

# Territorial News

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Vol. 31, No. 7

Your Connection to the Old West

October 31, 2018

Next Issue  
Wednesday  
November 14

Play  
Arizona Trivia  
See Page 2 for Details

### This Week's Question:

One of America's largest sundials, measuring 35 feet high and 90 feet in diameter, is located in which Arizona city? (8 Letters)

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# Boomers & Sooners The Oklahoma Land Rush

## Eyewitness Account of the Mad Dash for Free Land

By William Howard

*In 1880, a group of white settlers defied the federal government by establishing homesteads in Oklahoma. The government responded by sending in the Ninth Cavalry to escort them out. The settlers, known as "Boomers," returned on several occasions over the next few years, only to be removed.*

*At the time, Oklahoma was known as the Indian Territory. It had a diverse indigenous population, as well as Indians who had been forced from their homelands in the East. After the Civil War,*



*thousands of freed slaves also settled there to avoid white rule.*

*But white settlers were not going to be denied forever. The government eventually relented, announcing a date, April 22, 1889, on which the territory would be*

*opened for claims. The promise of free land drew 60,000 eager "Boomers" to the border to wait for the pistol shot that would start the rush. Meanwhile, some "Sooners" had already snuck into the territory.*

*Eyewitness William Howard wrote this account for Harper's Weekly.*

Guthrie was built in a day. To be strictly accurate in the matter, it might be said that it was built in an afternoon. At twelve o'clock on Monday, April 22nd, the resident population of Guthrie was nothing; before sundown it had at least ten thousand. In that time streets had been laid out, town lots staked off, and steps taken toward the formation of a municipal government. At twilight the campfires of ten thousand people gleamed on the grassy slopes of the Cimarron Valley, where, the night before, the coyote, the gray wolf, and the deer had roamed undisturbed. Never before in the history of the West had so large a number of people been concentrated in one place in so short a time. To the conservative Eastern man, who is wont to see cities grow by decades,

Unlike Rome the city of (See Oklahoma on Page 6)

## A Wyoming Gunslinger Became Deputy Marshal

### Involved in Numerous Gunfights

By Richard W. Kimball

**B**ig Steve Long was an outlaw and gunman in Wyoming Territory during the mid-1860s. He and his two half-brothers, Ace and Con Moyer, had tried to take over the railroad town of Laramie during its early lawless days. At first only a tent city, Laramie was established precisely

where the Overland Stage Line crossed the tracks of the Union Pacific Transcontinental Railroad.

The brothers are listed among Laramie's founding fathers. They built the town's first watering hole which they named the Belle of the West Saloon. Since the little community had no actual law enforcement at that time, the Moyers appointed themselves lawmen. Ace named himself the Justice of the Peace and his brother Con became the City Marshal.

Big Steve Long, a drifter and self-described gunfighter, was the Deputy Marshal. It is believed that Long fought on the side of the Confederacy during the Civil War, but it may have been under a different name. At six-foot, six-inches, Big Steve lost no time in making himself the most ruthless and corrupted lawman in the West. Ace and Con Moyer (some sources say Con was also known as Wagner or Waggoner) and

(See Deputy on Page 4)

## The Territory of Jefferson

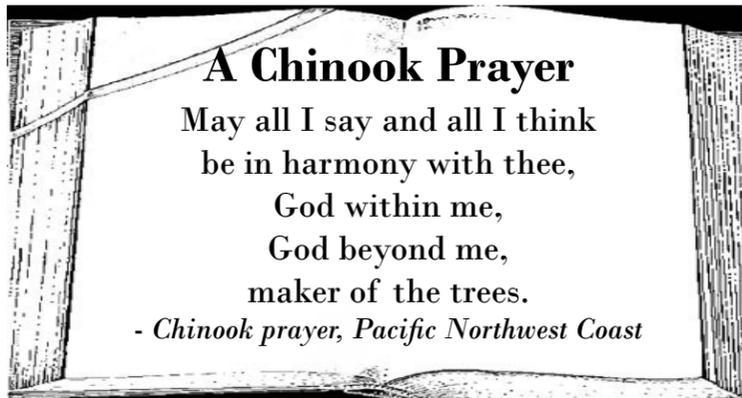
**T**he Provisional Government of the Territory of Jefferson was an unrecognized territory of the United States that existed from October 24, 1859 until the creation of the Territory of Colorado on February 28, 1861.

On August 25, 1855, the Territory of Kansas created Arapahoe County, a huge county that included the entire western portion of the territory, includ-

ing much of present day Colorado. Since Arapahoe County was occupied primarily by Cheyenne and Arapaho with only a few white settlers, the county was never organized.

The Pike's Peak Gold Rush began with the discovery of gold in July 1858 at the Dry Creek Diggings. The gold rush brought 100,000 gold seekers to

(See Colorado on Page 8)



### A Chinook Prayer

May all I say and all I think  
be in harmony with thee,  
God within me,  
God beyond me,  
maker of the trees.

- Chinook prayer, Pacific Northwest Coast

## Captain's Bar Presents

### ARIZONA TRIVIA

This Week's Question: One of America's largest sundials, measuring 35 feet high and 90 feet in diameter, is located in which Arizona city? (8 Letters)

Last Issue's Question: What famous labor leader, activist, and founder of the National Farm Workers Association, was born in Yuma in 1927?

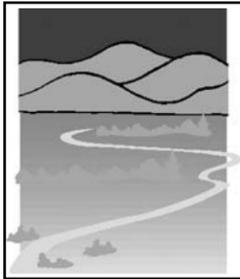
Answer: Cesar Chavez

*Congratulations! You got the right answer!*

Larry Damer, Doyle Ekey, Kevin Gartley, Robert Lidgett, Vivki Nelson, Roger Ringer, Bill Riordan, Marilyn Smith, Nancy Swanson, Richard Valley.

#### How to Play

Letters are hidden in the advertisements. Find the letters to spell the answer. Submit your answer with your name, address & phone number on a postcard for the current issue's question to Territorial Publishing, P.O. Box 1690, Apache Junction, AZ 85217. Look for the answer in the next issue. To have your name listed in the next issue, cards must be received no later than 10 days past the current issue of the Territorial News. For example: submitted answers to the 10/31/18 question, deadline is 11/10/18. Limit one postcard per household per issue. Must be at least 18 years old. Remember to put your name on your entry!



## Arizona - Web of Time

### Jim Harvey

The Arizona Trail

When a 600-mile-an-hour meteor struck the earth 50,000 years ago between where Winslow and Flagstaff are today, it blasted a gigantic hole with the explosive force of 20 tons of TNT. The point of impact is called Meteor Crater and is open to the public. It's large enough to hold 20 football fields and two million fans.

mining for gold at or near Sycamore Canyon southeast of where Williams is now were attacked by Yavapai Indian warriors in 1765. According to the old story, four of the soldiers were killed and two escaped never to return. The gold still waits to be discovered.

The first regularly scheduled stagecoach service across Arizona began in

Six Spanish soldiers

1857. Coaches were pulled by six-mule teams and provided connections between San Diego, California, and San Antonio, Texas. A one-way ticket from San Diego to Tucson in Arizona cost \$80.

