

# Territorial News

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Vol. 32, No. 2

Your Connection to the Old West

January 23, 2019

Next Issue  
Wednesday  
February 6

Play

Arizona Trivia  
See Page 2 for Details

This Week's  
Question:

What Phoenix park covers more than 20,000 acres, making it the largest city park in the world? (17 Letters)

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## The Last of the Bloody Espinosas

### Army Scout Tom Tobin Tracks Them Down



Tom Tobin

By Richard W. Kimball

Residents and travelers in southern Colorado Territory were in fear for their lives during the spring of 1863. Mysterious murders were being carried out in that area and nobody knew why. The killing spree began in May when the first victim was found lying in the road. The poor man's corpse was badly mutilated, and its heart was ripped out. Later that summer, at least 20 more men were attacked and murdered in the same horrendous way.

After a man and his wife were ambushed and murdered on La Veta Pass, Colonel Sam Tappan, the commanding officer at the newly-established military post of Fort Garland, asked Tom Tobin for help. Tobin, a well-known frontier scout, was the only person in the region with the kind of tracking ability needed to find the rampaging killers.

exactly who was doing the killing or why. Rumors were rampant. It wasn't until a Mexican driving a freight wagon from Santa Fe to Galisteo was attacked that anyone could identify the killers as the Espinosa brothers. The wagon driver, who once lived near the Espinosa home in Conejos County, knew them both very well. They were Felipe Espinosa and his younger brother Jose.

When the outlaw brothers finished looting the wagon of its valuable cargo, they grabbed the driver and lashed him underneath the wagon tongue so that his face would barely clear the rocks in the road. They then whipped the wagon team into a gallop. The driver suffered for miles in that precarious position before the runaway horses were seen and stopped. His face was nearly ripped to shreds, but he managed to pull through. When interviewed later, he was able to

At first, no one knew

(See Killers on Page ?)

### In Their Own Words

## Zebulon Pike Gets Robbed

Zebulon Pike was a career army officer, sent to explore the Southwest shortly after Lewis and Clark left on their expedition. He is remembered in the name of Pike's Peak, which he "discovered." He didn't name it after himself. In fact, it was called James' Peak for several decades afterwards. The following is an excerpt from Pike's book Exploratory travels through the Western territories of North America.



Zebulon Pike

Marched early, and with rather more caution than usual. After having pro-

ceeded about five miles on the prairie, and as those in front were descending into the bottom, Baroney cried out, "Voila un sauvage," when we observed a number of Indians running from the woods towards us.

We advanced towards them, and, on turning my head to the left, I observed several running on the hill, as it were to surround us; one of them bearing a stand of colours. This caused a momentary

(See War Party on Page ?)

## The Trail of Tears

The Indian Removal Act, part of a U.S. government policy known as Indian Removal, was signed into law by President Andrew Jackson on May 28, 1830. The Removal Act paved the way for the reluctant—and often forcible—emigration of tens of thousands of American Indians to the West.

In 1838, more than 4,000 Cherokee Indians died as a result of a forced march from their lands in Georgia to Indian Territory

(present day Oklahoma). The Cherokees called their route "Nunna dual Tsuny" ("The Trail Where They Cried"). The term "Trail of Tears" now refers to the forced removal of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole nations (later known as the Five Civilized Tribes), making their tribal lands available to white settlers.

The first to be moved were the Choctaws of

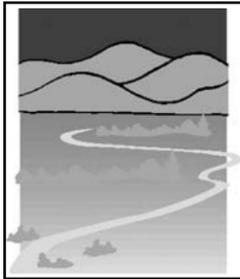
(See Removal on Page ?)

**A Prayer for Being Grateful**  
 Lord God, may we be grateful for our lot,  
 and compassionate toward all those who are  
 suffering every kind of distress at this  
 difficult time. May we hold back nothing,  
 and hasten to be the ministers of prayer and  
 mercy, like the disciples of Him who went  
 about doing good in times of need.

**Captain's Bar Presents**  
**ARIZONA TRIVIA**  
 This Week's Question: What Phoenix park covers more than 20,000 acres, making it the largest city park in the world? (17 Letters)  
 Last Issue's Question: In 1968, the Colorado River Basin Project Act authorized the construction of a 336-mile-long canal that's better known as what?  
 Answer: Central Arizona Project  
**Congratulations! You got the right answer!**  
 Leo Achin, Keith Adams, Sid Clarke, Larry Damer, Doyle Ekey, Jeanne Finch, Richard Fordyce, Kevin Gartley, Roger Kvammie, Robert Lidgett, Mike Miranda, Bill Riordan, Marilyn Smith, Nancy Swanson, Jeanie Teaser, 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 1/23/19 question, deadline is 2/2/19. Limit one postcard per household per issue. Must be at least 18 years old. Remember to put your name on your entry!

