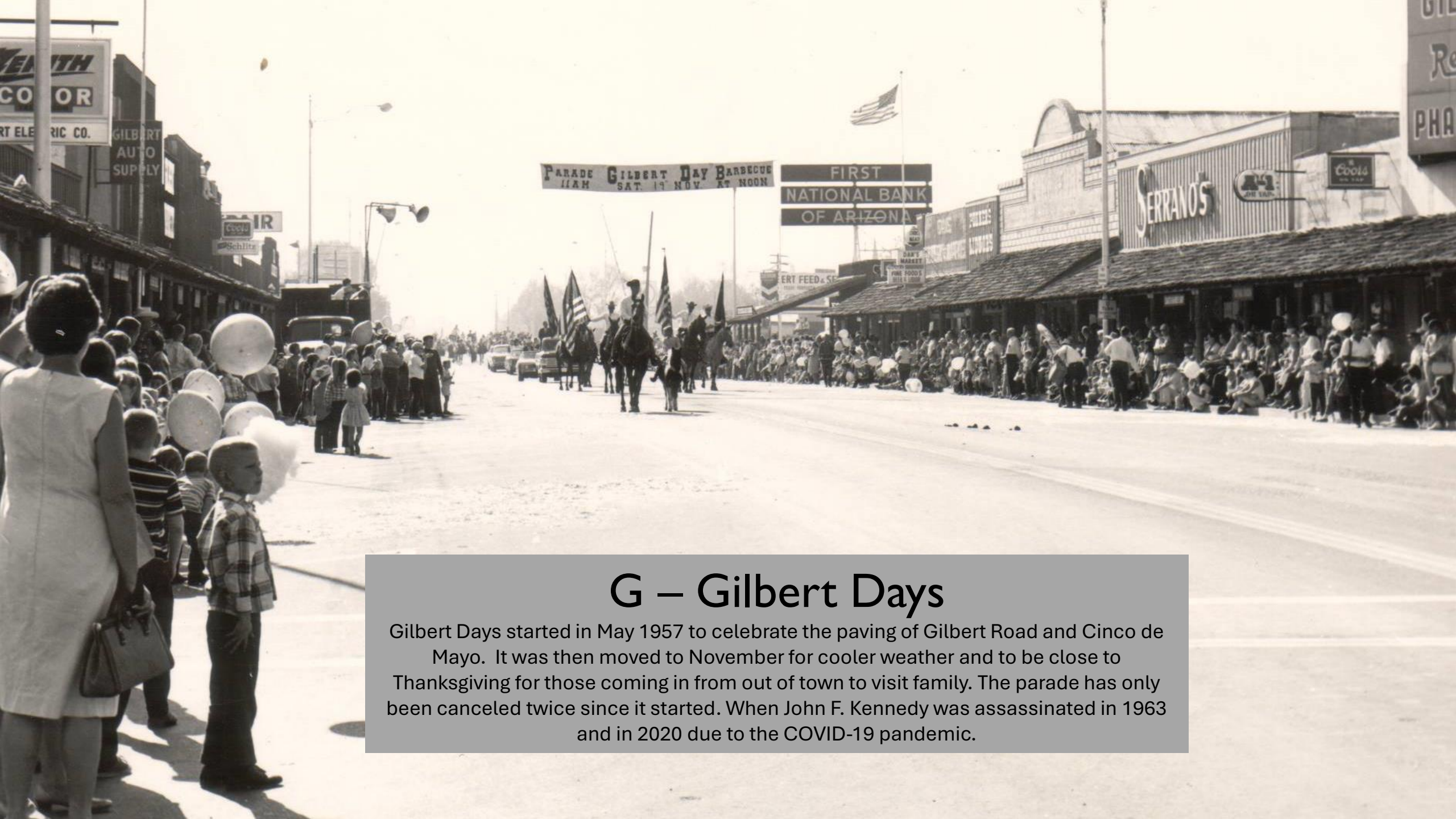


GILBERT

F- Floods

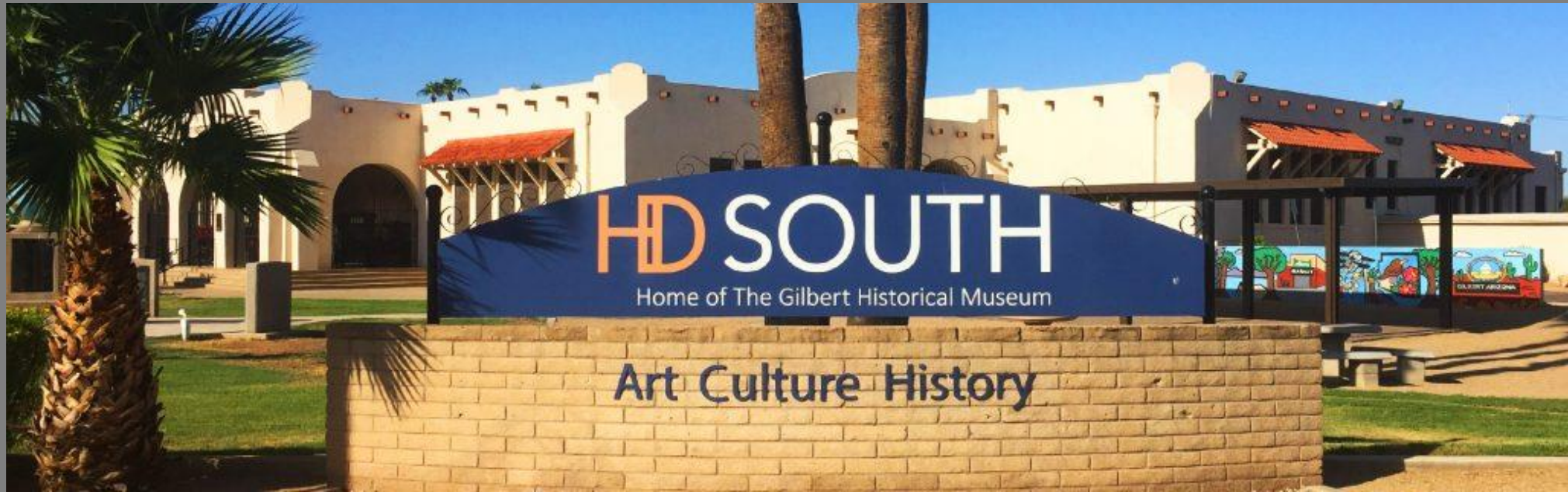
In the 1930s, downtown Gilbert flooded—water overflowed from the Queen Creek (actual creek) and since the railroad tracks were set at a higher elevation, the water flowed on and beside the tracks and ran into the town north of the tracks.





G – Gilbert Days

Gilbert Days started in May 1957 to celebrate the paving of Gilbert Road and Cinco de Mayo. It was then moved to November for cooler weather and to be close to Thanksgiving for those coming in from out of town to visit family. The parade has only been canceled twice since it started. When John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 and in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



H – HD SOUTH

Originally opened as Gilbert Elementary School in 1913, HD SOUTH is the oldest building still standing in Gilbert and is the only one on the National Register of Historic Places.

I- IRRIGATION

BY 1920 GILBERT HAD 4 CANAL SYSTEMS
TO GET WATER FROM. BEING ABLE TO
EASILY IRRIGATE CROPS WAS A
LIFEBLOOD FOR THE EARLY FARMERS IN
GILBERT.