Arizona's best-known natural wonder wasn't named the Grand Canyon until the late 1860s. Prior to that, it was called Big Canyon by U. S. Army explorers and mapmakers.

1879 Chinese workers were paid a dollar a day less charges for room and board when the Southern Pacific Railroad was constructed east from Yuma through Arizona's southern deserts.

Two 1882 promoters with more gall than sense announced they planned to cook and package lizard meat shipped by train from northwest Arizona for the gourmet restaurant business back east. And they claimed they'd build a processing plant and a new town called Lizardville between Peach Springs and Kingman if enough people bought their company's stock. The scheme collapsed because there weren't enough gullible investors.

Arizona's all-time moonlighting champion was a workaholic named Frank Waltron who was the sheriff at Holbrook. To supplement his 1898 law enforcement income, he ran a saloon and gambling hall, and was the town's undertaker, pharmacist and school superintendent.

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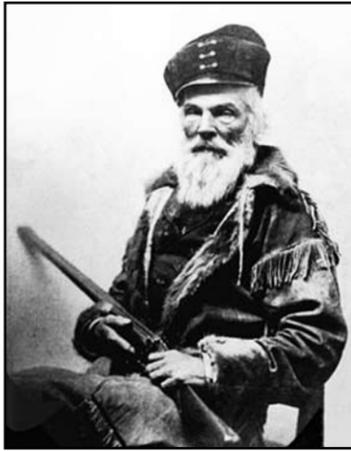
\*\*\*\*\*

# Mountain Man Joseph R. Walker

Joseph Reddeford Walker was one of the greatest trailblazing mountain men and the first Anglo-American to see Yosemite.

Born in Tennessee, Walker had little formal education. He was an exceptionally intelligent explorer

and leader, possessing an extraordinary ability to read and remember the geography and topography of uncharted regions. When he was 20 years old, Walker joined an illegal hunting and trapping expedition into the Mexican-controlled territory



in the southern Rocky Mountains. Arrested by the Mexican authorities, Walker served a brief prison term in Santa Fe, but then turned the situation to his favor by helping the Mexicans in their war against Pawnee raiders, earning rare trading privileges as a reward.

Walker's journeys into the relatively unexplored far western regions of the continent began in 1832 when he met Captain Benjamin Bonneville, who asked him to

join his trapping and trading expedition into the West. The following year, Walker, probably at Bonneville's request, embarked on a daring journey west into the Mexican province of Alta California, a feat that had only been accomplished

by two other Anglos, Jedediah Smith and Peter Ogden. Ignoring the trails blazed by his predecessors, Walker instead led a small group of men on a new route through the Sierras that proved far more challenging than expected, and the explorers were reduced

to eating their horses to stay alive. But after crossing the Continental Divide on November 13, 1833, Walker and his men were rewarded with an amazing sight that no Anglo-American had ever before seen: the mighty redwoods and majestic waterfalls of the Yosemite Valley.

In subsequent years, Walker continued to use his voluminous knowledge of Western

(See Trapper on Page 6)

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# Gunslinger Marshal

## Deputy

(From Page 1)

Steve Long were all half-brothers. They had the same mother but different fathers.

By May 1868, more permanent structures made of wood or brick were beginning to be built along Laramie's main street. They included houses, several stores, a schoolhouse and three or four churches. By then, the Moyer brothers' Belle of the West Saloon was well established; however, many townspeople referred to it as the Bucket of Blood saloon. This was because of the Moyer brothers' habit of conducting "business" behind closed doors at the back of the saloon. The Moyers were harassing townspeople, local ranchers and miners,

forcing many of them to sign over their property deeds to the saloon owners. To ensure compliance and to prevent anyone from having second thoughts, the Moyers sent Deputy Marshal Long to enforce their "business" deals.

If anyone balked or refuse to turn over their deeds, they would often turn up dead. People began to think that the Deputy Marshal was somehow responsible for the murders; however, there were never any witnesses to say otherwise. Some of those who refused to give in to the Moyers' demands were shot and killed under suspicious circumstances. It was believed that the Deputy Marshal would accost them when they were alone and goad them into a gun fight. When the man's body was found later, Long would

claim the killing was done in self-defense. He said he had to defend himself because the other man pulled out a gun. Of course, no one was ever present to back up his story. It was also believed, but never proven, that if the other man happened to be unarmed, Long would throw a junk gun next to the body to make it appear that he had been in mortal danger. During one four-month period, Big Steve Long shot and killed at least nine men that way.

The Deputy Marshal made only feeble attempts to find the killer responsible for the alleged murders, although most townspeople suspected he had done the dastardly deeds himself. Every one of the men slain

(See Deputy on Page 14)

## 150 Years Ago in the Old West

### October 3, 1868

Two die in the wreck of the *D. M. Hall* near Coos Bay, Oregon.

### October 5, 1868

William F. Cody, "Buffalo Bill," joins the 5th Cavalry as chief of scouts.

### October 9, 1868

Major A. J. Alexander reports 13 Indians killed in a fight with cavalymen, infantrymen, and scouts at Salt River and Cherry Creek in Arizona.

### October 13, 1868

Four civilians are killed and one is wounded by In-

dians in the Solomon Valley of Kansas. Two women are carried away as captives.

### October 15, 1868

General William Tecumseh Sherman writes to General Philip Sheridan: "I will say nothing and do nothing to restrain our troops from doing what they deem proper on the spot, and will allow no mere vague general charges of cruelty and inhumanity to tie their hands, but will use all the powers confided to me to the end that these Indians, the enemies of our race and of our civilization, shall not again be able to begin and carry on their barba-

rous warfare on any kind of a pretext that they may choose to allege."

### October 18, 1868

Vigilantes in Laramie, Wyoming, hang four persons and shoot two.

### October 19, 1868

Lieutenant Rufus Somerby reports that the 8th Cavalry killed seven Indians in the Dragoon Fork of Arizona's Verde River.

### October 30, 1868

Work begins on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad in Topeka, Kansas.



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## Ultimate Chicago with Kenny Cetera

Thursday, January 31st 7:00pm

Kenny Cetera fronts this amazing tribute to Chicago. Former touring member of the band Chicago, younger brother of Peter and contributing vocalist on Chicago 17, still the band's biggest selling record! Kenny is joined by a hand-selected band of incredible musicians to celebrate the music of one of the greatest bands of all time - CHICAGO!



## The Fly Boys

Today's Pop, Yesterday's Style

Thursday, February 7th 7:00pm

Unique four-piece vocal group featuring effortless vocals and sublime harmonies, reminiscent of the Four Freshmen and Take 6. Vintage meets modern - picture Pharell Williams crooning with Judy Garland or Maroon 5 grooving with Ella Fitzgerald. Featuring world class performers from London's West End. Looking for something unique and special? Look no further.



