

—**JOHN SEYMORE ALLEN**—
1870-1966

JOHN SEYMORE ALLEN spent his first eleven years in Cove before his family moved to Mesa, Arizona. He has been extremely active in missionary work and colonization. He has made his livelihood by farming and canal building. His first mission was in the Southern States; the second in the Eastern States; and the third in the Southwest Indian Mission among the Pimas. He and his wife have financed twenty-one years of missionary work and have contributed funds for temple work. No request from the church was refused whether great or small. He has been a faithful ward teacher for fifty years without missing one month. While supporting one missionary he prospered greatly and was so encouraged that he supported two more after the first had returned. His financial status reversed and he became almost bankrupt, barely able to keep the missionaries out. Later he was asked why he had not become discouraged in the Gospel because of this situation and he replied, “Whether I get rich or go broke while I keep a missionary out doesn't change the fact that the Gospel is true.”

His wife, Barbara Phelps, came to Mesa from Montpelier, Idaho when she was a year old. They suffered the rigors of pioneer life including a smallpox epidemic. She recalls having her shoes blacked with soot and grease before she could go to Sunday School and Primary. She was energetic and capable with a nice singing voice. Their marriage has been humble and devout. Ten of their twelve children grew to maturity and are active in the Church. She milked cows to support herself and family and to supply her husband while he was on two missions. She joined her husband on his third mission and they did a splendid job among the Indians at Santon, Arizona. She has worked in all the auxiliaries and at present, at the age of seventy-five, she is still teaching Primary.

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