

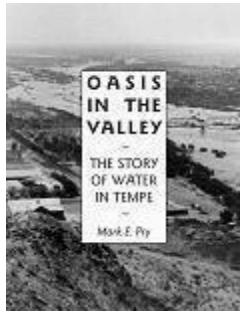
Have you ever wondered

where Tempe gets its water?

how the canals were built and what happens to the water they carry?

why the lawns in some neighborhoods get flooded?

Find answers to these and many other questions about Tempe's most precious resource in ...



Oasis in the Valley: The Story of Water in Tempe

Ever since Americans and Mexicans settled Tempe in the late 1860s, water has been central to the town's development. Salt River water carried by canals and ditches watered farm fields and town lots, helping to turn Tempe into an oasis in the desert. Groundwater from hand-dug wells gave Tempeans the water they needed for drinking, cooking, and bathing.

Eventually, as the town grew, private wells were unable to provide enough water. Recognizing that the town's future depended on developing a safer, more reliable water supply, Tempe established its municipal water system in 1902.

Today that water system, which was originally designed for a population of less than a thousand persons, serves not only Tempe's 165,000 residents but also the town of Guadalupe and the thousands of persons who visit Tempe each day to study, work, and play.

Through all these changes, the canals have remained. So, too, have other reminders of the city's agricultural heritage: lawns flooded with irrigation water, and the sound of water rushing through underground canal gates.

All are part of the story of Tempe's transformation from a small farming town into Arizona's most urbanized city—a story in which water plays a starring role and which is told in this concise (52 pages) and engaging book.

About the Author

Mark Pry is a historian and preservation consultant who has done research projects on a wide range of topics related to Arizona and the Southwest. He is the author of *The Town on the Hassayampa: A History of Wickenburg, Arizona* and coauthor of *Building the Grand Canyon State: Public Works in Arizona History*. He holds a doctorate in American history from Arizona State University and lives in Tempe.

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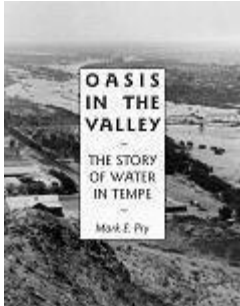
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Oasis in the Valley:

The Story of Water in Tempe



52 pages
16 illustrations, 2 maps
\$4.00

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