## Legend of a Band Moody Blues Tribute

Thursday, March 7th 7:00pm

A "Super Group" of musicians who've played with some of the biggest names in music. Drummer Gordy Marshall and keyboard player Paul Bliss performed together with the Moody Blues for over 20 years. They play all the Moody Blues classics, like *Tuesday Afternoon*, *Question*, and *Nights in White Satin*.



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FEB 8 MONTESA  
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FEB 19 GOOD LIFE RES (\$30/35/40)  
FEB 20 VALLE DEL ORO GUEST (\$35/40/45)  
4:00pm & 7:30pm

### SHA NA NA



MAR 13 VAL VISTA VILLAGES RES (\$30/35/40)  
MAR 14 SUPERSTITION VIEWS GUEST (\$35/40/45)  
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JAN 23 SUPERSTITION VIEWS RES (\$40/45/50)  
JAN 24 MESA REGAL GUEST (\$45/50/55)  
4:00pm & 7:30pm

### TONY ORLANDO



FEB 12 MESA REGAL RES (\$50/60/65)  
FEB 13 VALLE DEL ORO GUEST (\$55/65/70)  
4:00pm & 7:30pm



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# 2019 Mesa Regal Center Stage Concert Series

## Tennessee River Alabama Tribute

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## Randy Linder: A Tribute to Creedence Clearwater Revival

Tuesday, January 29th 7:00pm

Randy Linder and his band's tribute to Creedence Clearwater Revival is second to none. They have entertained audiences from California to New York with the beloved hits that came from CCR between the years of 1968 and 1972 and a few of John Fogerty's solo hits, like *Proud Mary*, and *Who'll Stop the Rain*.



## Linda Ronstadt The Tribute

Wednesday, February 27th 7:00pm

Throughout the '70s, Linda Ronstadt's laid-back folk-infused pop set her apart from her contemporaries, as she effortlessly moved into the '80s, and has remained a fixture in the hearts of the legion of fans who love her. With over 30 studio albums, dozens of music awards, a Tony Award, and more, Ronstadt is one of the most prolific and beloved singers of all-time.



## ABBAFAB Abba Tribute

Tuesday, March 19th 7:00pm

Playing to sold-out crowds across the USA and abroad, ABBA FAB is a stunning tribute to the music of ABBA, the Swedish pop group that became one of the most successful acts in the history of pop music. This multimedia production is a tribute to some of the greatest music produced in the '70s and '80s including monster hits such as *Waterloo*, *Fernando*, *Dancing Queen* and more!



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# Land Rush

## Oklahoma

(From Page 1)

the settlement of Guthrie was magical beyond belief, to the quick-acting resident of the West, it was merely a particularly lively townsite speculation.

The preparations for the settlement of Oklahoma had been complete, even to the slightest detail, for weeks before the opening day. The Santa Fe Railway, which runs through Oklahoma

new Territory waiting for the embargo to be lifted.

In its picturesque aspects the rush across the border at noon on the opening day must go down in history as one of the most noteworthy events of Western civilization. At the time fixed, thousands of hungry home-seekers, who had

seekers waited with restless patience, the clear, sweet notes of a cavalry bugle rose and hung a moment upon the startled air. It was noon. The last barrier of savagery in the United States was broken down.

Moved by the same impulse, each driver lashed his horses furiously; each rider dug his spurs into his willing steed, and each man on foot caught his breath hard and darted forward.

A cloud of dust rose where the home-seekers had stood in line, and when it had drifted away before the gentle breeze, the horses and wagons and men were tearing across the open country like fiends.

The horsemen had the best of it from the start. It was a fine race for a few minutes, but soon the riders began to spread out like a fan, and by the time they had reached the horizon they were scattered about as far as eye could see. Even the fleetest of the horsemen found upon reaching their chosen localities that men in wagons and men on foot were there before them.

As it was clearly impossible for a man on foot to outrun a horseman, the inference is plain that Oklahoma had been entered hours before the appointed time. Notwithstanding the assertions of the soldiers

(See Oklahoma on Page 10)



north and south, was prepared to take any number of people from its handsome station at Arkansas City, Kansas, and to deposit them in almost any part of Oklahoma as soon as the law allowed; thousands of covered wagons were gathered in camps on all sides of the

gathered from all parts of the country, and particularly from Kansas and Missouri, were arranged in line along the border, ready to lash their horses into furious speed in the race for fertile spots in the beautiful land before them.

As the expectant home-

## Joseph R. Walker

### Trapper

(From Page 3)

geography as an employee of the American Fur Company and as a guide for explorers like John C. Fremont. He also led countless emigrant parties to California. His wide-ranging travels took him all the way north to the headwaters of the Missouri River in Montana and led to

memorable partnerships and adventures with other famous trailblazers like Kit Carson and Jim Bridger. When he finally settled down on his California ranch in 1867, nearly blind and approaching 70 years old, the intrepid mountain man remembered the best day of his life, and asked that a remembrance of it be carved on his tombstone: "Camped at Yosemite, Nov. 13, 1833."

If cats could text you back, they wouldn't.

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well patronized, three early stagecoach men, Senator W.M. Gwin, Alexander Majors, and Daniel E. Phelps, made preparations for the new service. Four hundred

first eastbound. In one of the laced pockets of specially made Mexican saddlebags (*mochilla*), Fry carried a message of congratulations from President Buchanan to the governor of California, the words having been telegraphed that very morning from Washington to St. Joseph. This letter rode into Sacramento at about 1:00 a.m. on April 14, just over ten days later. Night and day it had been carried forward unceasingly. A rider would pick it up from his predecessor and ride the following 60-75 miles to the point where his "relief" awaited him to take the mochilla the next leg of the route.

This express, as expected, was a tremendous

(See Mail on Page 16)



broncos were purchased and seventy-five men, averaging 120 pounds, were engaged as riders. Of these men, Johnny Fry was the first westbound rider and Billy Hamilton the

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# Jefferson Territory

## Colorado

(From Page 1)

the area known as the Pike's Peak Country, which included Arapahoe County in the Kansas Territory and the unorganized southwestern corner of the Nebraska Territory. The leaders of the Kansas Territory were much preoccupied with the violent events of Bloody Kansas in the populous eastern portion of the territory, so little time or attention was available to attend to the needs of the far western portion of the territory. The United States Congress was likewise preoccupied with threats of secession by the slave states.

The settlers in the region attempted to organize Arapahoe County on their own. On March 28, 1859, an election was held to elect officers for Arapahoe County. A total of 774 votes were cast, including 231 from Auraria and 144 from

constitution for the State of Jefferson, which was subsequently rejected in a popular referendum on September 24. The original authors determined to hold another convention on October 3, and drafted a provisional constitution for the Territory of Jefferson, named in honor of President Thomas Jefferson,

The proposed Territory of Jefferson included all of the present State of Colorado, and also parts of the Territory of Nebraska, the Territory of New Mexico, the Territory of Utah, and the Territory of Washington, which were similarly remote from their seats of government.

On October 24, 1859, an election was held to approve the formation of the Provisional Government of the Territory of Jefferson and to elect officials for the territory. The proposition was approved by a vote of 1,852 to 280 and on November 7, 1859, newly elected Governor Robert Williamson Steele opened the first session of the provisional Jefferson Territorial Legislature in Denver City.

