

FROM THE FARTHER WEST

MEMORY OF 'FORTY-NINE

Annual Reunion of a Remnant of the California Argonauts.

PASSING YEARS MELT THEIR RANKS

Only Eleven Living Out of a Band of Thirty-seven, and Only Three Assembled to Recall the Famous Trip.

On the 4th of February, 1850, forty-eight years ago, a band of thirty-seven men, who set out from Galesburg, Ill., for California in the fall of the preceding year, emerged from the "valley of the shadow of death," a region put down on the maps as Death

and every one shed tears of joy at the sight of the glorious vision spread before them and the suddenness of their deliverance. The boys shot the head of a bear and were eating the raw flesh and fat, when the ranch Indians, hearing the firing, came down with all the shooting irons they could muster, but seeing the helpless condition of the party, they rode back to headquarters and reported to Francisco, the Spaniard who owned the ranch and cattle. He came down and invited them to camp in a grove near the house, made them welcome, and furnished them with meat, milk, grain and everything they needed until they were recruited and able to go on their way. He was indeed a good Samaritan.

NOTES FROM THE JAYHAWKERS' LOG.

The next meeting of the Jayhawkers will be held at the home of Charles B. Mechem at Perry, Ia., on February 4, 1898. The record of the number of miles traveled by the Jayhawkers from Little Salt Lake to the place of deliverance was found in the log of Sheldon Young. The total is 771 miles.

Mr. Colton remarked that in the rush to Klondike some of the scenes of 1849 would be repeated, but that it would be impossible for Argonauts of this later day to undergo the hardships or the excitement of the days of old. That the march of civilization, science and invention has eliminated many of the old terrors and that a trip to Alaska was one of comfort as compared with the journey of the Jayhawkers.

The only woman in the party, Mrs. J. W. Brier, withstood the trip better than the men. When a traveler felt by the trail it was Mrs. Brier who encouraged him to make another effort. She was a delicate little woman, but the hardships seemed to make little impression upon her. She carried her two children, aged 4 and 7, through it all alive. One of these is now a minister of the gospel in California, and his photograph occupies a place of honor in the pictorial collection of the association.

Since the last meeting of the Jayhawkers, Thomas B. Breckonridge of Telluride, Colo., the last of the old scouts of Fremont, the pathfinder's expedition of 1848, has died. Of all the old crowd of mountaineers and guides now are only three left living.

A MISSING MEMBER.

Sheldon Young, a member of the Jayhawkers party, had vanished from sight, not being heard from for years. Mr. Colton discovered a few months ago that Young died at Moberly, Mo., and from a son he secured the old papers and a daguerotype of the deceased. Young had been a sailor, and true to his profession he had been in the trip across the plains. The diary was written in pencil on the pages of a cheap note book, and the ravages of time had nearly effaced the writing. With the assistance of powerful magnifying glasses, a large portion of the record was deciphered, and then transcribed and bound in durable form.

LOST COAL MINE IN MONTANA.

Iowa Man Discovered It Once and Then Forgot Where It Was. Every important mining district has its "Lost Cabin Mine," and the Yakk is no exception in this particular, says the Sylvanite Miner of Sylvanite, Mont. We know of one party that put in a part of last summer searching for it, confining their explorations to a head of Fourth of July creek, as their information was that it was in that stream with a patriotic name, but unfortunately the particular name was in doubt. But from the description at hand the two prospectors, but one of them, Fred Troy, concluded to examine the little stream which empties into the Yakk at this point. However, the party was unsuccessful, and definite information as to the exact locality of the "Lost Cabin Mine," locally speaking, is as much in doubt as ever.

We have heard it said that "Death on the Trail" Preator, who was a frequent visitor at Yakk several years ago, was on a similar mission, and expected to return to this section when he met with the accident near Hope, Idaho, which caused his death. J. F. Walters, better known as "Wild Bill," another frontier character, was associated with Preator in the enterprise, and was also in the Yakk a couple of years ago. His cabin near the Yakk falls is still in evidence, and is known throughout the section as "Wild Bill's cabin." Mr. Walters also met a sudden death a short time ago at Colfax, Wash., and whatever information or secrets those two men may have possessed about the matter probably passed away with them.

STORY OF THE TRIP.

On the 5th of April, 1849, a large party of men started from Galesburg, Ill., for California. To distinguish their party from others they jeeringly took the name of Jayhawkers, and that name has clung to them. The party crossed the Missouri at the point where Omaha now stands, the crossing being made in a log raft, which landed just above where Farnam street touches the river. There was no Omaha then. Nothing was there save a few swamps swarming with muskrats, and a few scattered houses with a little settlement. Then the forty wags started upon the long stretch of prairie to the mountains, the trail being nearly the same as that which the Jayhawkers followed. Several times the Indians stamped the cattle of the party, so that Salt Lake City was not reached until the end of August, a month later than had been expected.

