



---

---

1905

## Ambrose Ely Ring

## Diary 1905

1905 June - graduated as E. M. Elected to Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Xi Frats. Was on Columbia gymnastic team for four years - worked on horizontal bar (was 2nd rate) and specialized in Indian Club Swinging - was 2nd in intercollegiates one year.

June - went to Parrot, Montana to work at Gold Hill Mine for Chas Van Zandt (under G. Tower.)

November - escorted Mrs. Tower & children to Tucson via Frisco & L. A. and through west out to New York, via New Orleans.

December Married Grace Emily Harned at Ella Bogart's (her sister) at Highbridge New York. We left for Old Glory Arizona. Worked for G. W. Tower until conditions became intolerable (personally) then left.





1905

## Gold Hill Mine, Van Zandt & Tower.

### Gold Hill Mine

Gold Hill Mine has also been called Montreal Group, Monitor, Eclipse and Gold Hill Group. It appears it mined gold, silver and copper.

In 1865 many mine were discovered in the area. Boulder Bar, Greenhorn Gulch, **Gold Hill**, and Diamond Bar. By 1900 most of these had played out and were shut down.

We also know that the Washoe Company developed into a large enterprise. It owned the Moonlight, Clear Grit, Cambers, Washoe, Pacific, Odin and **Gold Hill** claims and operated three of them. It also owned real estate in Butte, 1,900 acres of coal lands in Carbon County, Montana, a coking coal property in Gallatin County and one hundred coke ovens.

### Charles T. Van Zandt & George W. Tower

According to the A. E. R. diary Charles Van Zandt and G. W. Tower worked at the Gold Hill Mine in 1905 when A. E. Ring did.

We know that a man named Van Zandt was the superintendent of the Bluebird Mine (shut down 1893) whose brick home stood close to the mine, started a community library with both reading and writing rooms. He was listed in the City Directory of butte from 1907 to 1909 as mining. He lived at the Lenox.

We know that George W. Tower was listed in the City directory from 1900 to 1905 as a geologist and an engineer. He lived at 321 N Excelsior. There were 4 other Towers listed.

Van Zandt Charles T, mining, rms The Lenox.

Tower Burt Adams, mining eng M O P Co, rms The Lenox.

Tower Edgar M, r 631 Placer.

Tower George W, mining eng, r 321 N Excelsior.

Tower Hugh V, stenogr Silver Bow National Bank, b 631 Placer.





## Along The Ruby Road

The below newspaper column from *The Green valley News And Sun*, February 4, 2004, explains the trip Ambrose made to Southern Arizona and the purpose for the 33 pictures shown here.

### ALONG THE RUBY ROAD The Ring Family Mystery

Bob Ring, Al Ring, Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon

This is a story from Ring family history, the mystery that initially sparked Bob and Al Ring's interest in the Oro Blanco area.

#### The Mystery Deepens

The clues are 33 photographs taken in 1905/1906 by our paternal Grandparents, Ambrose and Grace Ring, and a cryptic entry in Grandfather's diary about his first job in the mining industry - a job he abandoned after only three months, for unknown reasons. Our grandparents never discussed this initial experience of their life together with the rest of the family.

Clinton Ring (Ambrose and Grace's son, and our father) eventually inherited the old photos. But they languished unnoticed in an old family album, buried in some boxes in Clinton's Tucson retirement home. Rediscovery of this family album and a coincidence of family relocations spurred interest in the old photos. By 1998, both of us (Bob and Al) lived in Tucson and were very interested in the rediscovered photos.

Captions on the photos refer to places and people around gold mines in southern Arizona's Oro Blanco country. So the mystery was: Could we figure out where the photos were taken, and why our grandparents left the Oro Blanco area?

#### Ambrose and Grace Ring's Story

In December 1905, Ambrose and Grace Ring, both only 22 years old, married in New York City and immediately moved to the south-central border country of Territorial Arizona. Ambrose Ring, a June 1905 graduate of Columbia University, was to start work at the Arizona Consolidated Mining Company at the Oro Blanco gold mine. Ambrose and Grace left a city of over three and a half million people and the most advanced comforts of the day to come to an incredibly rough frontier mining area with a total population of a few hundred.

Our grandparents lived in a ramshackle wooden building that Ambrose called the "shack." The "shack" was on the side of a hill at the Warsaw Camp, about three miles south of Ruby. Ambrose and Grace covered the walls of their stark single room with memento's and family pictures.