The United States Census of 1860 counted approximately 35,000 persons in the region of the Jefferson Territory, though Governor

(See Colorado on Page 22)



Denver City. Unfortunately, the voters did not realize that the Kansas Territorial Legislature had replaced Arapahoe County with six new unorganized counties on February 7, 1859. When no word was received from Kansas Territorial officials, many settlers decided that they should establish a separate government themselves.

In April 1859, a tiny convention was held at Wootton's Hall in Auraria about the need for a local government. The name Jefferson was chosen and a constitutional convention was planned for June 6, 1859. The conventioners met that day, and then adjourned until August 1, 1859, when 37 district representatives met to draft a

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# Orphan Trains of the West

By Ralph Henderson

In the middle 1800s, the country was juggling many social issues in the eastern states. Manifest Destiny was moving at an uncontrollable pace and both northern and southern factions of the government were angling to best take advantage of this vast new land for their own agendas. Expansion of the West was promoted with the opening of the western territories for settlement. Government programs like the Preemption act of 1841, appropriating the sale of public land in the western territories at very low prices (\$1.25 per acre) to practically anyone who could get there. Eastern newspapers and their editors, men like Horace Greeley and George Henry Evans, promoted the "Go west young

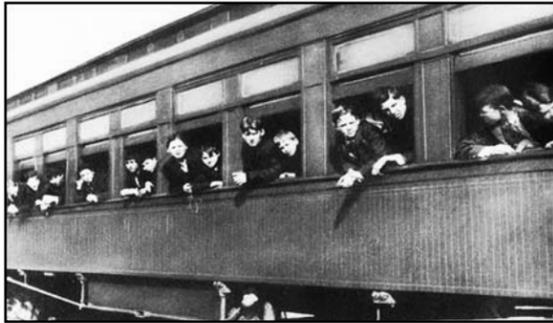
man" movement with the promise of 160 acres of cheap land for the "yeoman farmer."

With the opening of the Kansas and Nebraska Territories in 1854, the American "Wild West" was born. Agitation for even more liberal

homesteading requirements (free land) had been going on for several years. The southern states resisted, feeling the increase in free farmers would threaten plantation slavery, setting the stage for the Civil War. After the South seceded and their delegations left congress in 1861, the southern opposition to more liberal western expansion was re-

moved and Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Homestead Act of 1862. The stage was set for one of the most controversial, yet least talked about, occurrences in American and Western history, the Orphan Trains. Between 1841 and 1860 the United States welcomed over 4,311,465 newcomers. Promises of "opportunity," a "second chance" and "free land" promoted by steam ship companies, brought uncontrollable numbers of immigrants to the East Coast. Living conditions became appalling, with no housing and no jobs. Lacking the money to get to the free land and better life promised in the West, child abuse, incest, abandonment, and all the mistreatment of children

(See Children on Page 12)



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# Land Rush

## Oklahoma

(From Page 6)

that every boomer had been driven out of Oklahoma, the fact remains that the woods along the various streams within Oklahoma were literally full of people Sunday night.

Nine-tenths of these people made settlement upon the land illegally. The other tenth would have done so had there been any desirable land left to settle upon. The action on the part of the first claim-holders will cause a great deal of land litigation in the future, as it is not to be expected that a man who ran his horse at its utmost speed for ten miles only to find a settler with an ox team in quiet possession of his chosen farm will tamely submit to this plain infringement of the law.

Some of the men who started from the line on foot were quite as successful in

securing desirable claims as many who rode fleet horses. They had the advantage of knowing just where their land was located. One man left the line with the others, carrying on his back a tent, a blanket, some camp dishes, an ax, and provisions for two days. He ran down the railway track for six miles, and reached his claim in just sixty minutes. Upon arriving on his land he fell down under a tree, unable to speak or see. I am glad to be able to say that his claim is one of the best in Oklahoma.

The rush from the line was so impetuous that when the first railway train arrived from the north at twenty-five minutes past twelve o'clock, only a few of the hundreds of boomers were anywhere to be seen.

The journey of this first train was well-nigh as interesting as the rush of the men in wagons. The train left Arkansas City at 8:45

o'clock in the forenoon. It consisted of an empty baggage car, which was set apart for the use of the newspaper correspondents, eight passenger coaches, and the cabooses of a freight train. The coaches were so densely packed with men that not another human being could get on board. So uncomfortably crowded were they that some of the younger boomers climbed to the roofs of the cars and clung perilously to the ventilators. An adventurous person secured at great risk a seat on the forward truck of the baggage car.

Hardly had the train slackened its speed when the impatient boomers began to leap from the cars and run up the slope. Men jumped from the roofs of the moving cars at the risk of their lives. Some were so stunned by the fall that they could not get up for some

(See Oklahoma on Page 18)

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# The Windwagon

“Harness the wind and reap the whirlwind” is an apt proverb to explain one of the most bizarre means of transportation in the history of the West. Impatient in the desire to reach the Rockies and Denver as quickly as possible, many a traveler or gold seeker fumed at the plodding movement of the covered wagon trains. The earliest explorers likened the western plains to a vast sea of grass, complete with gale-force winds, a comparison that inspired the strangest vehicle ever to traverse the prairie: the sail-equipped, wind-powered wagon. The name of the genius who developed the “windwagon” is lost, but some of the comic results are not.

As early as 1853, a man named Henry Sager had built

a huge twelve-by-twenty-five-foot wagon with a pilot deck and a twenty-foot sail. His idea was to take advantage of the reasonably constant winds that favor the Great Plains. On the day of his maiden voyage out of West-



port, Missouri, this ungainly contraption was pulled into the open by a yoke of oxen and, from that point on, nature took its course. At first, the windwagon managed “to take the bone in its teeth and show trim heels to a fresh breeze.” Fired with optimism at this initial success, the pilot then tried a tacking, or zig-zag course. It was at

this point that some of the vital members of the steering mechanism parted company, and the wagon took off for uncharted realms. The fate of the pilot remains unrecorded, but one can only hope that he had the good judgment to part with the wagon at the first opportunity.

All windwagons, however, did not meet the same fate. By 1860 several of them had traveled the Smoky Hill Road leading to Denver, and some of them were relatively successful. One such success story was that of one Samuel Peppard of Oskaloosa, Kansas Territory.

Peppard was born in Ohio in 1833 and ended up in Kansas, where he built a sawmill on the Grasshopper River (which later became

*(See Vehicle on Page 19)*

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# Orphan Trains

## Children

(From Page 9)

that comes with destitution and poverty were endemic. The practice of "sending out" the children to steal, rob, sell their bodies or work in sweat shops for pennies a day was rampant.

The government began to encourage families to give up their children to agencies who would send them west to a better life. Rather than finance family travel, the government worked primarily with four agencies to collect these children until a carload could be sent west on "Orphan Trains," to be picked over at trackside by migrants looking for cheap labor in the western territories.