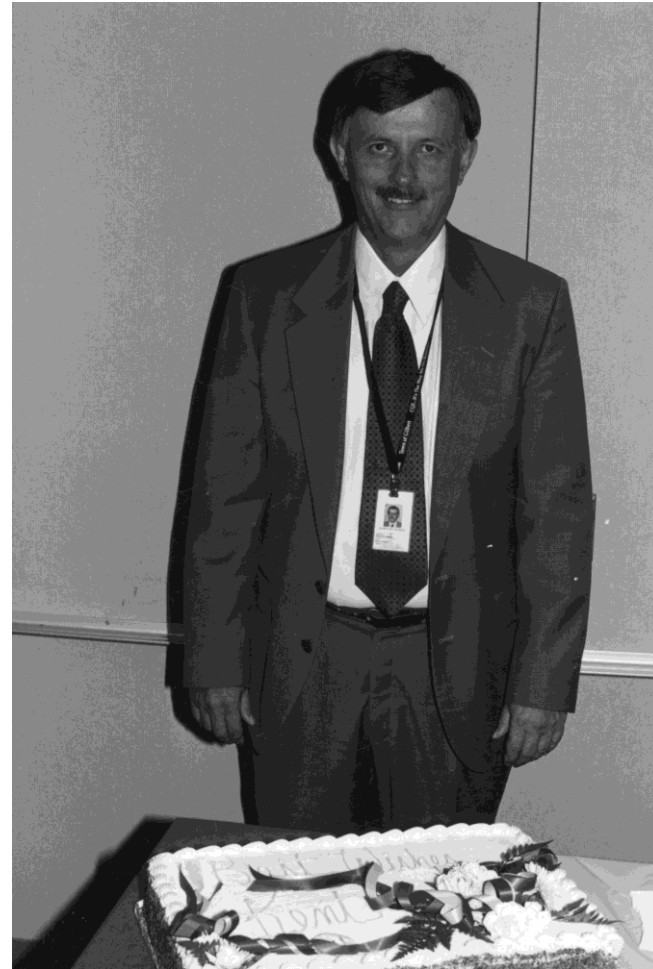
J- John Anderson Family

The first family to homestead and actually farm on the land and stay was the John Anderson family in Dec. of 1891. Many of his descendants still live in the area today.

K – Kent Cooper

Gilbert's town manager from 1983 – 2001.

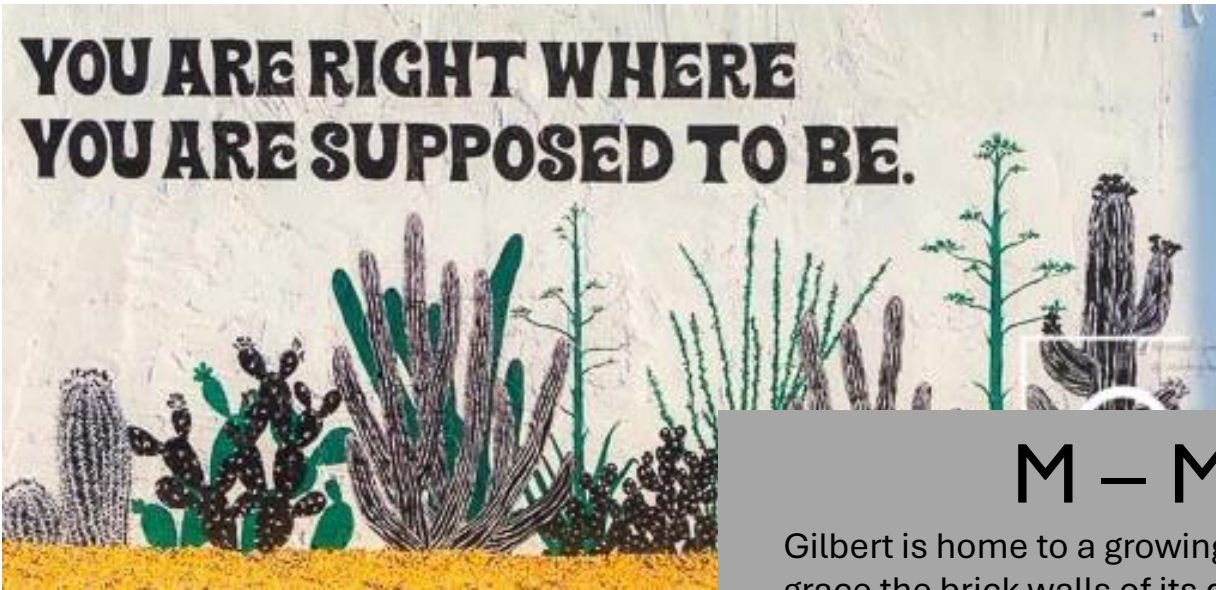
During this time, Gilbert's population exploded, The population doubled every 5 years between 1980 and 2000. Kent Cooper had to oversee the monumental task of building infrastructure and water and sewer systems, traffic lights, public safety, schools, etc.





L- Liberty Market

Opened in September 1936 by the Dong family and purchased by the Ong family in 1943, the Liberty Market is one of the oldest continuously running businesses in Gilbert.



M – Murals

Gilbert is home to a growing collection of murals that grace the brick walls of its downtown area, as well as other locations throughout the town. These murals are created by local artists and feature a wide range of styles and themes, from abstract patterns to realistic depictions of people and animals.

