

How Hatcher Road Got It's Name

Robert A. Hatcher, who wanted to be called "Bob," came to AZ in 1908 from Florida. He purchased 10 acres of desert land between 15th Ave. west to 16th Ave. between Palmer south to the AZ. Canal.

Mr. Hatcher was a bee keeper. He had his hives scattered around the desert. He was also a tree surgeon working for many of the citrus ranchers south of the AZ. Canal where he had many of his hives. He lived in a small red house built on wheels owning a stake truck and a small building where he took care of the honey from the hives. He was known as the "Bee Man" of the area.

For those of you who did not know that the area from 7th Avenue to 19th Ave, from the Arizona Canal north was known as Valley Heights in the early years.

In the late thirties, several of the residents in the Valley Heights area and an organization known as the Sunnyslope Improvement Association decided that the road from Central Ave. west would be called Hatcher Road.

At that time the street east of Central Ave. was known as Wabash named by Walter and Hilda Tengen who moved to Sunnyslope from Indiana in 1926. They purchased property north from Wabash to Mt. View, 7th Street east to Cave Creek. They named the street of Purdue, Vogel, Carol and Wabash.

In the late 1940s residents along Wabash and Hatcher wanted Maricopa County to pave the road. The county would not do this until the citizens came up with one name for the full distance of the road. Mr. Hatcher's supporters were stronger and Bob Hatcher's name won out. That is how this road became known as Hatcher Road.

At this time west Hatcher only went to 15th Ave. A person had to travel north on 15th Ave from Hatcher Rd. to Mountain View and west on Mr. View to 19th Ave.

Today the street name of Hatcher, Purdue, Vogel and Carol stretches to the west into Glendale and Sun City and east into Paradise Valley and Scottsdale. But these street names and many other street names originated here in Sunnyslope.