

EDWARD TITCOMB

Contributed by Jean Walker

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E. TITCOMB AN EMPIRE BUILDER OF THE WEST

Came West From New England at Age of 18; Settled Here In 1889

A gentleman who can truly be classed as a veritable empire builder of this western country is E. Titcomb, 74, who has been appointed by Mayor C. C. Chesire as city engineer, street superintendent, and sealer of weights

and measures.

M. Titcomb was the pillar of this community for many years and as Wirt G. Bowman recently said: "A man who has done more for Nogales than any other person".

He was born March 19, 1863 at Windham, New Hampshire. His parents were Edward Titcomb and Sarah Abbott Titcomb.

Following his school days in Windham he took Horace Greeley's advice to "go West young man" and at the age of 18 sent out for the West.

After working for a while at a mine in New Mexico he came into Arizona in 1881 on a prospecting trip through the Mogollon mountains. Two years later found him first actually a resident of Arizona when he went to work for the copper mines at Clifton.

A year later, in 1884, he used to visit Nogales while enroute to and from the Cananea mines where he was employed. In those days, Mr. Titcomb, said, the Apaches were on the warpath and to escape Indian attacks it was necessary to ride horseback at night when on journeys.

Came Here in '89

Mr. Titcomb first settled at Nogales in 1889, after living in Mexico for five years. He came here as an ore buyer and representative of a mining machinery house.

That same year, 1889 with Col. William Roy, a Civil War officer, he founded Ry & Titcomb, Inc., the largest concern this city ever had. Col Roy, Mr. Titcomb's partner, was a hotel clerk in Chihuahua prior

to coming here. Roy, a man without capital, attended to the books while Mr. Titcomb looked after the selling and eventually Roy & Titcomb, Inc., grew to become one of the most important business houses in the Southwest and on the West Coast of Mexico.

Mr. Titcomb, at Nogales on November 12, 1892, married Miss Mary Christ, whose father, George Christ, got this customs district cut off from the El Paso district, and Christ became the first collector of customs at this port.

Mr. and Mrs. Titcomb are the parents of six children, Edward A. Titcomb and Mrs. Dorothy Titcomb of Nogales, Mrs. Georgia McCall and Mrs. Josephine Baily, both of Pasadena, California, Mrs. Mary Lee Titcomb of New York City, and John Titcomb of Binghampton, New York.

A Generous Man

To Mr. Titcomb's generosity many of Nogales' leading citizens owe their start in life.

He has been prominent during his entire residence here in the many organization and support of many of Nogales' financial civic and religious bodies.

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