

'Forty-Niners' In Death Valley

In the book "Story of Inyo" written by the present editor of The Inyo Register, published at Bishop, Inyo County, California, he has the following to say regarding the origin of the party of pioneers who passed through Death Valley in 1849, and the many difficulties they encountered:

"Next in Inyo annals, comes the tragic story of the pioneers who, seeking a short cut to California, marked their way across the desert with abandoned equipages, lonely graves or unburied corpses, and found in Death Valley the culmination of their misfortunes and miseries—

"A writer of the period said that the overland trail could be traced by the head-boards and mounds above the bodies of the victims!

"Disease and hardships, the arrows of hostile Indians, and sometimes other enemies, did their share toward justifying this assertion. Hundreds who set forth in hope were laid to rest by the wayside; their lonely graves were oftener visited by parah coyotes or trampled by bison, than seen by human beings. The full tale of those journeyings never has been told. Here and there some special tragedy found a place in the blood-stained annals of pioneering. None exceed in horror the truth about those who perished at the verge of the promised land, the Donner party in the Sierra snows, and the Death Valley party starving in the desert."

The record of the Death Valley party is found in the narratives of W. L. Manly, Mrs. Brier, J. B. Colton, Edward Coker, Thomas Shannon, and L. Dow Stephens, who were among those entering the ill-reputed valley"

FORMATION OF THE DEATH VALLEY PARTY

"The nucleus of the expedition was a band of young men from Galesburg, Illinois, who organized to make the trip to the newly discovered land of gold. They were youths of buoyant spirits, and anticipated a journey of pleasure, rather than hardships. The name of Jayhawkers was adopted on the route. An impromptu initiation ceremony was used to test the fortitude of applicants for the undertaking. The candidate was first carried around the camp on the

shoulders of four men. He then bared one leg to the knee and stood upright while he repeated a vow that he would stand by his comrades through all perils. Following this a small bit of flesh was nipped from his bare leg; this was done twice more, and if he showed a lack of fortitude on any of these tests he was deemed unworthy of membership. Little did these care-free young fellows deem of the nature of the hardship they were encountering. A few of them failed; most of them proved their worth."

Some additions to the train had been made by the time Salt Lake City was reached. All such travelers remained in the Mormon capital for some time recruiting their livestock, securing supplies and otherwise preparing for the unknown journey ahead. The Jayhawkers reached there in July, 1849, and remained until toward the end of September. "More emigrants joined the train in Salt Lake City, until when the caravan was finally completed at a rendezvous, 50 or 100 miles south it comprised 105 to 112 wagons, and about 500 head of stock.

"The original Jayhawkers numbered thirty-six. In the expedition, as finally made up, there were several times as many, with members from Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and other western states and Territories.

"One of the subdivisions amalgamated into the great caravan was known as "the San Francisco party," which had started from Omaha, with forty-five wagons, June, 6th. It was somewhat elaborately organized, with constitution and by-laws, and with some of the characteristics of a military expedition. John Brophy was its "colonel," Judge Haun bore the title of "major," and Rev. J. W. Brier was designated as "chaplain." One of the younger members was P. A. Chafant, father of the compiler of this record."

"It was decided to divide the consolidated expedition into seven different companies. Some of the units already had their organizations, the small companies, and detached individuals were formed into new commands. The Jayhawkers after long argument, decided against any women or children in their division, and the families who had joined them made up a separate party. To this there was one exception — Rev. J. W. Brier, preferring the Jayhawkers to the party with which he had come, and declaring that he and his wife and

children would stay with the Illinois men in any case. From the fact that the Brier party traveled apart from the Jayhawkers during parts of the subsequent journey, it is probable that his welcome to their camp was not cordial."

"Here, through the kind assistance of Charles Kelley, of Salt Lake, author of, "Salt Desert Trails," we introduce a new narrator; James S. Brown, who though then unable to read or write, was instructed by the Mormon church to proceed on a mission to the South Sea Islands. This was in September, and Brown and his companions were told to start as soon as possible, joining the emigrants. They did so, and as will be seen, preferred to follow the judgment of the guide rather than to branch off, as did the Jayhawkers.

DEATH VALLEY DOIN'S

(By THE RAMBLER)

Miss Kathryn Ronan, manager of Furnace Creek Inn, arrived in the Valley early last week to supervise preparations for the opening of the big tourist hotel. There has been a force of employes and artisans working for the past couple of weeks, getting things spick and span for the formal seasonal opening of the Inn, which will occur as scheduled, on Nov. 1.

The Goldfield News-Tribune, in its last issue, announced the marriage there of Miss Marguerite Labbe, to Mr. Tolvo Saxberg. The ceremony was a quiet wedding, performed at the home of the bride's parents, in Goldfield, on Wednesday evening, Oct. 19th. The Labbe family formerly resided at Death Valley Junction, where they are well known and highly respected by most of the people here. Mr. Labbe, father of the bride has valuable mining property in the Johnnie district, where he is now developing one of his prospects.

Frank Tilson, who was taken to the Las Vegas hospital 10 days ago for observation and a general 'tuning up' was brought to his home here, last Wednesday, by Dr. Shrum and Johnnie Long, who motored over to Las Vegas after him. Frank was examined from head to foot, by the Doc's at the hospital, who tapped and thumped and pounded him till he was sore all over, he says, but found nothing seriously wrong with him. Frank says this is his first term in a hospital since 15 or 16 years ago, when he was confined to the Randsburg hospital, following an auto accident, near the old gold camp, in which the driver of the car in which he was riding was killed.

King Gillette, of razor blade fame, and his friend and business associate, Tex McCall, came in last Friday, and registered at hotel Amargosa. Messrs Gillette and McCall still retain some valuable land holdings, in Ash Meadows, in Nevada, east of the Junction, and were attending to business matters connected with said property. These gentlemen formerly operated extensively in the Ash Meadows, Nevada district.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scholl, and their 3 year old daughter, Laslay,

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El Portal

NEVADA'S FINEST THEATRE
MATINEE 2:30-NIGHTS 7 & 9 P.M.
SUNDAY — MONDAY —
TUESDAY — WEDNESDAY —
November 6-7-8-9

The Heroic Romance of the Man Who Tore Continents Apart . . . That Ships Might Sail the Desert!

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ANNABELLA
THE GREATEST PRODUCTION EVER FILMED
And a Cast of Thousands
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November 10—

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BY POPULAR DEMAND

The Great American Picture!

'In Old Chicago'

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ALICE FAYE
DON AMACKE
Alice Brady—Andy Devine
Brian Donlevy—Tom Brown
Also LATEST FOX NEWS

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY—
November 11-12—

TWO BIG FEATURES

ROY ROGERS
SMILEY BURNETTE

"Billy The Kid"

Second Hit Attraction

PETER LORRE

"Mysterious Mr. Moto"

— with —
MARY MAGUIRE
HENRY WILCOXON
Erik Rhodes—Harold Huber
— also —

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without fail from your druggist. Over a million women have written in letters reporting wonderful benefits. For the past 60 years Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has helped grateful women go "smiling thru" trying ordeals. Why not let it help YOU?

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