These agencies, each with their own program, consisted primarily of the Society for The Prevention of Cruelty to Children (later changed to animals), Children's Aid Society, New York Foundling Hospital,

and Juvenile Asylum.

The Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to Children Society, a local non-denominational entity, was by far the most aggressive, literally snatching children off streets, playgrounds, schools, stores, and anywhere else they could be found away from their parents. Within minutes, victims were taken to one of three transport agencies. The practice was "justified" by massive government propaganda and overlooked by the authorities.

The Children's Aid Society was a Protestant agency that sent more children than any to Protestant families in the West, primarily Kansas and Nebraska.

New York Foundling Hospital was a Catholic agency that sent children to Catholic families primarily in the desert southwest, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Juvenile Asylum was a government-controlled agency. They couldn't have cared less where the children

went as long as they went west. They handled primarily babies.

The Orphan Trains became a highly sensitive political issue, with the New York Times changing its stance, editorially condemning snatching babies and children from their natural parents. The abolitionists saw the trains as nothing more than white slavery; the south viewed the trains as free labor and a threat to the large plantation type farms and slave labor. Toward the end of the century, the glorification of the Wild West through dime store novels and sensational reporting by publishers like Ned Buntline began to change. These articles that ignored harsh living conditions in the West gave way to more realistic reporting. Several court cases dealing with Indian rights and more humane treatment of Native Americans marked a change in Indian school policies and helped to topple

(See Children on Page 23)

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# Fighting Pests in the Old West

As soon as the frontier farmer put kernels of corn in the ground, the feast began...for crows, blackbirds, squirrels, opossum, raccoons, moles, and mice, plus gophers and cranes on the prairies. The feast continued as the surviving seeds put up tender shoots. Boys hunted the squirrels and birds with shotguns. Whole neighborhoods competed to see who could shoot the most animals. Settlers put out traps and acquired cats to hunt rodents, but the pests grew ever more populous as they dined on whatever the struggling farmer could produce.

The abundant wild geese of Oregon country descended upon young wheat fields and ate the shoots to the ground. Shooting barely made a dent in their numbers, so farmers resorted to the effort-intensive "twinning." They laboriously set out stakes at short intervals and strung twine between them in two directions to form a grid. The descending

geese struck the twine and most were repelled. A few birds got entangled in the twine and ended up becoming a meal instead of having one.

Wolves, bears, and wildcats preyed on sheep and other young livestock on every frontier. Local governments offered bounties, paid out of public funds, for killing wolves. Foxes and minks ate poultry. An Oregon farmer reported poisoning wolves with nux vomica (an East Indian plant containing strychnine) concealed in meat. Strychnine itself could be purchased freely, at a low price and in several forms, and sent through the mail without raising comment. All predator populations decreased dramatically as each area grew more populous and settled. Until that occurred, most farmers had no recourse but to keep their most valued animals in corals or barns near the house.

Along with birds and rodents, deer also liked to dine on young shoots of wheat.

Later in its life cycle, wheat fell to rust, a form of fungus, and such pests as larva of the Hessian fly, the grain worm, weevils, and the chinch bug. These pests grew more numerous with each successive crop of wheat, until increasing numbers of farmers began to rotate their crops. Farmers also tried to time the plantings for periods when the pests were less active. By so doing, they sometimes lost their crops to frosts. As a last resort, some farmers turned cattle out to graze the wheat fields, hoping they would also kill some pests.

Caterpillars devoured the leaves of fruit trees and sugar maples. Sulphur had some effect in keeping caterpillars off fruit trees, but it did not work on maples. An especially fierce infestation killed many trees in 1791. Insect larvae attacked peaches and caused them to fall before they ripened. Farmers let the hogs into the orchard to eat the fallen peaches, at

(See Farmers on Page 15)

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# Gunslinger Marshal

## Deputy

(From Page 4)

was known to have refused to sign over their property deeds to the Moyer brothers.

Long was an extremely violent man. He would either threaten people with severe bodily harm or shoot them dead. There was no middle ground and he rarely arrested anyone. Once, coming upon eight men fighting in the street, Long decided that the easiest way to end the brawl was to use his guns. He pulled both pistols and shot five men dead when they ignored his order to cease fighting. By the end of 1868, another 13 men had been killed.

Eventually, the mayhem had gotten so out of control that the town government was helpless to stop it. In mid-1868, Melville C. Brown, the first mayor of Laramie as well as his entire town council abruptly quit. Mayor Brown, who had been in office for barely three weeks, said Laramie had become

totally "ungovernable."

Nathan K. Boswell was a local rancher. When he was elected as the first sheriff of Albany County, he got to work immediately. He contacted other ranchers in the area and organized them into a Committee of Vigilance. He wanted them to decide

the West Saloon to gather more information about Long and his half-brothers.

In mid-October, Long tried to rob an old prospector named Rollie "Hard Luck" Harrison. According to testimony from rancher Tom Rando, someone had shot and killed the old codger in a shootout in a back alley. Rondo, who had viewed the scene, said it looked as if the cantankerous prospector was killed in a shootout. Harrison's pistol was still in his hand and one shot had been fired. Unfortunately, the old man died of his wounds before he could say



**Big Steve Long and the Moyer Brothers hung by vigilantes in Laramie, Wyoming**

what they could do about the three half-brothers who were terrorizing Laramie. Boswell asked the ranchers to keep a sharp eye on Long. "We might be able to catch him in the act of committing a crime," he said. "That is the only way we can act against him. We need the law on our side." Sheriff Boswell also hired a couple of gunmen who were not very well known in town. He wanted them to hang about the Belle of

who shot him. Another rancher, whose name is unknown, claimed that he saw Long coming out of the alley with what appeared to be blood dripping down his left arm.

The Deputy Marshal showed up at his girlfriend's home later that evening. As she treated his wound, he boasted that he had just killed an old man behind the hardware store.

(See Deputy on Page 17)

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# Fighting Pests

## Farmers

(From Page 13)

the same time killing the worms.

An 1800 essay on the control of hornworms on tobacco plants illustrates the sum total of pest control knowledge of the time:

"The act of destroying these worms is termed worming the tobacco, which is a very nauseous occupation, and takes up much labor. It is performed by picking every thing of this kind off the respective leaves with the hand, and destroying it with the foot."

No prior experience could prepare prairie settlers for the grasshoppers that descended in Biblical hordes on their crops. As the land came under cultivation, the insects found the settlers' crops more appetizing than wild grasses and ate every morsel, including still-buried onions and turnips. The approaching grasshoppers looked like storm clouds as they rode the

wind. When they descended they remained for a few days or a week until another wind carried them away. During 1874, an especially bad year, they coated the ground several inches deep, eating cloth and lumber, as well as vegetation. Although chickens ate them voraciously, it made not a dent in their numbers, and the grasshopper diet gave the poultry a strange flavor. Grasshopper excrement polluted surface water to the point where livestock refused to drink it. Settlers tried shoveling the wingless young insects into piles and setting them afire, a desperate move in such a wildfire-prone region. Eventually, they adapted their farming to the life cycle of the insects, planting wheat earlier and diversifying to crops that the hoppers found less appealing.

