

## Origin of Street Names

How often have we driven down a street and wondered the origin of its name? For many of our local roads, we can thank the families that settled in the shadows of the San Tan Mountains. Their stamina, tolerance for inconvenience, and passion for success has been the foundation for these communities.

In 1914, everyone but John and Mathilda **Germann** knew that it was impossible to farm on the desert of Arizona. The Germanns purchased a relinquishment of 480 acres from a discouraged homesteader and established their home and pumping plant. In 1917, J.O. **Power** moved to the Queen Creek area with a brother, Bernard (Buck). Their homestead consisted of 320 acres and was located a half mile east of what is now Power Road on Ocotillo.

Jasper **Sossaman**, his mother, and his brother Lee, moved to the homestead in 1919 after his father died. It consisted of 320 acres on what is now the S.W. corner of Sossaman and Ocotillo Roads. Jasper (Jap) began working for Charlie Rittenhouse, operating and maintaining the diesel engines that powered the pumps used to irrigate Queen Creek Farms.

Johnny **Crismon**, moved to Queen Creek with his wife Margaret in 1946. They partnered with several other farmers in growing lettuce and carrots. Queen Creek's first school, an old muleskinner cook shack was located ½ mile north of Queen Creek Rd on the west side of what is now Crismon Rd.



Ernest E. **Hawes** started farming in Queen Creek in the 1930's. The original homestead was on the south side of Chandler Heights Rd., north of the Sonoqui Wash, just west of what is now Hawes Rd.

Charles **Rittenhouse** was well established by 1924 with the Queen Creek Farms Company. The wells typically pumped 2150 gallons of water per minute and were 400 ft. deep. The availability of water made his 1000 acres of farmland very productive.



In 1928, the Rittenhouse property was sold to Leo **Ellsworth**. He and his brothers formed The Ellsworth Brothers Farms, an operation that soon consisted of cotton, large acreages of farm produce, cattle, sheep, and a dairy herd. Leo is credited with bringing in the first phone line to Queen Creek.