<https://allthingsgilbert.com/2024/01/29/gilbert-murals/>



GILBERT, ARIZONA, THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1920

Supervisors Grant Request Gilbert Now Incorporated

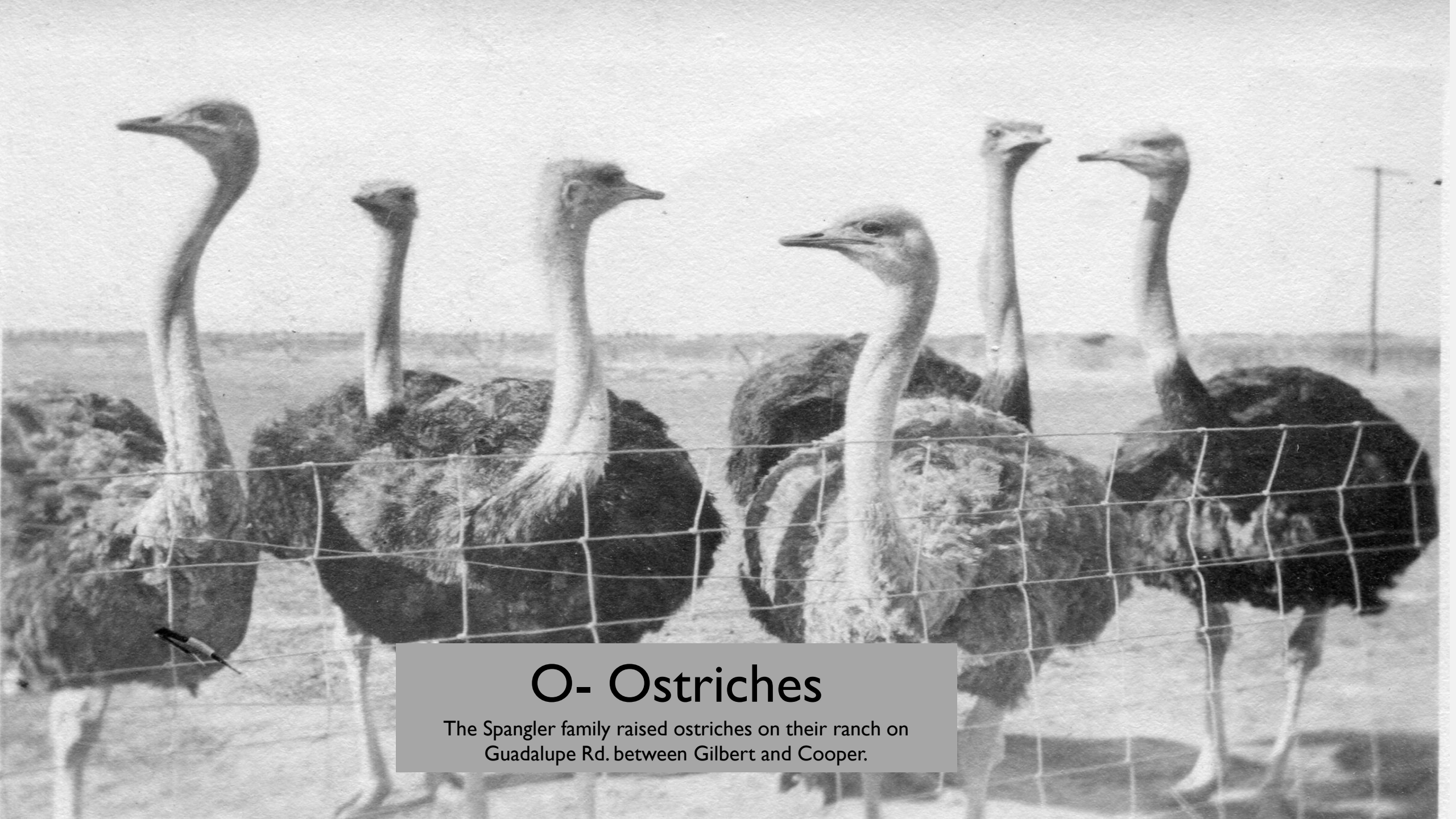
The board of supervisors of Maricopa County yesterday granted the petition of the residents of Gilbert to incorporate, and the young, fast-growing town to the south of Mesa has now taken its place among the incorporated towns of the state. The petitions that were presented to the supervisors were signed by the majority of the residents of Gilbert, the proportion in favor of incorporation being 5 to 1 for those against it.