Looking directly off their porch to the northeast, they looked across Warsaw Canyon to see Montana Peak dominating the horizon.

Ambrose and Grace left the Oro Blanco area in late March of 1906. According to the single entry in Ambrose's diary, they "stayed until conditions became intolerable (personally)."



Our grandparents moved to Butte, Montana, where Ambrose began the second of many jobs he would hold in the western mining industry during the next 43 years. In 1949, Ambrose retired in Tucson as the Manager, Southwestern Division of Mining, for ASARCO.



## Along The Ruby Road

### On the Case

So in 1998, the Ring family in Tucson began an incredible research effort to find out everything possible about the little known Oro Blanco area of Territorial Arizona. In the next few years, we made several trips to Oro Blanco, following the same route Ambrose and Grace had followed on the stagecoach in late 1905.

Our first breakthrough was to confirm that the old Arivaca stage depot, shown in one of our grandparents' photos, is still there and recognizable against the profile of the distant mountains! The stage depot is now a private residence.

But the rest of our search was not to be that easy. By the mid 1900s, most of the Oro Blanco mines had been closed and abandoned. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, the U.S. Forest Service cleared the entire Oro Blanco area of the old mining buildings and equipment. The expressed rationale for this controversial action was "safety" and to discourage settlement by transients. (There was a considerable amount of "hippie" communing in the district during that period.) But the disastrous effect for us was to destroy priceless mining history and eliminate virtually all of the man-made landmarks in our old photos!

So there we were on several trips into the old mining country, armed only with photos from a time of active mining operations, when there were lots of mining buildings, saloons, stores, wooden shacks, and tents.

Some of the family photos were "long shots" taken off the front porch of our grandparents' "shack." Matching distant mountain profiles, and especially Montana Peak's position, we determined the approximate location of our grandparents' home at Warsaw.

We tramped up, down, and around every hill in the area, using the old photos and local topography to finally fix the former position of our grandparents' home. And what do you know? There was a flat area, chopped out of the side of the hill. This was the spot! So one family mystery was solved! This was probably the emotional high point of our search.

Another thrilling moment occurred a few weeks later when Al discovered an ad in a 1905 Tucson newspaper for the "El Warsaw" Hotel, owned and operated by a James Pemberton. Our grandfather identified a "Mr. James Pemberton" in a couple of his 33 photos. Additional research determined that Pemberton had been Postmaster for the area when our grandparents were there. Putting these facts together allowed us to solve another mystery. Our grandparents' "shack" was the El Warsaw Hotel!

Duplicating the loudest gold miner's exclamation of "Eureka," Al found an announcement in the files of the *Tucson Daily Star*, dated March 29, 1906, of the arrival at Tucson's St. Augustine Hotel of A. E. Ring and wife. Our grandparents were on their way to Butte, Montana, via San Francisco. Family tradition says they left San Francisco on April 17, 1906, one day before the devastating earthquake and fire that destroyed the city.

So the final mystery of why our grandparents left the Oro Blanco area remains unsolved. But we are still "on the case."

(Sources: Ring family records, *Arizona Daily Star*, *Tucson Daily Star*)





## Additional Information

**FROM:** *Arizona Daily Star*, October 31, 1905.

**From Oro Blanco**

J. N. Pemberton is running a good hotel at Warsaw which is becoming a famous health resort, as the climate is superb and water excellent. Mr. Pemberton also has a store in which he carries a good stock of goods.

**FROM:** *Arizona Daily Star*, September 9, 1905. This add ran for several months.



**FROM:** Grace Ring, "Tennyson Birthday Book:" She had entered 3 names from the Warsaw area during the 3 to 3 1/2 months they were in Warsaw. Proving who is in the pictures.

J. A. Fraser, May 6th.

Jas. N. Pemberton, June 7th.

Ines C. Fraser, December 6th.

**NOTE:** It was thought for many years the Ambrose E. Ring and Grace came to work in Southern Arizona at the Old Glory mine. This turns out not to be the case. They came to the "Old Glory Area," which was at Warsaw, Arizona, stayed at Warsaw Hotel a mile to mile and a half south of Old Glory Mine. Ambrose worked for Arizona Consolidated Mining and Milling Company under George W. Tower which was running the Old Oro Blanco and Tres Amigos mines.

