Mayo Clinic Heritage Films
Discussion Guide

Call of the West: The Mayo Family in Arizona

The Mayo brothers traveled all over the world, but they returned again and again to Arizona. They loved the history, scenery, and climate of the region.

After retiring, the brothers built houses in Tucson where they enjoyed hosting friends and family members seeking a break from the long Minnesota winters. With photos from the family album and home movies taken by their longtime driver, this documentary captures the Mayos’ love for their adopted home.

Discussion Questions

1. What attracts you to your favorite vacation destination?

2. The Mayo brothers built identical houses across from each other in Tucson. Would you want to live across the street from a family member?

3. Discuss how the Mayos and their guests traveled in the 1930s. How was it different from travel today?
4. In the early part of the 20th century, Arizona was home to many tuberculosis sanitoriums. It was believed that abundant sunshine and fresh, dry air would help cure diseases of the lungs. Do you think there was any truth to that?

5. Why do you think Dr. Will dropped in on small hospitals during his vacations?

6. The Mayos were born in Rochester and chose to build their clinic there. What do you think they would have thought of major Mayo Clinic campuses being built in Arizona and Florida?

7. Why do you think the West has long captured the imaginations of Americans?