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# Arizona - Web of Time

**Jim Harvey**  
 The Arizona Trail

American Indian farmers used irrigation ditches to water their crops 2,500 years ago where Tucson is today.

Arizona's oldest store still is at its original location at Willcox east of Tucson. It's called the Willcox Commercial and sells clothes as it did 120 years ago.

For her 1885 ranch

house wedding near Prescott, a blue-eyed bride wore a long sleeved floor length dress she'd made herself of blue silk with blue and white ruffles on the skirt and wrists. She'd also made her dark blue velvet hat decorated with an ostrich feather.

During recess at the Skull Valley school north of Wickenburg in the 1890s

kids played hopscotch, marbles and games called run-sheep-run, anti-over and steal sticks. If boys got into a fight the teacher made them whip each other with willow switches while their school-mates watched.

The winter of 1902 at Williams, 60 miles south of the Grand Canyon, the drug store was selling cham- ois skins to be worn on the chest as protection against the cold. The stores also sold bedbug poison.

Higher education for women was condemned by eastern Arizona's Solomon- ville newspaper in 1904. The editor believed women should stay at home, have children, care for their fami- lies and not waste time im- proving their minds. Educat- ed women, he wrote, were "unfit for wives."

1909 real estate specula- tors promoted a desert town called Bouse as Arizona Ter- ritory's best investment op- portunity, because of rich copper mines nearby. The sure way to become wealthy, they advertised to prospec- tive buyers, was to purchase a business lot there on credit for as little as \$300, because Bouse was "dead sure to have a big future." And, for a while, it looked like Bouse just might become Arizona's big bonanza until the mines began to fail and the town faded away to not much more than a name on the map 25 miles southeast of present day Parker.

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# Smallpox Decimated Native Americans

Early smallpox epidemics decimated the West's original inhabitants. The first Indians affected were those of the village tribes of the upper Missouri River. Ten thousand Mandans had established an agrarian culture by the beginning of the 18th century, but a 1770 bout with the disease, spread by French and Spanish traders, reduced their ranks to around 1,600. The survivors relocated near a Hidatsa village on the Knife River in present North Dakota.

The Hidatsas and their neighbors, the Arikaras, had also suffered through the same early epidemics as well as attacks from the Sioux. Along with the Mandans, the Hidatsas and Arikaras survived on their crops, name-

ly corn, squash, beans, and sunflowers. Lewis and Clark visited them in 1804. The artist George Catlin came in 1832 and painted his famous portrait of the Mandan chief Four Bears. Prince Maximilian of Wied-Neuweid (a German principality) appeared the next year and counted 2,100 Hidatsas. These early visitors reported a pleasant life in the villages. People lived in earthen lodges and traded produce among themselves and for necessities, including horses and guns. Some hunted buffalo. The



Clark on June 19, a Mandan boarded the boat and stole a contaminated blanket from a dying watchman. Also on board were three Arikara women who had become infected and would soon be joining the Pawnees. The first sparks were thus ignited.

three tribes welcomed the white traders and permitted convenient trading posts to be established.

In 1837, the American Fur Company steamship St. Peter's began a routine trade cruise up the Missouri. This time, in addition to the usual trinkets, furs, and food-stuffs, she carried death. As early as June 10 it was realized that smallpox was on board but, fearing monetary losses, officials did not turn back. At Fort

Clark on June 19, a Mandan boarded the boat and stole a contaminated blanket from a dying watchman. Also on board were three Arikara women who had become infected and would soon be joining the Pawnees. The first sparks were thus ignited.

(See Disease on Page 6)



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# Bloody Espinosas

## Killers

(From Page 1)

describe his attackers in great detail.

According to Martin E. Martinez, a direct descendant of the Espinosas, the atrocities could probably be traced back to the Mexican-American War when U.S. troops took control of the lands now

known as Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. Mexicans living on land grants lost most of their property to American land speculators and swindlers. Martinez said the Espinosa brothers were seeking revenge because American soldiers raped Felipe's wife and daughters in the fall of 1861. A similar incident happened to the sister of his brother Jose, but Jose

killed the rapist soon afterward. "More soldiers came to the ranch," Martinez said. "They killed everyone to revenge that soldier's death."

