

DOUGLAS IN 1905 WAS A LIVELY CITY, MAGAZINE ARTICLE OF THAT YEAR TELLS; WAS FOUR YEARS OLD

The Dispatch is in receipt of the following letter from Sam C. Dubs, who was a resident of Douglas for many years, but is now living in San Francisco:

“Editor Dispatch:

“While camping out on the shores of Lake Tahoe a short time ago I found in an old abandoned cabin a few pages of the national Magazine for July, 1905, which I am sending you with this letter. The article interested me very much, as at that time I was living in Douglas and working for the C. and A. smelter. If it was reprinted in your paper of today, it would certainly be read with interest by the “old timers” down there, and also by the young people who have been born and raised there since. I venture to say Douglas was, at that time, a more lively town than it is at present. Wishing yourself and the people of Douglas prosperity, I am

“yours very truly, SAM C. DUBBS

DOUGLAS, ARIZONA, THE SMELTER CITY OF THE SOUTHWEST

(The following article was prepared by the Douglas Daily Dispatch, of which James Wood is president; I. N. Kinsey, secretary and treasurer; F. B. Dorr, manager, and a. A. Cohn, city Editor.)

The fact that the city of Douglas, Arizona cannot be found on any but the recent maps of the United States, and that from its smelters are produced yearly over one-eighth of the entire copper output of the United States, makes it the most wonderful city in the United States. Four years ago last January the town site was located by the International Land and Improvement company. Today, where there was then nothing but mesquite bush and uncultivated land, there reside 8,000 souls, and in that short time Douglas has grown to be the most important city in the southwest. It is also the natural gateway to the great mining fields of Sonora, Mexico, which although extremely old are now but in their infancy. Douglas bears the same relation to northwestern Sonora that Denver does to the great Rocky mountain region. It is at present the supply point for the great mines of the south.

In this wonder city, one-twelfth of the world’s supply of copper is drawn from the crude ore, nearly all of which comes from the Bisbee mines, 28 miles to the west. Nature has been bounteous in her mineral gifts to southern Arizona and northern Mexico. If it were not for the great mineral wealth of this section, Phelps, Dodge & company would not have spent millions of dollars in building one of the finest equipped railroads in the country, from El Paso, Texas, to Douglas, Bisbee and Benson Arizona, west and from Douglas to Nacozari, Sonora, south, all of which has a mileage of 400 miles.

In the latter part of May, Phelps, Dodge & company purchased the El Paso and Northeastern road, the link of connection between the Rock Island system and the Southern Pacific, which gives the company a total of over 800 miles.

Douglas has a monthly pay roll of over \$2000,000, the main support of the city being the Copper Queen smelter, the Calumet and Arizona melter and the E. P. & S. W. railroad shops, all of which employ in the vicinity of 2,000 men. The city was recently incorporated and the city council has commenced on excellent lines of good government.

The city is well laid out; its streets are wide and there are many fine business blocks and residences throughout the city. Many are being added daily. Recent real estate sales have shown a phenomenal increase in the price of lots. The town, however, covers a large acreage.

The climate is excellent and cannot be improved on in any section of the healthful southwest, yet unlike many cities in Arizona and New Mexico, Douglas is not a health resort but a city of workers. Nevertheless it is an ideal place for those suffering with tubercular diseases. The elevation is 4,000 feet; the atmosphere clear, dry and invigorating; the water is pure and very soft, and the percentage of cold days in a year is extremely small. Under the entire Sulphur Springs valley is a flowing stream of water ample for irrigation purposes, and 12 miles east of Douglas are four artesian wells which are used for irrigation.

The schools of Douglas are equal to any in the southwest and at present two new ones are in course of construction. A total of \$40,000 has been spent for school buildings. The city is well supplied with churches, all of the leading denominations being represented with splendid structures.

A well constructed and splendidly equipped public library graces one of the principal streets, a gift from Professor James Douglas, president of the Phelps, Dodge company. A new opera house has also been erected at a cost of \$20,000. The leading hotels are the Queen and the Roy, and there are others.

Douglas has two banks, which are considered among the most substantial financial institutions in the territory. Their deposits amount to \$600,000, which speaks well for a city so young. The banks are the Bank of Douglas, of which C. O. Ellis is cashier, and the First National Bank, with L. C. Hanks as cashier. The latter has a branch bank at Benson, Arizona.

Electric lights and an excellent water system and telephone service are furnished by the Douglas Improvement company. Telephone communications may be had with Bisbee, Tombstone, Naco and Cananea, the latter place some 50 miles southwest of Douglas in Mexico, the home of the Green Consolidated Copper company. A street railway system connects the city with the smelting plants, there being about five miles of track.

Two daily papers with excellent news service have a good circulation in the surrounding country. They are the Douglas Daily Dispatch, a morning paper, and the International-American, an evening publication.

