

WILL C. BARNES'

# ARIZONA PLACE NAMES

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**RIMMY JIMS**

El.: c. 6000'

Loc.: Coconino 5, DE-11  
Near Meteor Crater

Although Rimmy Jims is a small store and trading post on the highway, it is worthy of mention because of the origin of its name. The store was begun many years ago by an old cowman famous in northern Arizona for his dry wit. When he first came into the country, local cowboys noticed that his saddle rigging was attached far back rather than having the cinch belt fastened to the center of the saddle skirt or both front and back (double rigged). The analogy of this to rim-firing led to his being called Rimmy Jim and the name stuck. When he retired, he built his little store, which of course was called Rimmy Jim's. The owner was famous with motorists along the transcontinental highway, for Rimmy Jim could be counted on, not only for very casual car servicing, but for regaling his guests with the tallest of tales in endless variety.

Ref.: Present owner. Map: None.

**RIO DE FLAG**

El.: 6000'-7500'

Loc.: Coconino 4, I-4.2;  
Coconino 5, A-2-5.5.

Locally, the name Rio de Flag vies with the appellation "River de Flag" in popularity. The origin of the local name in the opinion of many is sly humor, since the stream usually runs only following heavy rains or when the snows are melting. However, since every city of importance is located on a river, residents place Flagstaff on one, thus implying the presence of additional commerce.

Apparently the stream used to run, for Lt. Lorenzo Sitgreaves' map (1851) names the stream Rio de San Francisco and shows it originating in the San Francisco Mountains and joining the Gila, an error due no doubt to the fact that its course was guessed at rather than explored. Lt. Amiel W. Whipple (1854) added to the guesswork by estimating that the stream probably formed the main branch of the Rio Verde, and on the 1859 Military Map it is called "Rio Verde or San Francisco." To avoid confusion which might arise from the fact that there was another San Francisco River in central-eastern Arizona, Whipple suggested that Sitgreaves' name for the stream be retained. He also indicated that Antoine Leroux was the one who told Sitgreaves the local name which Sitgreaves used on his map.

Ref.: Bartlett; 177, p. 167. Maps: GC-3; C-2 (Verde River); E-11 (Rio Verde or San Fernando); E-1 (San Francisco or Verde River).

a.n. San Francisco Wash

Coconino

Wash de Flag (Barnes)

Flag Wash

Map: B-8

Coconino

**RIORDAN**

El.: c. 8000'

Loc.: Coconino 4, I-5.5

Pro.: /riyrdn/

The Riordan brothers were successful lumbermen in the Flagstaff area. Timothy A. (b. Chicago, January 1, 1858) arrived in Flagstaff in 1884 where he joined his brother, Dan M. Riordan (b. Chicago). They were joined by

Michael James Riordan (d. October 7, 1930). The site of a former lumber camp, the settlement of Riordan was named for Dan M. Riordan after the brothers left the area. They sold their lumber interests in 1897. Dan Riordan was the Indian agent at Fort Defiance (*q.v.* Apache) 1880-1884. P.O. est. June 18, 1917. Howard V. Haerberlin, p.m. (declined). Veronica McGonigle, p.m. February 25, 1918. Discont. September 25, 1925.

Ref.: Anderson; Timothy A. Riordan File, APHS; 112, III; P.O. Records. Maps: GC-2; GC-3; C-12.

**ROBBER'S ROOST**

El.: c. 6000'

Loc.: Coconino 3, AC-8-7.1.  
Roughly in T. 27 N., R. 8 W.

Asa ("Ace") Harris tracked a train robber, Jim Parker, to this place where Parker was hiding out. Parker had robbed the train at Peach Springs. The two men had a gun battle, but Parker escaped.

Ref.: Harris; 169, p. 236. Map: GC-2 (Canyon).

**ROBINSON MOUNTAIN**

El.: c. 8000'

Loc.: Coconino 5, AB-3.3

Henry H. Robinson (1873-1925) wrote the *San Franciscan Volcanic Field* after surveying the area for the United States Government.

v.n. Robinson Crater

Ref.: 151, p. 645. Map: B-8.

**ROCK TOP MOUNTAIN**

El.: 7359'

Loc.: Coconino 5, AB-9.3

A big, broken malpais cap with boulders the size of dining tables gives Rock Top its descriptive name.

Ref.: Bill Corey. Maps: GM-21; C-7.

a.n. Rock Top Spring

Map: B-8

Coconino

**RODEN SPRING**

El.: c. 6000'

Loc.: Coconino 5, D-3.1

Pro.: /rōwdn/

In 1884 William D. Roden, Sr., with his family drove about two hundred cattle from Texas to Arizona, stopping for the winter at the Grand Falls on the Little Colorado River. In the springtime, three Hopis with burros passed Roden's camp, but — despite the fact that water was rare — did not stop to take water with them. Curious, Roden followed them toward the San Francisco Peaks. On the route he found a sign made with stones, near which was an iron bush. Crawling under the bush, Roden found moist ground, scraped out a hole and watched water come at once to the surface. The next day he returned to the seep with men and tools, dug the hole deeper and found enough water to warrant his moving to the place which bears his name. The Hopis were frequent and welcome visitors during Roden's many years' residence at Roden Spring.

Ref.: Switzer. Maps: B-9; C-13.

**ROGERS LAKE**

El.: 7244'

Loc.: Coconino 4, I-6.5

Charles Thomas Rogers (b. Maine 1829) came to Arizona in 1864. He had a cattle range near the present Rogers Lake