



A year after the Chandler townsite opened for official settlement in 1912, a new luxurious hotel opened.

[Dr. Chandler](#) named the San Marcos Hotel for [Fray Marcos de Niza](#), the first European to enter the Salt River Valley nearly 400 years earlier. The hotel opened with great fanfare, with Vice President [Thomas Marshall](#) in attendance, as well as prominent eastern and Californian businessmen. The hotel promised the most modern efficiencies, such as 1500 incandescent light bulbs, telephones in every room, and more than 3 miles of copper wire. When it



opened in November 1913, the San Marcos hotel was the only electrified building in town. On March 28, 1913, the [Chandler Arizonan](#) suggested that the room phones could be used by guests to “sit in your room with a view of the green valley before your eyes while you are talking to snow-covered Chicago or shivering New York.” As it matured, the San Marcos, with its luxuries, became a favorite vacation spot of businessmen, celebrities and politicians from across the country. Guests could rent a room or ultimately a bungalow for the "winter season" to take advantage of activities, such as trips to [Roosevelt Dam](#), horseback [rides to the mountains](#), polo, and golf on [Arizona's first grass course](#). Through subsequent owners, like [John Quarty](#), the San Marcos remained a popular tourist destination. Over its history, despite being shuttered for several years, the San Marcos Hotel has been, and continues to be, an important anchor for Chandler's downtown business district.

- [01.2 Architect: Arthur Burnett Benton](#)
- [02.1 Excavation Begins](#)
- [02.2 C. B. Weaver Construction Company Hired to Build Hotel](#)
- [02.3 Construction of the San Marcos Hotel Begins](#)
- [03. Fireproof Construction](#)
- [04. The Construction Workers](#)
- [05. The Grand Opening](#)
- [06. The Robinsons: Manager and Author](#)
- [07. The Amenities](#)
- [08. The Bungalows](#)
- [09. Golf at the San Marcos](#)
- [10. The Desert Inn](#)
- [11. John Quarty](#)
- [12. Fritz Werner](#)
- [13: Timeline of the San Marcos](#)
- [Building the Dream](#)

To see more photographs of the San Marcos Hotel, click [HERE](#).

To see additional material about the San Marcos Hotel, click [HERE](#)