The Douglas Cast Stone company is one of the leading industries of the city. The company has a large factory where artificial stone and cement plaster are manufactured, and which are used extensively in building operations throughout this section of the country. The material used for the cement is quarried a few miles from the city and makes a very desirable as well as a cheap material for building.

A splendid new Y. M. C. A. building is now under construction to cost at completion \$35,000 which was raised by subscription. It is the first Y. M. C. A. building to be erected in Arizona.

The Copper City brewery was built last fall and has an excellent reputation for the quality of its product.

All of the many retail stores carry full and complete lines of goods, by far larger than in towns twice the size of Douglas in the east. The copper Queen store is one of the finest wholesale and retail establishments in the southwest, and its building would do credit to a city of 40,000. (sic).

At present, real estate business is increasing and outside parties looking for investment arrive daily. Among the leading dealers in real estate are H. E. Dugan, E.A. Von Armin company, J. Powell, E. R. Pirtle company and H. E. Stone and company.

Arizona is noted for her mineral production, more especially copper, and it is a safe prediction that the coming year the territory will take second place among the copper states of the United States. Some experts predict that within five years Arizona will lead even Montana in the production of copper. More copper is shipped from Douglas every month than from any city in the territory or in the southwest. The two smelters, the copper Queen and the Calumet and Arizona, send to the market every month 5,000 tons of pure copper, over 165 car loads. Nearly the entire tonnage of the ore for reduction in these great smelters is shipped from Bisbee, 28 miles distant, in steel cars with a capacity of 50 tons each. Nearly 2,500 tons of ore arrive in Douglas daily. Additions to both smelters are being constructed and the output of both will be increased by half of their present production within six months.

The Arizona Rangers, the mounted police of the southwest, are stationed in Douglas and the force is composed largely of former Rough Riders and veterans of the Spanish-American war. They have been largely instrumental in exterminating outlawry in southern Arizona. There is less crime now in this territory than in any state of the union.

The El Paso and Western railroad does a monthly business of approximately \$300,000 through its local office and each month more than 3,000 car loads of material are received at Douglas for the local smelters and business houses. The cattle shipments from Douglas annually amount to 25,000 head, which is large compared with that of small towns along the line. The machine shops of the road are located in Douglas and the machine shops and foundry of the copper Queen smelter are the largest and most complete in the southwest.

There are no vacant houses in the city, as all are occupied as fast as constructed. Last year over 250 new residences were erected, many of them being excellent examples of architectural art. Many more are being erected this year and the residence district is spreading on all sides.

Douglas is on the international boundary, the line being less than a mile from the center of the city. In Agua Prieta, the Mexican town across the line, reside many of the Mexican employes (sic) of the smelters. A new custom house to cost \$35,000 will be erected in Agua Prieta by the Nacozari Railway company.

The vast mining district which is tributary to Douglas in Northern Mexico is rich beyond realization, and although it is new to American capital, several fortunes have been made in Sonora, noticeably that of Col W. C. Greene. Mining machinery is sent Sonora, noticeably that of Col. W. C. begin operations every week. Many large sales of mining property have been made through R. S. Vickers, bankers and broker, and president of the Sonora Mining agency, the head quarters of which are at Moctezuma, Sonora.

The Nacozari railroad enters extremely rich territory and an extension of it is contemplated. An extension of the Sierra Madre road, own by Colonel Greene, which will connect with the Cananea road, will pass through northern Sonora and will enter Agua Prieta.

The Paradise mining district is also tributary to Douglas, and, although it is only a year old, shows promise of becoming one of the richest copper producers in the southwest. The district is located in the Chiricahua mountains, 50 miles east of Douglas.

Douglas has also a well equipped hospital, the Calumet and Arizona, with an excellent staff of surgeons and nurses.

Nearly all of the fraternal orders of the United States are represented by local lodges and there are several splendid halls for meeting places of the various orders.

The people of Douglas, like those in other cities throughout the territory, are strong advocates of single statehood for Arizona. In a recent convention of both political parties at Phoenix, a strong platform was adopted and protest made against the proposed jointure of Arizona and New Mexico as one state. The people of Arizona love their territory. When made a state, it will be one of the most characteristic members of the union.

Despite its phenomenal growth Douglas is not a “boom” town but a city built on a solid, substantial basis, with men of unquestionable ability and integrity at the head of its government and unlimited capital behind it.

There can be no future for it save one of the great prosperity, in which residents and visitors alike have the greatest faith. In addition to becoming in the near future the greatest smelter city in the United States, it also shows promise of becoming one of the greatest railroad centers in the southwest. It will be to the state of Sonora what El Paso is to the state of Chihuahua. It has been aptly termed the “Wonder City of the Southwest,” but it does not care to pose as a wonder. The people believe in Douglas and nothing could happen to shake their faith in the city’s future greatness.

Transcribed by Jean Walker, 7 Feb 2026. Douglas Daily Dispatch, Douglas Arizona. Sunday, 3 Oct 1926. Page37.

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