



*Based on photos held by Sharlot Hall Museum this postcard appears to show a 1912 Yavapai Board of Supervisors tour of the Senator Highway. The publicity probably stimulated the first state legislature to appropriate funds for improvement of the route from Prescott to Crown King. The Senator Highway was Arizona's first toll road, constructed 1866-1867 as part of the Prescott-Lynx Creek Toll Road. It was named for the Senator Mine, in turn likely named for two Arizona politicians and mine investors who hoped to become US senators. It was extended over the years until it eventually reached Crown King by the end of the 1880s. Originally constructed with private funding, the road became a state highway in 1912 and was reconstructed over the following two years. At the time it was meant to connect with Phoenix, and it did on some maps but through very difficult terrain, usually via Bumble Bee. Prescott boosters turned to an alternative route in 1923, the White Spar Highway, built with US Forest Service funding. To the west of the Senator Highway, the route from Prescott to the White Spar Mine continued via Yarnell Hill to Wickenburg and finally Phoenix, soon earning the designation US 89. Paved to Groom Creek in 1941, the Senator Highway survived as part of another federal highway system, as Prescott National Forest Road 52.*

<https://arizona100.wordpress.com/2011/12/28/arizona-highways-were-built-by-the-numbers/>