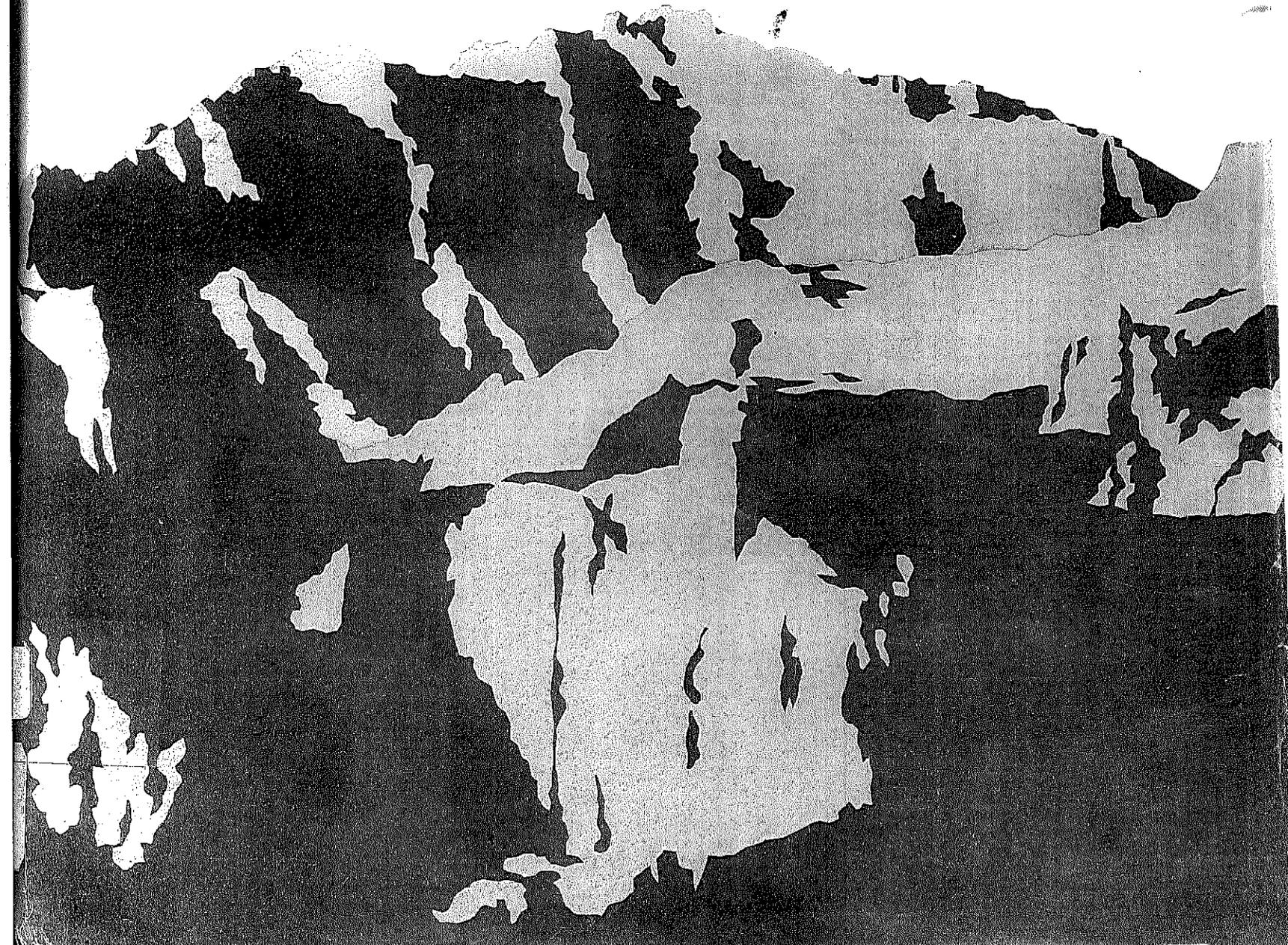


290

Second Edition

Historical Atlas of Arizona

By Henry P. Walker and Don Bufkin



Books by Henry P. Walker:

The Wagonmasters: High Plains Freighting from the Earliest Days of the Santa Fe Trail to 1880 (Norman, 1966)

(with Don Bufkin) *Historical Atlas of Arizona* (Norman, 1979, 1986)

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication
Data**

Walker, Henry P. (Henry Pickering)
Historical atlas of Arizona.