Lying in the midst of one of the richest sections of the Salt River Valley, Gilbert has an assured and successful future, and its citizens are confident that their town will rapidly progress into the front rank of towns of the state. Plans are already under consideration to improve Gilbert in every possible way, and these plans will be put into operation as rapidly as they can be completed and the financial part of the work can be outlined in a satisfactory manner.

The first council of the new town will be composed of G. W. Lines, M. L. Nowell, J. S. Porter, E. R. Wilbur, E. R. Stoner, all of whom are among the leading citizens and property-owners of the town.

N- Nineteen Twenty

In 1920 there were about 500 people living in Gilbert, (the minimum needed) so we were able to officially become a town.



O- Ostriches

The Spangler family raised ostriches on their ranch on
Guadalupe Rd. between Gilbert and Cooper.

P- Pump House

Constructed to hold the pump and equipment for the water tower a pump house was built at the base. The building was an adobe block building and also served as Gilbert's first jail. It served as the town's jail until 1937 when the Town built a new Town Hall which included a jail.



Q – Quality of life

In 2024 Livability named Gilbert one of their top 100 Best Places to Live in the U.S. Gilbert has also been ranked as one of the happiest places to live by WalletHub and one of the best places to raise a family by Niche.

<https://www.gilbertdi.com/best-places-lists/#:~:text=Gilbert,%20Ariz.%20has%20recently%20ranked%20as%20the%20Best>



R – Railroad

In 1902 the railroad spur line (dual track for loading and unloading) was built on Bobby Gilbert's land. It was called the Gilbert Spur, the town grew up around this track. This line still runs through Gilbert today.



SONORATOWN
N.E. 9 3/4 - ACRES
SEC. 24 - T. 1 S., R. 5 E.
G. & S. R. B. & M.
 Scale: 1"=100'

STATE OF ARIZONA } ss.
 COUNTY OF MARICOPA }

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:
 That C. H. Russell, of the County of Maricopa, State of Arizona, and owner of the Northeast nine and three-fourths acres of Section 24, in Township 1 South, Range 5 East of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby adopt and file the accompanying map or plat of said property and designate the same as

SONORATOWN
 and hereby dedicate all roads and alleys shown on said map or plat for the use of the public.
 In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, this the 19 day of May A.D. 1920

C. H. Russell

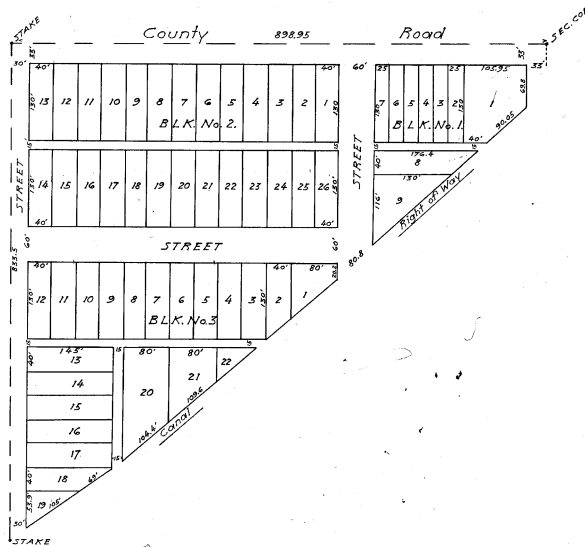
STATE OF ARIZONA } ss.
 COUNTY OF MARICOPA }

The foregoing instrument was acknowledge before me this the 19 day of May A.D. 1920 by
 My commission expires Jan. 5, 1924.

Victor N. Harding
 Notary Public

I, A. B. Titus, a civil eng'r. of the County of Maricopa, State of Arizona, do hereby certify that I surveyed the north-east nine and three-fourths acres of Sec. 24, in Township 1 south, Range 5 east, of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, and that the annexed plat showing exterior boundaries, blocks, streets, and alleys, is a true map of the said survey.