**FROM:** *Arizona Daily Star*, November 14, 1905.

### At The Hotels

Santa Rita — A. E. Ring, Mrs. G. W. Tower, Jr., Butte

### Personal Mention



G. W. Tower, wife and child of Butte, Mont. Arrived this week. Mr. Tower will go out to look after some mining properties and will locate his family in Tucson.

# Additional Information



FROM: *Arizona Daily Star*, March 29, 1906.

## Hotel Arrivals

St. Augustine — A. E. Ring and wife, Old Glory.

Santa Rita.  
 B. R. Blair, H. P. Cassigoli, O. B. Leonhart, S. Siebenhawer, D. H. Heynemann, C. Bassin and wife, San Francisco; J. D. Mackenzie, San Jose; C. M. Shannon, Clifton; J. R. Feasdale, St. Louis; P. Albin, Miss C. Cublias, John J. Wyatt, H. Hartzell, L. Lindsay, J. W. Danfauth, J. M. Willan, Ella F. Bruce, A. W. Bolland and wife; Fred J. Siebert, A. M. Mixer; E. H. Cook, Emil Schloss, Los Angeles; George W. Waynard, Miss Kirkpatrick, E. Guinzburg, E. Leszynsky, Charles F. Scott, New York; B. F. Graham, T. F. Van Wagener, Denver; J. H. Puray, David Tod, E. F. Webster, Cleveland, Dr. Alfred Goss, New York; N. C. Banks, W. F. Chenoweth, Nogales; Prof. Claussen, U. S. G. S.; A. E. Ring, Mrs. G. W. Tower, Jr., Butte; J. L. Pafe and wife, ed Rock; F. L. Proctor, Cananea; R. S. Howitt, La Colorado; W. Danby, Kansas City; B. F. Ray and wife, Oracle.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

Willard.  
 Margaret Adams, Patagonia; Mrs. L. C. Cassels, Lordsburg; W. B.; J. E. Coberly, Palo Alto ranch; J. H. Crownover, Chicago; C. N. Thomas, Bisbee.

St. Augustine.  
 E. Conklin, H. P. Elwell, Detroit; C. H. Major and wife, El Paso; Scott Reynold, Jacksonville, Mich.; A. E. Ring and wife, Old Glory; S. B. Edmonston, Boston.

G. W. Tower, wife and child of Butte, Mont., arrived this week. Mr. Tower will go out to look after some mining properties and will locate his family in Tucson.



# The 33 Pictures



Warsaw Store    Stope    Bungalow



View from Bungalow    (El Warsaw)



1905

# The 33 Pictures



The Bungalow & Store (El Warsaw)



A Mexican Palace



1905

# The 33 Pictures



Arizona Nightingales (Above El Warsaw)



On The Porch (Grace At El Warsaw)



# The 33 Pictures



En Route (Approaching Warsaw Store)



En Route (Just North Of Warsaw Store)



# The 33 Pictures



Jan—Apr 1906, In front of the Store. Mr. Pemberton-George-Grace



Stubbornness. (By Store, Ambrose & Grace)