Bibliography: p.
Includes index.

1. Arizona—Maps. 2. Arizona—Historical geography—Maps. 3. Arizona—History. I. Bufkin, Don. II. Title.

G1510.W28 1986 911'.791 86-40086

ISBN 0-8061-2023-1

ISBN 0-8061-2024-X (pbk.)

The paper in this book meets the guidelines for permanence and durability of the Committee on Production Guidelines for Book Longevity of the Council on Library Resources, Inc.

Copyright © 1979, 1986 by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Publishing Division of the University. Manufactured in the U.S.A. Second edition, 1986.

17. ANGLO PENETRATION: THE MOUNTAIN MEN

THE FIRST RECORDED PENETRATIONS by Anglo-Americans into Arizona were those of the fur traders and trappers—the “mountain men”—operating westward out of Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico.

The first penetration was made in 1825 when Sylvester Pattie and his son, James Ohio Pattie, with a party of about a dozen men, trapped a section of the Gila River. In 1826 the Patties again entered Arizona along the Gila. While trapping the middle Gila most of the party were killed by Indians. Three survivors joined a party of about thirty men led by Ewing Young that was also working the Gila and some of its tributaries. The Young party moved up the Salt River to its junction with the Verde. Here the party divided, part following the Verde to its source and the others following the Salt to its headwaters in the White Mountains. The two sections rejoined and trapped down the Salt and Gila rivers to the Colorado. Trapping up along the Colorado, the men left Arizona with the river. In 1827 both Patties led another party down the Gila to the Colorado. Here the party split, with some, under William Workman, returning to New Mexico; the rest, under the Patties, pushing on to the Pacific Coast. In the following year Ewing Young and a small party again trapped the upper Gila. In 1829 Young, with forty men, including Kit Carson, trapped down the Salt and up the Verde. There Young's party divided, with part returning to New Mexico and the rest, including Young and Carson, setting off for California.

Occurring at the same time as the activities of the Patties was the penetration made in 1826 by Jedediah S. Smith, who left the trappers' rendezvous at Bear Lake on the Idaho-Utah line and entered Arizona by traveling down the Virgin River to the Colorado. He then made his way down the latter river to the vicinity of present-day Needles, California, and then struck westward to the Pacific Coast. In the following year Smith again traveled

from Bear Lake to California over a route lying a bit to the east of his earlier route.

In 1830 William Wolfskill, in an attempt to open a profitable trade between Santa Fe and California, traveled through southern Colorado and Utah and entered Arizona by the Virgin River. Leaving the Colorado near Needles, he proceeded to the Pacific Coast.

Two parties followed the Gila Trail in 1831 (Map 40). David E. Jackson took a party to California to buy horses and mules, and Ewing Young again worked the Gila and Colorado rivers. During the decade of the 1830's, several parties traded with the Apaches along the Gila River near where Safford stands today. In 1836 a group led by James Kirker traded guns, powder, and lead for horses, which they sold in New Mexico. Some of the men also panned for gold.

Besides the mountain men and others of whose entries into Arizona we have a written record, several hundred unknown travelers undoubtedly moved back and forth through the area. By 1846 the Gila Trail was a well-known route across the territory, and other sections had been traversed by parties of trappers. There was considerable knowledge of Arizona geography stored away in the heads of these mountain men, but little, if any, of this knowledge was committed to paper. It was from this body of knowledgeable mountain men that the United States Army surveyors and engineers obtained the guides they needed to show them the trails and water holes. In this group were such men as Kit Carson and Antoine Robidoux, who guided General Stephen Watts Kearny's Army of the West, and Antoine Leroux and Pauline Weaver, who guided Lieutenant Colonel Philip St. George Cooke's Mormon Battalion, served the United States-Mexican Boundary Commission, and worked for Captain Lorenzo Sitgreaves and Lieutenant Amiel W. Whipple in the northern part of the state.