It was thought by the older members of the party to be too late to cross the Sierra Nevada mountains, and the party, after being told by the natives that the mountains were warm, the party remained in Salt Lake City until October 3, 1848. Upon their arrival at Little Salt Lake, a few restless mountaineers determined to take the trail, a point at the head of the San Joaquin valley formed a band and decided to cross the desert at all hazards, thus saving hundreds of miles' travel via the Los Angeles route. For four months they were in a trackless waste where not a living thing existed except where fresh water was seldom found. They entered the desert hale and hearty men and came out living skeletons. For eight years have passed since they emerged from the mountains. Cultivation has pushed forward and civilized the world, and the men who had a familiar look, and by which he hoped to identify the spot he was looking for, but only to be disappointed. He reluctantly gave up the search and returned to his Iowa home. Other parties, since then, have taken the search with no better results. W. E. Brewster and William Hawkins made a trip on the same mission, and John De Noie, who probably is as familiar with the Yakk section as any one in the camp, also has made observations during his hunting and prospecting trips, but all efforts thus far have been unavailing. Mr. De Noie has only found one locality where the sandstone formation and other indications would point to the existence of coal measures, but was unable to locate any croppings. This place is on Sheep creek, a short distance from the Yakk Meadows, and it may be that the lost coal mine will yet be discovered, and if it should be in the locality where generally supposed—about thirty miles north of Sylvanite—the find undoubtedly will be of valuable account.

GUARDING A RICH GOLD STRIKE.

PHOENIX, Ariz., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—The shaft of the Crown Point mine, in Castle Creek district, forty miles south of Phoenix, at the depth of 260 feet, has tapped an ore body in its four-foot ledge that runs several thousand dollars to the ton in gold. The owners of the claim are much excited over the find, and have put guards with rifles over the ore dump. The discovery has invited the greatest activity in neighboring workings and prospectors by the score are working over the hills in the vicinity.

FOR REIGNITION AND IMPROVEMENT.

POCATTELLO, Idaho, Feb. 17.—(Special.)—The Board of Public Lands and Company has filed articles of incorporation with the county recorder. The capital stock is placed at \$500,000. The main office will be

at Pocatello, with a branch office at Butte, Mont. The incorporators are ex-Governor Richards of Montana, ex-Lieutenant Governor of Idaho, and a number of prominent citizens of the celebrated Blue Lakes farm; Joseph Wilborn of Shoshone, Idaho, and F. B. Thomas and J. J. Cusick of Butte. The company now is extending the tract of land near American Falls and is building an irrigating ditch to water it. It also owns and is operating extensive placer mines at Shoshone, and also has a claim also proposes to build an electric railroad from Shoshone to the Great Shoshone Falls.

HOW THE SIOUX WAR ORIGINATED.

Another Story of the Cause of the War for Possession of Black Hills.

Justice H. N. Maguire and L. C. Waller of Spokane have recently thrown some new light on an interesting story of the Sioux war in an interview in the St. Paul Pioneer Press. Mr. Waller was chief of police at Bismarck in the 80s and Mr. Maguire was judge of Gallatin county, Montana, when the district included the whole of the Yellowstone valley and extended to the Dakota border. He was also United States commissioner for the territory. He participated in the opening of the first mining camp in Idaho and Montana and later of Washington and British Columbia.

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Francisco he was a great disappointment, as he possessed few of the qualities of a good executive. Some of his plans were excellent, but he had so many visionary schemes and he was so bitter toward those who honestly opposed his ideas, that he soon lost all of his confidence. Political warfare and worry over private financial affairs induced recent attacks of paralysis, which brought on paralysis. It is believed that he will carry out his plans for giving to the city the valuable library which he collected. It is extremely rich in early Americana and documents pertaining to the discovery and settlement of the West. Whatever may be said of Mr. Castro's course in public affairs, he has given more to San Francisco than any other man, not excepting James Lick, and he has done more than any other to develop the suburbs and to make great pleasure grounds at Cliff House.

SOUTH OMAHA NEWS.

People living in the vicinity of Mud creek are again complaining about the horrible stench which has arisen from the creek during recent warm days. The people of Sary county, who live in the vicinity of the creek, are indignant and assert that suit against the city will be commenced before long unless something is done to prevent the packing house from using the creek as a sewer.

When the association was organized it was decided to sell eighteen quarts of milk for \$1, and up to this time this has been done by all the dealers in the union. It has been found that several dealers who refused to sell the milk for the specified amount.

At a recent meeting of the local milk dealers' union it was decided to take steps to force nonunion dealers to either join the union or else go out of business. The plan is for the association to follow the routes of the dealers, known as the "milk routes," and endeavor to induce consumers to trade with the union by offering more milk for a specified amount.

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CHILLY BLAST FOR FUSION

Senator Morgan Opposed to Sideshows in the Democratic Circus.

A Warm Welcome Promised to All Who Subscribe to Democratic Principles—Fusion Unadvisable.

Senator John T. Morgan of Alabama discusses democracy and democratic duty in a signed letter printed in the St. Louis Republic. The letter is interesting chiefly because it reflects southern opposition to what the senator politely calls "amalgamation," or what is known as fusion in these parts. But the populists and silver republicans will be given the glad hand if they march into the democratic tent.

The letter reads as follows: "The democratic party is the strongest and best established political organization that has existed in any country. It is almost co-existent with the life of the United States. At the beginning of this century, with Jefferson alive to aid in its formation, it was established on a distinct basis of the true interpretation of the constitution. At that time the first ten amendments to the constitution—the people's bill of rights—had been added to the original thirteen articles of the democratic party. So, in fact, all platform on which this party can meet in common agreement the truths established in the original thirteen articles of the constitution and its cardinal principles by Thomas Jefferson and his democratic collaborators are the true tests of democracy.

"I INSIST ON STRAIGHT GOODS. "I have no use for the party stand on the immediate principles, which are its life. I would invite no amalgamation of parties. If other parties desired to fall in with us and to accept of democratic principles I would welcome them, but I would have the democratic party stand for principles, irrespective of success of a temporary character.

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