The farmers of this grasshopper-ravaged country required aid to avoid starvation. Food, clothing, cash, and seeds were sent by relatives and private chari-

ties or funded by state and federal government. As still occurs in famine areas today, corrupt individuals helped themselves to many of the goods before they reached the needy.

By the 1880s a variety of agricultural insecticides had come into use, among them pyrethrum, Bordeaux mixture, kerosene, and carbolic acid. Bordeaux mixture originated in France and consisted of copper sulfate and lime diluted in water. An 1880 report from a U.S. Agricultural Experiment Station assured the public:

"It has been shown, both by experiment and by practice, that there is no danger to be apprehended from eating fruit sprayed wither with the compounds of arsenic, or with Bordeaux mixture. A more serious objection to the use of Bordeaux mixture on such fruit as grapes, is the fact that it adheres, if applied late, so as to affect the market value of the fruit."

(See Farmers on Page 21)

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# Pony Express

## Mail

(From Page 7)

hit. Bankers and merchants found the ten-day service a remarkable help. From Sacramento the mail was placed on an overnight boat to San Francisco. The newspapers had succeeded in establishing a telegraph line from San Francisco to Stockton on down to Los Angeles in anticipation of the express. However, the endeavor failed to produce the desired increase in news from the East for their papers—the most news being the hair-raising experiences of the riders escaping Indians and hold-up men. Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill Hickok, Kit Carson, and others of their caliber were among the riders and other workers and made for more interesting stories than the mail itself.

The company actually employed about 300 people at its inauguration with 80 of them being riders. Each day, except Sunday, a messenger left St. Joseph at noon, another coming east from Sacramento at eight o'clock in the morning in good weather or bad. The letters were written on a special tissue paper and cost \$5.00 to mail. Once on the road it traveled 1966 miles

through Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California.

Operating as a subsidiary of its parent company, the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express,

1861, spelled the end of the service.

Financially it had been a failure, the \$700,000 investment left a debt of over \$200,000 and the company was sold at auction in March

1862, eventually ending up a part of Wells Fargo. Alexander Majors, who managed the system, and his riders, while not showing a profit, played a major role in aligning California with the Union prior to the Civil War



a freight and stage company, the Pony Express was in operation for only eighteen months. During its short time of operation, the Pony Express proved the feasibility of establishing a central overland transportation route year around. Seeing the success of the service, the U.S.

and provided the country with a vital service for eighteen months. During these months of operation, the Pony Express relayed mail over 650,000 miles with the average time being ten days and the quickest seven days, seventeen hours, carrying



President Lincoln's Inaugural Address. Despite the many stories of Indian attacks, robbers, and the extreme conditions the riders endured, the Pony Express lost only one rider. Today very little exists of the old route, obliterated by time and development. There are still about 120 historic sites and 50 existing stations or station ruins remaining. However, the drama surrounding the Pony Express has made it an enduring legend and very much a part of the American West.

erated by time and development. There are still about 120 historic sites and 50 existing stations or station ruins remaining. However, the drama surrounding the Pony Express has made it an enduring legend and very much a part of the American West.

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# Gunslinger Marshal

## Deputy

(From Page 14)

He said the old fellow threatened him a gun and he had to defend himself. That news upset the girl greatly and after Long had fallen into a feverish sleep, she relayed the information to Sheriff Boswell. As soon as Boswell heard about the alleged shootout, he sent word for his posse of vigilantes to assemble. It was time to apprehend the outlaws.

On October 28, the entire Committee of Vigilance walked en masse down the street and shouldered their way into the Moyers' saloon. They found both Moyer brothers and Steve Long in the back room and immediately arrested them. All three men, their hands tied behind their backs, were then marched down the street. The vigilantes stopped in front of a cabin being constructed a short distance away. Three ropes

with nooses tied on one end were thrown over the cabin's rafters and secured in place. Then the nooses were pulled down over the heads of the doomed men and tightened around their necks.

Big Steve Long, who was unusually quiet during all of this, then asked the sheriff if he could speak a few words before the hanging. "Can I get someone take off my boots?" he asked. "My mother always said I'd die with my boots on. I don't want to die in that way." A few minutes later, his barefoot body was hanging lifeless from the cabin's sturdy rafters alongside Ace and Con Moyer. Since vigilante justice was often looked upon as a way of life in those early territorial days, no legal action was ever brought against any member of the lynch mob. There was little law enforcement anywhere along the frontier.

A photographer who happened upon the grim

scene later, took a few pictures of the grisly affair. Written on the back of one of the prints were these words:

- (1) Gunfighter "Big" Steve Long,
  - (2) Con Moyer,
  - (3) Ace Moyer.
- A lynching in Laramie Wyo. - 1868 -  
Con & Ace were founders of Laramie Wyoming!

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# Land Rush

## Oklahoma

(From Page 10)

minutes. The coaches were so crowded that many men were compelled to squeeze through the windows in order to get a fair start at the head of the crowd. Almost before the train had come to a standstill the cars were emptied.

In their haste and eagerness, men fell over each other in heaps, others stumbled and fell headlong, while many ran forward so blindly and impetuously that it was not until they had passed the best of the town lots that they came to a realization of their actions.

It is estimated that between six and seven thousand persons reached Guthrie by train from the north the first afternoon, and that fully three thousand came in by wagon from the north and east, and by train from Purcell on the south, thus

making a total population for the first day of about ten thousand.

By taking thought in the matter, three-fourths of these people had provided themselves with tents and blankets, so that even on the first night they had ample shelter from the weather. The rest of them slept the first night as best they could, with only the red earth for a pillow and the starry arch of heaven for a blanket.

At dawn of Tuesday the unrefreshed home-seekers and town-site speculators arose, and began anew the location of disputed claims. The tents multiplied like mushrooms in a rain that day, and by night the building of frame houses had begun in earnest in the new streets. The buildings were by no means elaborate, yet they were as good as the average frontier structure, and they served their purpose, which was all that was required.

On that day the trains going north were filled with returning boomers, disgusted beyond expression with the dismal outlook of the new country. Their places were taken by others who came in to see the fun, and perhaps pick up a bargain in the way of town lots or commercial speculation.

During the first three days food was nearly as hard to get as water. Dusty ham sandwiches sold on the streets as high as twenty-five cents each, while in the restaurants a plate of pork and beans was valued at seventy-five cents. Few men were well enough provided with funds to buy themselves a hearty meal. One disgusted home-seeker estimated that if he ate as much as he was accustomed to eat back in Missouri his board would cost him \$7.75 per day. Not being able to spend that amount of money every day, he contented himself with such stray sandwiches as were within his means. In this manner he contrived to subsist until Wednesday afternoon, when he was forced to return to civilization in southern Kansas in order to keep from starving to death.

*A year after the Oklahoma land rush, the federal census showed the physical frontier no longer existed. The population of the United States stretched from coast to coast.*

## The Army Bugler

A column of army troopers riding on patrol or campaign usually included a bugler. While on the post, the bugler played "reveille" and "taps" and other calls that regulated military life. But for soldiers in the field, bugle calls that could signal tactics above the din of battle might mean the difference between victory or defeat, life or death. The instrument was 14 inches long, but could be extended by a ten-inch C crook. A 20-inch yellow cord with tassels provided martial decoration.

