



**Northern**  
**Arizona**  
**Normal School**



**An Institution Much Needed by  
Northern Counties**

**Citizens' Mass Meeting Sets Forth Substan-  
tial Reasons Why Such a School Should be  
Established**

**No Appropriation is Asked for from the Present Legislature**



# Northern Arizona Normal School

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FLAGSTAFF, ARIZ.,  
February 3, 1899.

*To the Twentieth Legislative Assembly of the  
Territory of Arizona:*

At a mass meeting held in Flagstaff on the evening of January 21, 1899, the undersigned were appointed a committee to report on the best disposition to be made of the building known as the Territorial Home for the Insane. Our committee discussed the question in all its phases, with the result that we unanimously recommend that the property be converted into a Normal

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School, with a preparatory department. We believe that such a use of the property would be to the great advantage of the entire territory, and that you may have an appreciation of our conclusion in this matter, we submit the following considerations:

To begin with, the Territory has here the shell of a building which has cost approximately \$35,000. We are confident that anyone who has examined the building will testify that the money thus far expended upon it has been well spent. Architecturally, by reason of its location, on account of excellent workmanship, it is by far the finest public edifice in the Territory. The interior has not been completed, so that it can be conveniently arranged for any use to which the building may be set apart. At present, however, it is a "white elephant" on the hands of the Territory, and the question is, what shall be done with it? Under existing statute it is designated as a home for the insane, but we believe that present conditions make it unwise to complete it for this purpose; a reform school is out of the

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question, and Yuma won't give us the penitentiary. It has been suggested that the building be sold, but as this is the only northern territorial institution, it cannot be expected that we should consent to its sale, and there are serious objections to selling it if, indeed, a purchaser could be secured, or if it could be sold under the terms of title, both of which are doubtful. We cannot allow this fine structure to fall into decay, however, and we believe there is a need in the educational system of the Territory to the supplying of which it may well be devoted.

An examination of the rolls of the Territorial University and Normal School reveals the fact that 85 per cent of the students of these institutions come from Maricopa and Pima counties, while only occasionally is a name found from the northern counties of the territory. This cannot be wholly due to a lack of desire, on the part of the pupils of the northern schools, for the advantages of higher education. As a matter of fact, we know it is not due to this

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cause in a majority of cases, but to many others, among the most important being distance and expense. The establishment of a Normal School at Flagstaff would help to eliminate these difficulties; would give an opportunity to those who desire it, to secure a better education, and would develop in others the craving for more knowledge. Even with such need as exists at the north, we would not ask the Legislature to build and equip a school for us. But we have this splendid building and have sufficient money appropriated to put it in condition for use as a Normal School, and if this is done, its privileges will undoubtedly be eagerly sought by the youths of the northern counties who are now almost cut off from the benefits of advanced education. We feel confident that the attendance at such a school will be much larger from the beginning than the present Normal had in the first years of its existence, and this without interfering with the older school's constituency.

Moreover, with a preparatory depart-

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ment which shall cover practically the ground of a high school course, the opportunities of the normal course, proper, will soon be much more widely available and an adequate attendance at the school assured.

In this connection, we would call attention to a fact which is apparently not generally appreciated. ~ Under present conditions access to the University and Normal school is practically denied to the youth of every county in the territory, except the counties of Pima and Maricopa, and this because there are no high schools established in the other counties. Nor is it possible for the other counties to establish high schools under the present statutory provisions, nor could they individually afford to support them. An injustice, unintentional but nonetheless real, is thus done to the entire population of the Territory outside of these two counties—not only to the pupils, but the taxpayers as well. To the pupils, because they cannot avail themselves of the advantages of the University or Normal course; and to the taxpayers, because they

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are paying for something from which they derive no benefit. If, however, a Normal School be established at Flagstaff, with a preparatory department accessible to any graduate from a grammar school of the Territory, the difficulty would be overcome and all the pupils of the public schools of the territory would be placed upon practically the same footing. As time goes on and the counties become able to maintain high schools, the preparatory feature may be dispensed with if it seems wise, but by that time the attendance upon the normal course proper will undoubtedly be large enough to amply justify the continuance of the school.

A further reason for converting the property to the use herein suggested, is found in the fact that such an institution would furnish a nucleus for the long-talked-of Summer School. On account of its climate, the scientific and scenic attractions in its vicinity and especially because of the proximity of the Grand Canyon, Flagstaff is rapidly becoming a popular summer resort for the citizens of our Territory and for

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eastern tourists as well. Among the latter are often noted scientists and educators, from whom lectures and even short courses of instruction could thus be secured. Also, such a school could be advantageously made a substitute for the present Teachers' Institutes, and the location of the Lowell Observatory at this point makes it peculiarly acceptable as a meeting place for our teachers and students; and by such an arrangement we believe incalculable moral and intellectual benefits would result to the Territory at large.

While there may be some minor objections to the proposed plan, and while there may be some unimportant changes demanded in our existing law before it can be put into effect, we believe there are no insuperable nor even any very considerable obstacles to be overcome. On the other hand, the considerations already recited, as well as numerous others which will be manifest to anyone who will give the subject due consideration, all conspire to recommend the action asked. We cannot believe this meas-



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ure will meet with any particular opposition, but that, rather, the Legislature will be glad to make such advantageous disposition of this piece of property; and we especially believe that the legislators from the southern counties will be cordially willing to thus afford to our youth the advantages which we have already assisted in bestowing upon their own.

Very respectfully yours,

E. S. CLARK, Chairman,  
C. M. FUNSTON,  
N. G. LAYTON,  
F. W. SISSON,  
M. J. RIORDAN,

Committee.



Compliments of  
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