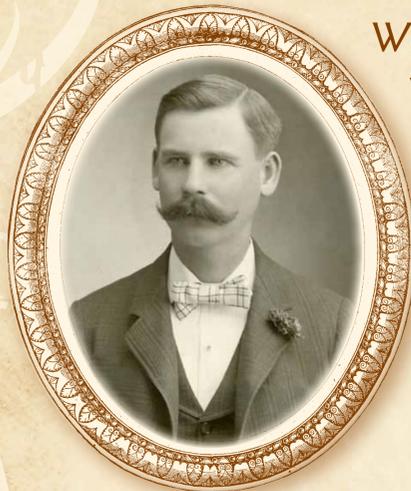


William Arthur Hobson



William A. Hobson, age 24, c.1889
Photo courtesy of
Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives

William Arthur Hobson, William Dewey Hobson's fourth son, was the less public of the two brothers until 1910. In that year, he traveled to Europe with his family and when he returned, inspired by the auto causeways of

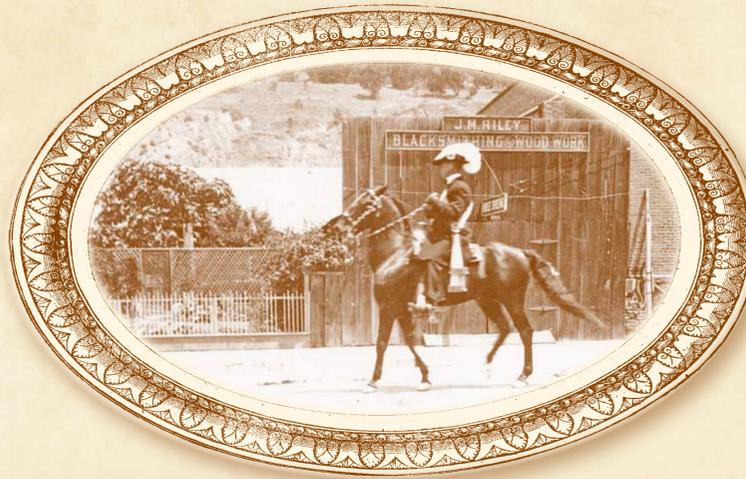
Europe, he promoted a series of causeways for Ventura to drive west to Santa Barbara along the coast. He funded a survey for the Maricopa Highway that would become Highway 33.



Rincon Causeway, c.1913
Photo courtesy of the Smith-Hobson Family Archives



Hobson Family Gathering at Ojai House, c.1908
William A. Hobson – Front Row, 3rd from left; Abram L. Hobson – Back Row, 2nd from right
Photo courtesy of Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives



William A. Hobson
Grand Marshal astride his famous black stallion Walter H, c.1913
Photo courtesy of the Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives

A Man of Many Passions

Hobson was passionate about horses, automobiles, history and transportation. His love of pageantry, history and costumed events made him the natural choice for Grand Marshal and Chairman of the July 4-5, 1913 opening parade and festivities of the Ventura County Courthouse. He chaired the Chamber of Commerce Landmarks Committee, which saved the Ortega

Adobe. W.A. Hobson died tragically in the first fatal automobile accident in Ventura County only days after the historic July 4-5 event.



William A. Hobson, c.1912
Photo courtesy of
Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives



Waldo Dingman photo of Ventura County Courthouse – July 21, 1913
Photo courtesy of the Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives

A City Mourns

Presiding Judge Robert M. Clarke dedicated the opening session of the Superior Court on July 21, 1913 to W.A. Hobson with these words:

There is to me a touch of sadness surrounding the exercise of this morning. Death has taken from me a valued friend and from the state an upright and active citizen. To the deceased I owe as much as to any other person for my elevation to this exalted position and to him and his efforts both a private work and in his interest in public affairs the County of Ventura is much indebted for its present material prosperity. I therefore order that when this Court adjourn, it do so out of respect to the memory of William A. Hobson.