During the Second

Battle of Adobe Walls, in 1874, the big Comanche-Kiowa war party was accompanied by a 10th Cavalry deserter who had been a bugler and who brought his instrument with him. The former buffalo soldier donned war paint and provided bugle calls during the daylong battle. These efforts backfired, however, because several of the besieged buffalo hunters were veterans, and thus could anticipate the signaled maneuvers. While ransacking a wagon, the bugler was shot dead by a buffalo hunter.



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# The Windwagon

## Vehicle

(From Page 11)

the Delaware). An economic slump, along with the Pike's Peak gold rush, inspired Peppard to build his own windwagon to get himself moving swiftly across the plains. If he could speed across the prairie, perhaps he could beat a few thousand gold seekers.

Construction of his windwagon began in the early months of 1860. As it took shape, a Topeka journalist described it as "made of rough lumber and shaped like a skiff...eight feet long from prow to stern and three feet across amidships, and two feet deep. The bed was placed on a running gear with axles six feet apart, the wheels all the same size and about as large as the front wheels of a buggy."

A ten-foot mast was rigged to the front axle, to which Peppard attached two sails measuring eleven-by-eight feet and seven-by-five feet. If all went according to the blueprint, there would be room for four men and provisions. Upon completion, Peppard's wagon weighed 350 pounds.

On May 9, 1860, Peppard and three cohorts hauled the wagon to the outskirts of town for a test run. A gust of wind caught the sails, blew the craft a few feet, picked it up off the ground, and then dropped it with a crashing thud.

Repairs began on what was called "Peppard's Folly." Believing he could control his ship with the right balance of braking, rudder, and sail, Peppard and company were ready to try again in a few days. This time, they loaded 400 pounds of supplies on board.

The breeze picked up and Peppard adjusted his sails. Another killer gust came along, but this time they were ready to roll. The windwagon lunged forward, then cut across the prairie, bumping along at a speedy clip toward

the northwest. Observers could not believe it. Samuel Peppard was gone with the wind.

Cruising speeds varied with the wind. During one sprint, Peppard guessed, they made two miles in four minutes. Peppard noted in his journal that he and his fellow sailors passed 625 teams of pioneers in one day. When the wind died completely, sometimes for a whole day at a time, the four sat in their horseless carriage, smoking and swapping stories. Five days out, they realized they were not alone—they were being trailed by a small

band of Indians. When the warriors got near enough to see the bizarre buggy, said Peppard, "we could plainly see each Indian rise in his saddle with a start of surprise." A race ensued—a rider on a gray mare managed to pull close before the wagon sped away toward the Oregon Trail.

Two weeks later, at Fort Kearny in present Nebraska, a reporter for *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* wrote of the craft: "The ship hove in sight about eight o'clock in the morning with a fresh

(See Vehicle on Page 23)

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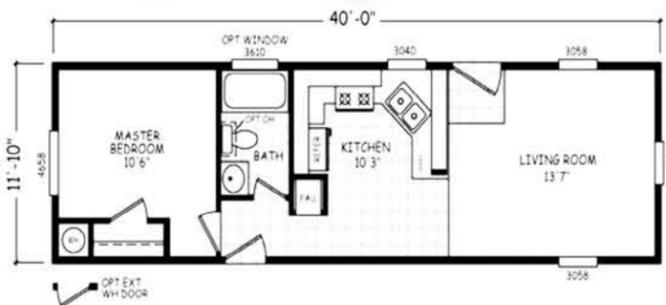
I went to buy some camouflage pants the other day, but I couldn't find any.



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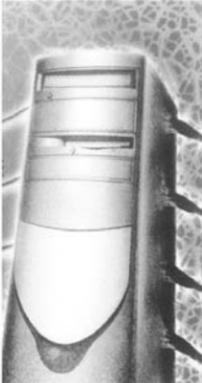
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# Santa Fe, New Mexico

To mark the occasion of New Mexico officially becoming a crown colony of Spain, governor Pedro de Peralta formally founded Santa Fe in 1610. Designated a villa, or chartered municipality second only to a ciudad, or city, the community served as the capital of Spanish New Mexico until the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, when its residents fled down the Rio Grande and occupying Pueblo Indians built a multistoried tenement right over the former governor's palace. Not until late 1693 did Governor Diego de Vargas recapture Santa Fe.

Despite its relative isolation and the influence of surrounding Pueblo Indians, New Mexico's mud-built capital, crude though it was, remained essentially Spanish. Its religion, language, food, architecture, and art, including music and dance, were all firmly rooted in Spanish tradition. Somewhat awkwardly, Santa Fe's several thousand residents celebrated Mexican independence early in 1822, ending Spanish rule. With the simultaneous opening of the Santa Fe Trail, a trader's route between the Missouri frontier of the United States and Mexican Santa Fe, a great variety of relatively cheap manufactured goods flooded the community. The U. S. flag followed in 1846, when American General Stephen Watts Kearny occupied Santa Fe. Two years later, New Mexico was ceded to the United States, and Santa Fe's enduring Spanish traditions became part of the culture of the American Southwest.

## Ranch Rules

In the turbulent early years of cattle ranching, cowboys had but one check on their behavior: loyalty to the rancher with whom they lived and worked. But when the big ranches came along, their absentee owners, needing to control scores of cowhands, brought in hard company rules limiting every aspect of life on the ranch. Below are only seven of the rules posted on the three-million-acre XIT spread in western Texas:

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- Loafers, "sweaters," deadbeats, tramps, gamblers, or disreputable persons, must not be entertained at any camp, nor will employees be permitted to give, loan, or sell such persons any grain, or provisions of any kind, nor shall such persons be permitted to remain on the Company's land under any pretext whatever.
- Employees are not allowed to run mustang, antelope or any kind of game on the Company's horses.
- No employee shall be permitted to own any cattle or stock horses on the ranch.
- It is the aim of the owners of this ranch to conduct it on the principle of right and justice to everyone; and for it to be excelled by no other in the good behavior, sterling honesty and integrity, and general high character of its employees, and to this end it is necessary that the foregoing rules be adhered to, and the violation of any of them will be just charge for discharge.

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# Rio Bravo

The 1959 film *Rio Bravo*, directed by Howard Hawks, was John Wayne's answers to *High Noon*, a movie he never liked because he didn't believe a marshal would ask for help from townspeople in a gunfight and that townsfolk, many of whom had seen service in the Civil War, would back down so easily.

In *Rio Bravo*, Wayne, as Sheriff John T. Chance, fights a gang of outlaws with some pals. He refuses the help offered by townsfolk and captures a killer and puts him in jail. The killer's



brother, a wealthy rancher, comes to town with a bunch of ruffians. Wayne, his deputy Stumpy, (Walter Brennan), a former deputy, Dude

(Dean Martin), and Colorado Ryan (Ricky Nelson) confront them. There's also singing provided by Dean Martin and Ricky Nelson in the long movie, and finally Wayne and his cohorts emerge victorious.