A. B. Titus



13974

REGISTER'S OFFICE
 Phoenix, Arizona. The following plat was recorded at request of
C. H. Russell
 Date *May 19, 1920*
 P. M. J. M. J.
Cliff J. M. J.
 Register

Book
 9
 Page
 22

S – Sonoratown
 In 1918-1919, C.G Russell, a local land developer, decided to provide reasonably priced lots for the many Mexican families moving to Gilbert. He developed a triangular parcel of land at the southwest corner of Warner and Gilbert Rds. and called it Sonoratown.

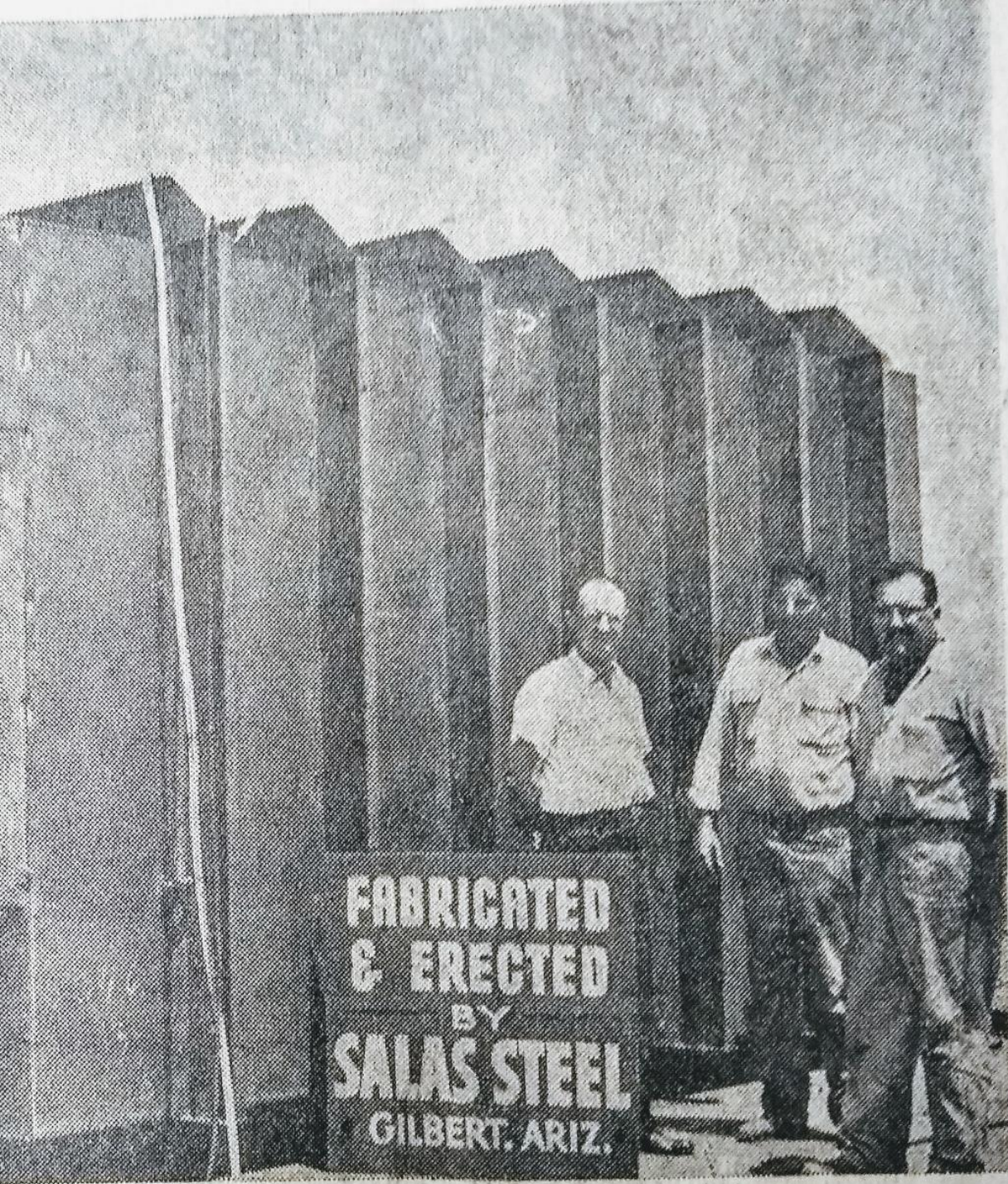
A photograph of the Gilbert Town Hall building, a white structure with a brown tiled roof. The words "GILBERT TOWN HALL" are visible on the left side of the building. A utility pole and a white vehicle are also visible in the background.