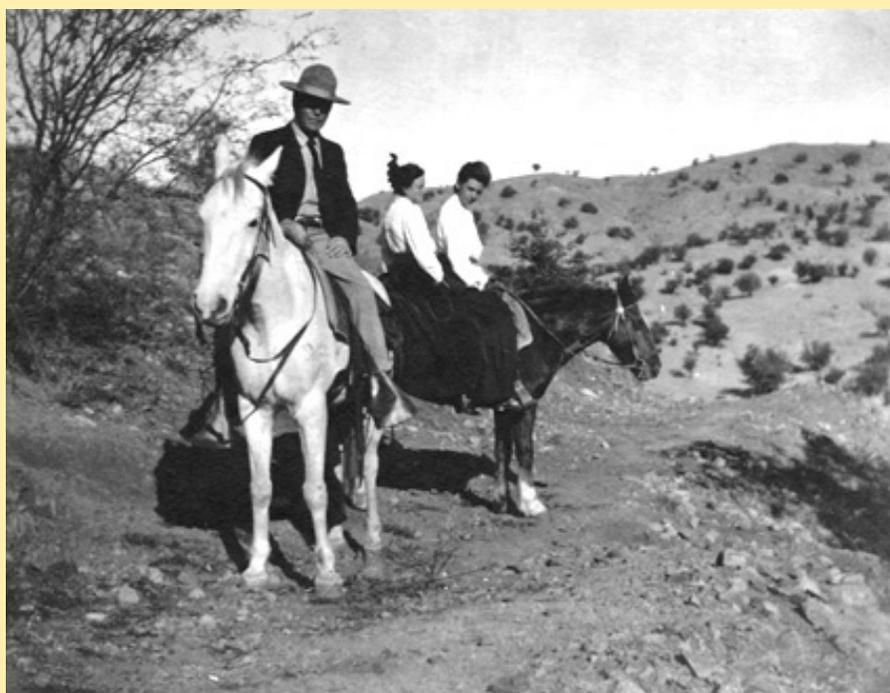


1905

# The 33 Pictures



Grace & Mrs. Frazer (Fraser)



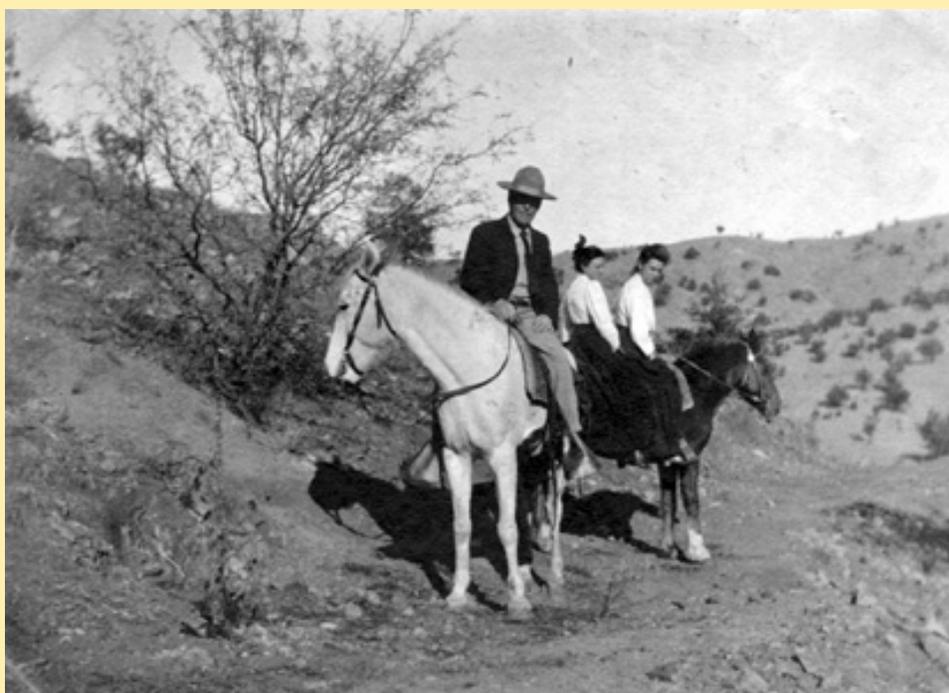
Mr. & Mrs. Frazer & Grace (Fraser)



# The 33 Pictures



Mr. & Mrs. Frazer & Grace (Fraser)



Mr. & Mrs. Frazer & Grace (Fraser)