The movie bears a resemblance to *El Dorado* and *Rio Lobo*, which also star Wayne and are directed by Hawks. The films form a trio (all written by Leigh Brackett) whose theme is that a group of professionals with group loyalty will beat a bunch of rowdy amateurs any day.

# Fighting Pests

## Farmers

(From Page 15)

Thus with the "expert" encouragement of the government, the unwitting consumer ate highly toxic foods.

Travelers observed mosquitoes along the Ohio Valley, but not in huge swarms. Farther south, down the Mississippi, they could drive folk to distraction. Nevertheless, people remained unaware of their ability to cause disease. Mosquitoes were also plentiful in Oregon. As farmers cleared forests and introduced domestic animals, mosquito populations rose to feed on them. Thus they followed the advancing line of westward settlement, and people could do little to prevent the scourge.

Fleas infested private houses and beds in taverns. From her mission house in Oregon, Narcissa Whitman wrote home asking for a fine-

toothed comb to combat fleas and lice she believed she had caught from the Indians. Many houses also suffered from bed-bug infestations. One woman in New Mexico finally eliminated them by pouring boiling water on the wooden bedsteads twice a week, as well as painting the crevices with kerosene. An Oregon household used a mixture of soap, potassium, and water to destroy the eggs. Houseflies arrived on the frontier somewhat behind the first wave of settlement. So novel were they in early Oregon that young children in one cabin fed sugar to two pet houseflies on the windowsill. Stock flies, however, always existed in abundance. The ubiquitous flies were brushed away from the table with anything from peacock feathers to small tree branches.

A wounded sandhill crane in prairie country provided a unique solution to

the mouse problem. Luther North, a military man turned rancher, tamed the bird and brought him into the house at night. He soon observed the crane stalking and eating mice, but the bird became satiated after only two or three. North started taking the dead mice away from the crane so that it would continue hunting. After killing a couple of dozen, the crane would receive a few as a reward.

Snakes, had they been left unmolested, might have been an effective check on the rodent population, but they were feared and killed. People particularly dreaded the avoidable bite of the rattlesnake and killed hundreds at a time in organized "snake drives." By doing so they eliminated one environmental check on rodents. Meanwhile, they resigned themselves to living amid exploding populations of rats and mice that accompanied all human settlement.



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# Jefferson Territory

## Colorado

(From Page 8)

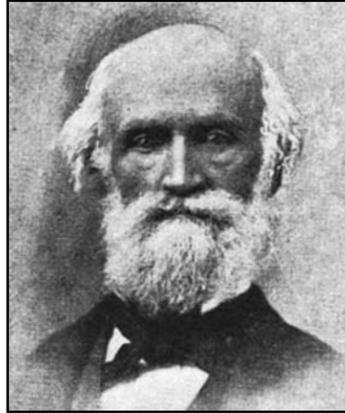
Steele pointed out that many gold seekers were working claims in remote areas and estimated that the total number of people in the Jefferson Territory was 60,000.

On November 7, 1860, the U.S. presidential election produced a victory for Abraham Lincoln and precipitated the secession of the slave states, the formation of the Confederate States of America, and the start of the Civil War. These events eliminated any chance for federal endorsement of the Territory of Jefferson and any role in government for Governor Steele, a staunch pro-Union Democrat and vocal opponent of Lincoln and the Republican Party.

Seeking to augment the political power of the free states, the Republican led U.S. Congress hurriedly admitted the portion of the Territory of Kansas

February 26, 1861, Congress passed a bill organizing the Territory of Colorado. The bill was signed into law by U.S. President James Buchanan two days later on February 28, 1861. On May 29, 1861, William Gilpin, newly appointed Governor of the Territory of Colorado, arrived in Denver City. Most citizens of the region welcomed their new government. On June 6, 1861, Governor Steele issued a proclamation declaring the Territory of Jefferson disbanded and urging all employees and residents to abide by the laws governing the United States.

Many of the laws enacted by the Jefferson Territorial Legislature were reenacted and given official sanction by the new Colorado General Assembly in 1861



Governor R. W. Steele

east of the 25th meridian to the Union as the free State of Kansas on January 1, 1861. Kansas statehood left the western portion of the now defunct Kansas Territory, which the Jefferson Territory also claimed, officially unorganized. On

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– Wyatt Earp speaking of Doc Holliday

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# Orphan Trains

## Children

(From Page 12)

the Orphan Train abductions and mass kidnapping of Indian children that was still going on at the time.

There became a strong competition between Catholics and Protestants over the control of the West. The Protestants, having gained independence from Europe, wanted control of the West; Catholics wanted the desert southwest returned to Mexico, resulting in Protestant mobs kidnapping children back from Catholic families (primarily Mexican) and giving them to Protestant families moving into the same area. One such incident became known as the "Great Arizona Orphan Abduction of 1904" when an angry mob of housewives and a few of their husbands threatened to tar and feather three nuns and a priest in Clifton, Arizona, who had brought 40 Irish Catholic orphans to meet their new adoptive parents. The parents, upstanding, middle class citizens of Clifton, were Mexican. The townspeople couldn't abide so many blonde, white children handed over to the darker skinned Mexicans. At gunpoint the mob took the children and re-distributed them among the Anglo Protestant townswomen. The kidnapping was upheld by

the United States Supreme Court, which concluded that Mexicans should not have the custody, care, and education of white children (New York Foundling Hospital v. Gatti, 1906).

Even with the highly publicized abuse and incidents of this type, the trains ran for over 76 years. From 1854 to 1929, orphan trains from New York "placed out" over 250,000 destitute chil-

dren, primarily to homes in the farming communities of the Midwest and Southwest. While most became integral parts of the families that adopted them, married, and went on to contribute to the new territories and eventually statehood, many became indentured servants, subjected to abusive foster families that exploited them for nothing more than free farm labor.

## Windwagon

### Vehicle

(From Page 19)

breeze from east, northeast. It was running down in a westerly direction for the fort, under full sail, across the green prairie. The guard, astonished at such a sight, reported the matter to the officer on duty, and we all turned out to view the phenomenon. Gallantly she sailed, and at a distance ...not unlike a ship at sea. In front is a large coach lamp to travel by night when the wind is favorable ... A crank and band wheels allow it to be propelled by hand when wind and tide are against them."

The adventurers stayed at the fort a few days before the wheeled boat

"again caught the breeze and went off at a dashing rate towards Pike's Peak."

At the fork of the Platte River, the windwagon turned with the South Platte, and then entered present Colorado near Julesburg. Alas, the windwagon never completed her maiden voyage. In June, after traveling some 500 miles, she ran into a dust devil just south of Fort Morgan. The men were thrown out as winds whipped the wagon to a pile of rubble. Peppard and his friends were picked up by a wagon train and taken to Denver.

Peppard never found gold. He married and became the father of 13 children. He died in 1916 at age 82, and was buried in Oskaloosa.



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