

Pioneer Writes A Murder Story

The Age has received permission from the author to reprint the following story from "The Memoirs of a California Pioneer," published in the Pico Pioneer-News.

The story, written by J. A. Delameter, a resident of Las Vegas for several years, is entitled:

THE MURDER OF AL BRISON By J. A. Delameter

In writing of the many tragedies that have occurred on the desert that I have experienced, or have been interested in, about the most cruel and also heroic was the murder of Al Brison by Sterling Wassam at Saratoga Springs in Death Valley in 1886.

Some would call it a cool, premeditated murder, and perhaps it was in some measure, yet the heroic acts of Wassam to save all of the stock from perishing deserves unlimited praise, murder though it was.

We were hauling borax from a place now called Debriskey. This was a borax refinery, built by W. T. Coleman in 1883 on the Amogosa river. It is the eastern prong of Death Valley.

We were hauling this borax to Mojave and shipping it over the S. P. R. R. We crossed Death Valley at Saratoga Springs, then followed a western course to Owl Holes, a distance of 18 miles. The next was Leaches Point. This camp was seldom used as the water was scarce and hard to get at so we made a dry camp 23 miles from Owl Holes. We distributed water in barrels on our outward trip for this dry camp.

This explanation is necessary as it figured in what passed at Saratoga Springs.

It was about two o'clock and it was our custom to water the stock and then pull one wagon for about 2 miles farther ahead on the road. In fact, across Death Valley, then return to the Spring and camp over night.

After watering the team Brison and Wassam were quarreling, so Wassam said, and they sat down to lunch when Wassam claimed Brison suddenly sprang up and grabbed Wassam and began cutting him with a small pocket knife, and in proof of this there were several small cuts on his shoulder, (the clothing and all seemed to indicate that this was done by Wassam as a defensive measure.

Then Wassam claimed that he tore loose from Brison's grasp and picked up a long handled shovel and as Brison came on after him he swung the shovel overhanded and hit Brison square on top of the head, and Brison fell dead. Then Wassam dug a shallow grave a short distance from the Spring, en-rolled Brison's bed in the grave, turned the canvas covering of the bed back, placed Brison on the bed, drew the canvas up over him and threw some dirt on it and left him there. Then climbing up on top of

the wagon started to drive the team to Mojave, but being no driver, he captized the wagon before he had gone 200 feet. The distance from where he sat to the ground was about 11 feet and as the wagon was on a small grade it threw him some farther down the hill. He landed on his feet and broke his leg just above the ankle, breaking both bones completely off and splitting one bone for about three inches.

This boy had wonderful stamina and he crawled around with the assistance of a shovel and unhitched the 20 horses, as this team was all horses. There was one horse leading, making 21. Altogether three of them jerked away from him but he fastened the others together as was the custom when leading a team. The harness carried straps for this purpose. He then got up on the lead horse, and as the others were all hitched to him, he could thus lead all but the three loose ones, and they followed. This must have been about 5 o'clock in the evening.

Just think of the wonderful stamina

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CHURCHES

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY

316 South Fourth street, across from grammar school, is a branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Massachusetts. Meets every Sunday at 11 a. m. Sunday school at 9:30 a. m., and Wednesday evening at 8:00 o'clock.

Christian Science reading room, 112 North Third street, open week days, except holidays, from 1:15 p. m. until 4 p. m. Evenings, except Wednesdays, from 7 until 9 o'clock.

"Love" will be the subject of the Lesson-Sermon in all churches of Christ, Scientist, Sunday, January 31, 1937.

"The Golden Text is from Ze-phaniah 3:17, "The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing."

The Lesson-Sermon includes the Bible passage, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." (Ps. 23:6).

Also the correlative from the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy, "Let us rid ourselves of the belief that man is separated from God, and obey only the divine Principle, Life and Love" (p. 91).

