


FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF THE APACHES 1886.

THE MEXICAN BAILE

THE CHIRICAHUAS



By E. L. Vail
(Tucson)

Mr. Vail came to Arizona in 1879. The story of Following the Trail of the Apaches covers his experiences of a few days in June 1886. The three sketches were written by Mr. Vail in 1920 and review his experiences and observations of those early days in Arizona.

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THE CHIRICAHUAS

By E.L.Vail

What is now Southeastern Arizona and Southern New Mexico was less than half a century ago the country of the fiercest and most warlike tribe of Apache Indians, known as the "Chiricahuas." From the Santa Cruz Valley east and from what is now the Mexican border and probably as far north as the White and Pinal mountains they had their camps.

An old map by one of the early Jesuit Missionary explorers shows where the different tribes of Arizona Indians were located at that time. By an old map made by a Jesuit priest in 1777, the papagoes and Pimas were in practically the same country as at present, viz- the Papagoes along the Santa Cruz Valley and in the desert country west of it, and the Pimas along the Gila River. ✓

The various Apache tribes were named from the part of the country they ranged in, or, perhaps the country they inhabited was named from them. There were the White Mountain, Mojave, San Carlos, Yuma, Tonto and other tribes.

It is a matter of history that Cochise the great chief of the Chiricahuas had a stronghold in the Dragoon mountains from which he would go forth with his war parties to attack the emigrant parties and stages on the old southern trail to California.

Arizona history tells of many such battles, not only

with citizens but with the U. S. soldiers and many battles were fought along the old Southern Trail from Apache Pass to Tucson. In most instances the Indians had by far the best of these engagements. They either attacked from ambush and took their enemies by surprise or they let them pass unmolested and took no chances themselves.

These three sketches written by E. L. Vail of Tucson in 1920 comprise material taken from his personal experiences as a pioneer of Arizona. He came here in 1879. The story of Following the Trail of the Apaches covers a few days in June 1886.