# The 33 Pictures



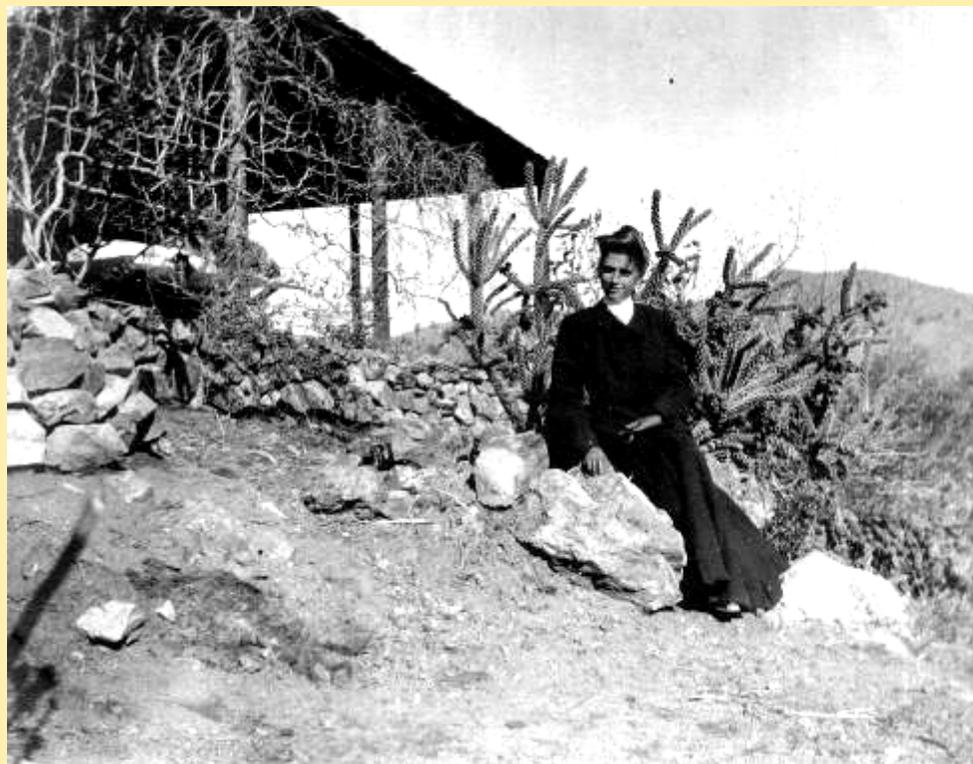
Our Room At Warsaw. (El Warsaw)



Our Room At Warsaw. (El Warsaw)



# The 33 Pictures



G. E. R. (At El Warsaw)

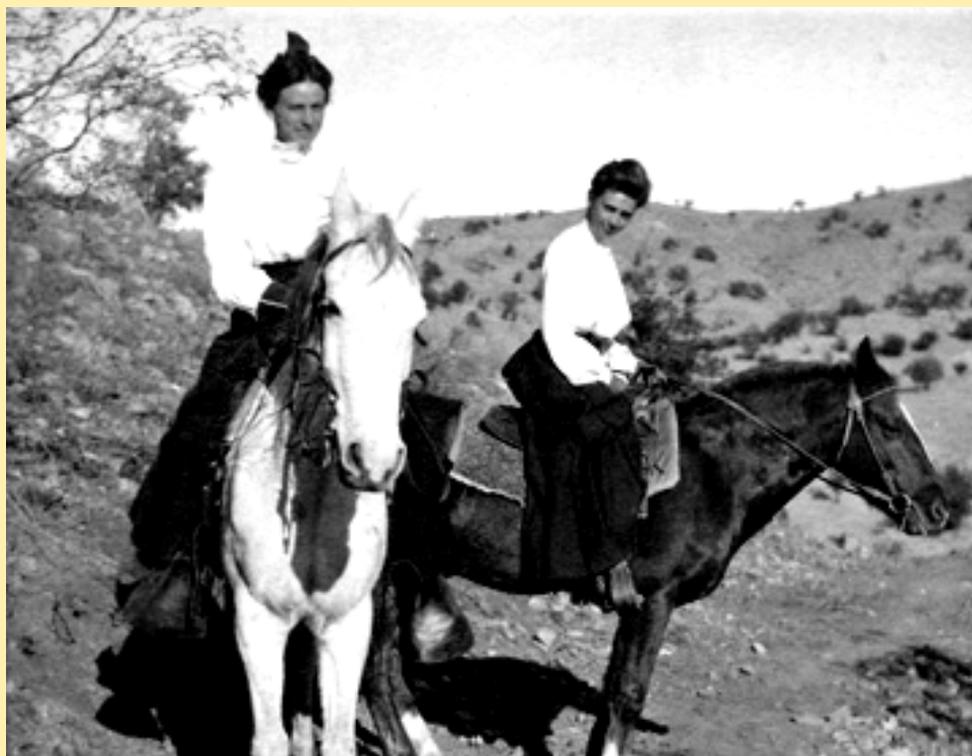


A. E. R. (At El Warsaw)



1905

# The 33 Pictures



Mrs. Frazer & Grace (Fraser)



In Tres Amigos Cannon



# The 33 Pictures



Oro Blanco (Oro Blanco Mine At Old Oro Blanco)



Mill At Oro Blanco



1905

# The 33 Pictures



Kissing The Waters (Grace)



At "El Oro" (A Nearby Mine)



# The 33 Pictures



Above "El Oro" Dam



Old Mexican Hut In "El Oro" Canon.