IN HOT WATER

Did you know that you can save a great deal of cooking fuel if you start vegetables to cook in hot water instead of cold? Therein lies the economy of having at your command an instant, every-ready supply of hot water made possible by the Hotpoint automatic electric water heater.

Coast Songbird



FRANCINA WHITE, sensational soprano singing star, is heard Tuesday nights with Fred Astaire. Her home is in Los Angeles, and she wants to stay there—badly enough to turn down opera offers to do so.

CHEESE ROLL BISCUITS

(Makes Two Dozen Biscuits)

- 2½ cups general purpose flour.
- 1 teaspoon salt.
- ½ teaspoon soda.
- 2 teaspoons baking powder.
- ¼ cup lard.
- 1 cup buttermilk.
- 1 cup American cheese (grated).

Mix and sift together all dry ingredients. Cut in the lard. Add buttermilk, mixing lightly with a fork. Turn dough out on a floured bread board, knead lightly and roll. Sprinkle grated cheese over dough and roll up like a jelly roll. Cut in ¼-inch slices. Place, cut side up, on a well-greased baking sheet and place in the Hotpoint oven which has been preheated to 425 degrees. Turn oven to bake. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes.

SOUTHGATE CHAPTER SPECIAL ELECTION

Southgate Chapter, O. E. S., met Monday evening with Marjorie Pyeatt, W. M., presiding. Degrees were conferred on Mrs. H. Garrison in a most beautiful ceremony. Mrs. George Day was elected conductress in place of Mrs. Earl Honrath, who was obliged to resign on account of ill health. A special election will be held at the next regular meeting to elect an associate conductress. Plans were made and committees appointed to entertain the Grand Matron, Jean Muir, who is to make her official visit February 22.

Refreshments were served by Mesdames W. B. Mundy, Earl Davison and Mabel Ullom, and a pleasant hour of socialibility was enjoyed.

The treasury of the United States is preparing to move four billion dollars worth of gold to Kentucky. The sum is so large it staggers the imagination. It would last you for a couple of weeks at a Broadway night club.

PERSONALS

Mrs. Earl Davison was hostess to the members of her Contract Club Tuesday at a dessert luncheon. The guests included Mesdames Charles Dimock, A. C. Grant, J. D. Smith, Henry Deadrich, W. B. Mundy, W. S. Park, Harold Morse and C. P. Squires.

The Guild of St. Agnes met at the Vicarage Monday afternoon. A social hour was enjoyed after the business session. The annual parish dinner occurred Thursday night at six-thirty. The guests enjoyed baked beans, brown bread and apple pie, which put them in good humor for the annual church meeting.

Mrs. Marie Blad was hostess to the members of the Past Noble Grands' Club Tuesday evening at her home on North Sixth street.

Mrs. Wm. S. Park entertained the U-Wah-Un Study Club at her home Monday afternoon. The program was under the direction of Mrs. L. E. Burr.

FRANCIS FUNERAL HELD WEDNESDAY

The funeral service of Joseph Francis, who passed away Monday morning, was held at the Garrison mortuary Wednesday. The Odd Fellows had charge of the service. The deceased came to Las Vegas from Casper, Wyoming, where he was a member of both the Odd Fellow and Masonic orders.

SOCIETY

Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Marble went to southern California Monday. Mrs. Marble will remain in Long Beach for a time.

Mrs. Earl Davison left for Los Angeles Thursday for a visit with her mother, Mrs. lice Pomeroy.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Beckley spent the past week in Los Angeles.

Mrs. F. R. Mildren has been ill the past week and confined to her bed.

Mrs. Jack Fredrickson of Good-springs is ill at the Las Vegas hospital.

Carl Laemmle, retired movie producer, of Hollywood, Calif., spent the week in Las Vegas and was registered at the Apache.

Mrs. S. J. Lawson has returned from Los Angeles. While there she was quite ill with flu and confined to her bed.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Woltishek motored to Phoenix Friday, returning Sunday evening.

The trouble with the fellow who says he can take a drink or let it alone is that he generally doesn't seem to decide to let it alone.