GILBERT
TOWN HALL

T – Town

Why is Gilbert Called a town, not a city?

Gilbert is a town and not a city because town leaders favored this type of legal structure. Cities write their own charters, gaining more flexibility in making local decisions. Towns, on the other hand, operate under general Arizona state laws. Town leaders can determine whether to build street, water, and sewer facilities or recreational facilities as outlined in Arizona's constitution. Gilbert leaders have continued to support this legal structure, based on the Arizona state constitution, which is seen as providing greater stability than a city charter



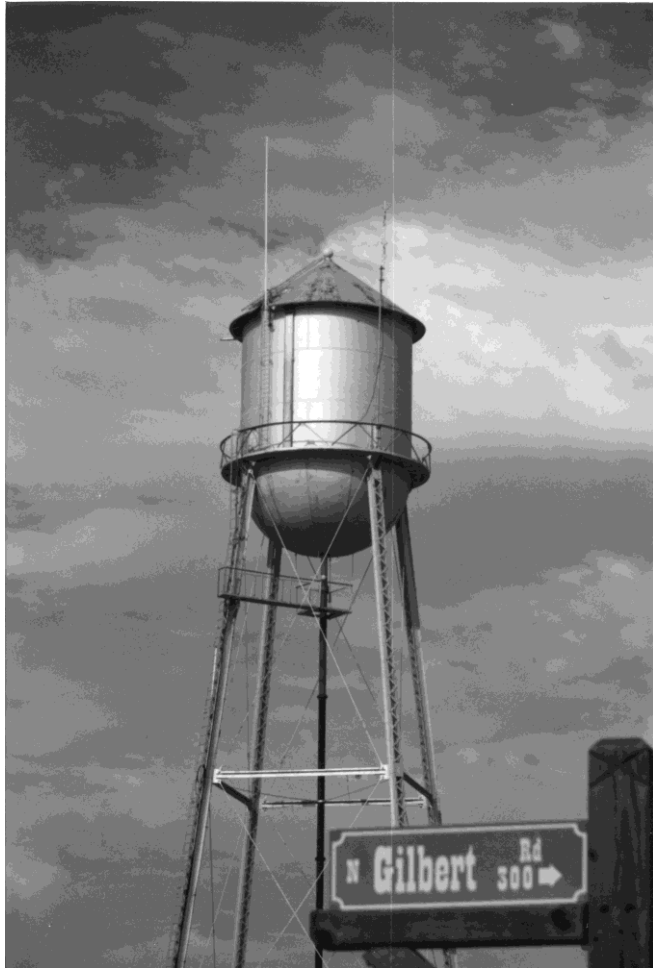
U - Unexpected

During the “Cold War” era in the 1950s and 1960s, The Salas Welding and Steel company in Gilbert fabricated and built radiation fallout shelters for anyone who wanted one. The cost was about \$2,400 delivered and a total of 7 had been installed as of July 1963.

V – Val Vista Lakes

Completed in 1986 Val Vista Lakes was one of Gilbert's first master-planned communities. It has grown to over 900 acres with 24 residential subdivisions.