1905

# The 33 Pictures



Dam Below "El Oro"



In California Gulch

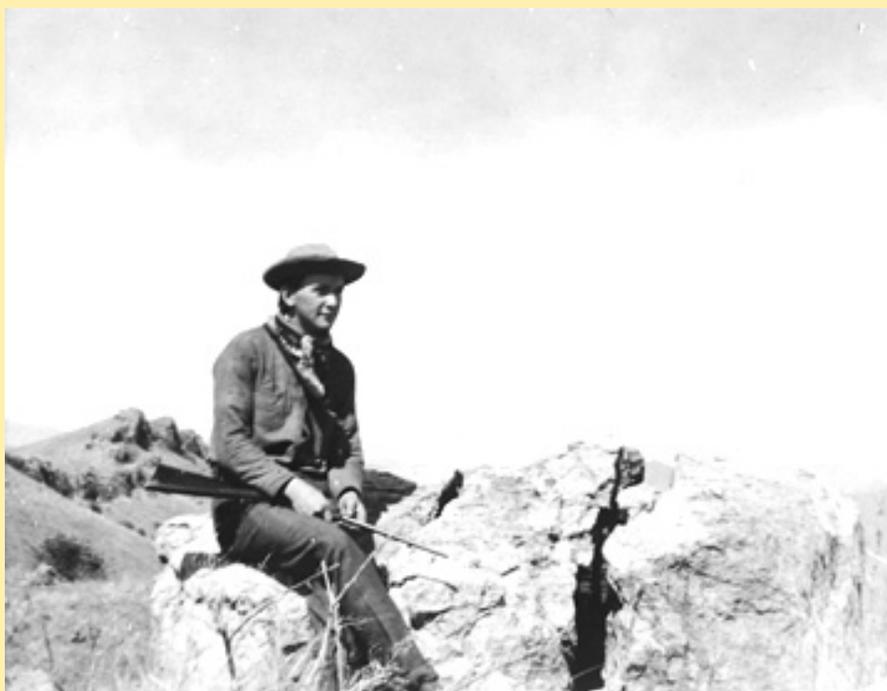


1905

# The 33 Pictures



Looking Into Mexico (Grace)

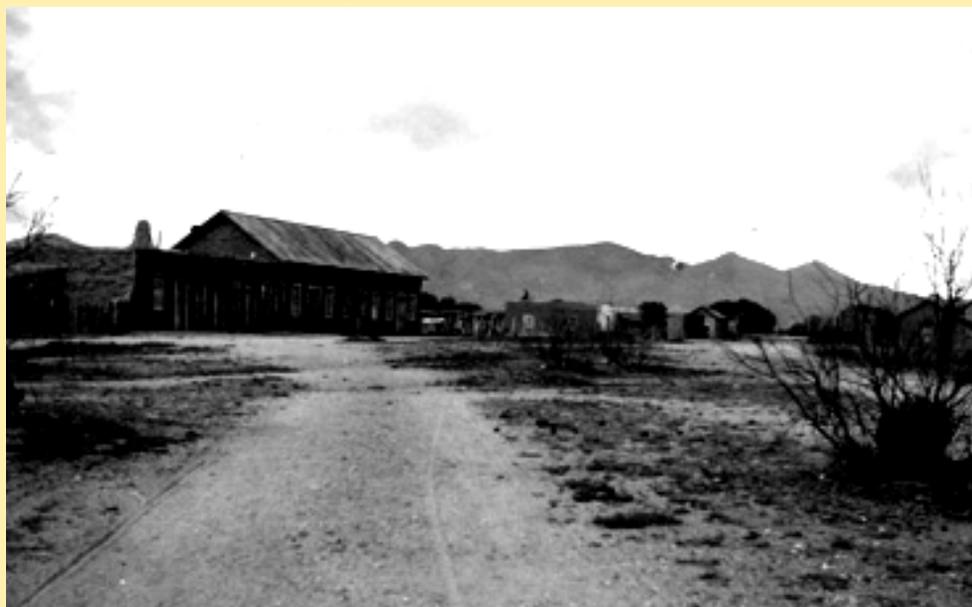


A.E.R.



1905

# The 33 Pictures



Arivaca



Arivaca (Stage Depot—Grace In Back Seat)



1905

# The 33 Pictures



No Caption (At Warsaw Store)