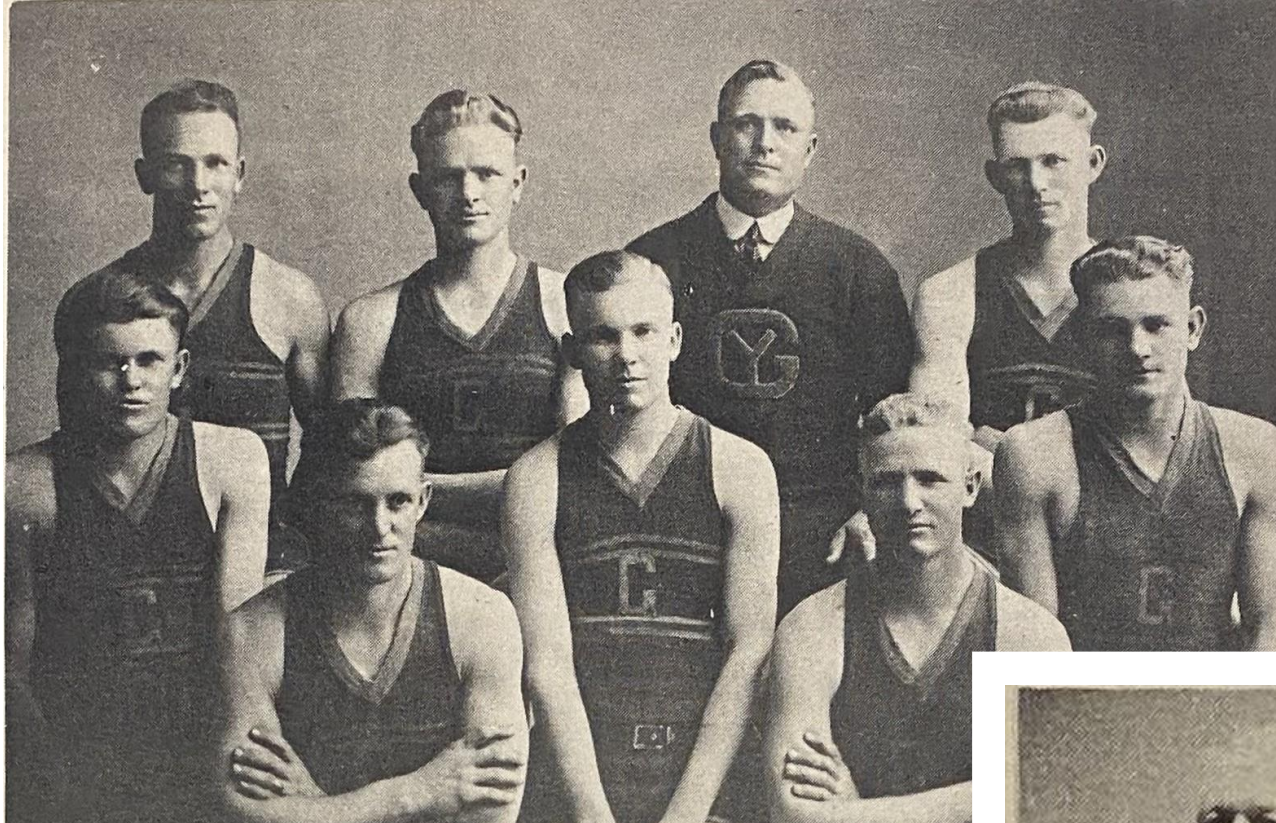
W – Water Tower

Completed in 1926 the water tower was originally painted black, stood 125 feet tall and had a well that was 475 feet deep. It had a centrifugal pump producing 450 gallons of water a minute, supplying the 50,000-gallon steel tank. Almost all of the community was furnished with a minimum water pressure of 55 pounds.



X- E X TINGUISHER

In 1923 a group of citizens organized Gilbert's volunteer fire department. Gilbert's volunteer Fire Department lasted for nearly 60 years! It dissolved in 1982. For the next three years, the Rural Metro Fire Department (RMFD) managed a reserve Firefighters program. In 1985 the town signed a contract with RMFD and hired two full-time firefighters. After Gilbert citizens voted in favor of forming a municipal fire department, the Gilbert Fire Department began providing services on January 1, 1993.



Yellow Jackets on way to Jerome—left to right—Joe Maier, Johnny Cooper, Paul Crandall, Wilford Phelps, O. N. Vance

Y – Yellow Jackets

In 1925-26 3 men organized Gilbert's Town Basketball team and called themselves the Yellow Jackets. Members of the teams included Larry Allen, Orval Vance, Merrill Hatch, George Freestone, Edwin Miller, Myron and Paul Crandall, Wilford Phelps. Others who played were John Allen, Chuck Rollins, Owen Allen, "Hose" Cooper, and Tom Scott. The team was only in existence for 2 or 3 years.



Z - Zulick - Conrad Meyer Zulick

Arizona's 7th Territorial Governor

He filed a homestead patent for a section of land in Gilbert, on what is present-day Val Vista and Warner, in Dec. of 1890 making him one of the first to homestead in the Gilbert area.