Since the only law enforcement center in that part of Colorado was at Fort Garland, Col. Tappan ordered Second Lieutenant Nicholas Hodt to assist Tom Tobin in pursuing the killers. Tobin wanted to go after the outlaws by himself, but the colonel insisted that U.S. Marshal George Austin and 15 soldiers accompany him.

In January 1863, 2nd Lt. Hodt and 15 soldiers went to the Espinosa home at San Rafael with Marshal Austin. The marshal had been there earlier after receiving information that the Espinosas might be about to lead a rebellion against the territorial government. Lt. Hodt had requested only Mexican enlisted men be in the squad, but that trick had no effect on the Espinosa brothers. Under a pretext of recruiting men for the U.S. Army, the squad sergeant met with Felipe Espinosa and tried to interest him to join the Army. When Felipe showed his disdain, Lt. Hodt grabbed him by an arm. "You are now my prisoner," he announced.

"No! I am not!" Felipe answered. He ducked back into the house where he and his brother and several other men had been hiding. They all grabbed their weapons and began firing. When the gunfire died down, the Espinosas and their companions crawled through a back window and disappeared into the surrounding vegetation. One of the soldiers was killed.

(See Killers on Page 8)

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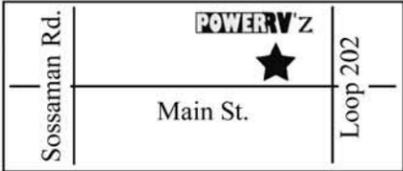
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## Randy Linder: A Tribute to Creedence Clearwater Revival

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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## SHA NA NA



MAR 13 VAL VISTA VILLAGES RES (\$30/35/40)  
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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, Kenny Cetera is the younger brother of Peter and contributing vocalist on Chicago 17. Kenny is joined by 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 Pharrell 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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Biscuits lives up to its name with their fluffy biscuits, "SOS," liver and onions, and many other local favorites. They use local and organic ingredients whenever possible with no preservatives. Biscuits owner Lloyd Melton says, "My food is a lot more like Paula Deen than lean cuisine." Between the down home cooking, the pleasant staff and the delicious food, you'll grade them an A+. You'll want to return again and again to sample the varied menu selections and genuine down home atmosphere.

Biscuits of Gilbert is located at 1235 N. Gilbert Rd., in front of Sam's Club. They also have two other locations: 1815 E. Elliot Rd. in Tempe, and in Ahwatukee at 4623 E Elliot Rd. on the corner of Elliot and McClintock. The menu in all three locations is the same, serving breakfast and lunch every day. The Tempe location is open until 8:00 PM on Fridays for their award-winning Southern Style Fish Fry.

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In front of Sam's Club

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**Smallpox**

**Disease**

(From Page 3)

The ship continued to Fort Union, the nearest trading post for the Mandans, Hidatsas, and Arikaras. It also brought the new operator of the post, Jacob Halsey. Having realized he was carrying a deadly cargo, Halsey ordered the Indians away from the boat on its arrival. The Indians, believing they were being duped into some sort of unfair trading scheme, refused. Halsey then ordered

the ship's crew vaccinated, himself included. He recovered from his dose, but his wife and some crew members were not so lucky.

Smallpox was soon rampant at Fort Union. In the confusion, five Assiniboin warriors decided that no one would miss two fine army horses. A group of soldiers apprehended them, and the Indians agreed to return the horses with no questions asked. But one of the troopers had smallpox, and the five would-be thieves returned to their camp, sickened, and

died. They were followed by 800 of their tribe whom they had infected.

Death by smallpox was one of nature's most horrible exits. An infected person would be unaware of exposure until about the ninth day, when he or she would be stricken with nausea, headaches, chills, fever, and convulsions. After four days of these symptoms and a scarlet skin coloration, a rash of flat red spots began covering first the face, then the rest of the body. Soon the victim swelled into a hideous mass of dark, oozing blisters. Many said it felt as if their skin had been set ablaze. Those who survived this stage ultimately died when the infection spread internally.

Infected Indians often committed suicide. Some drowned themselves; others jumped into fires or impaled themselves on knives or arrows. Others ran off cliffs. After watching his wife and children die, Four Bears starved himself. Before he succumbed on July 30, 1837, he told his council, "I do not fear death. . .but to die with my face rotten, that even the Wolves will shrink with horror at seeing me, and say to themselves, that is the Four Bears the Friend to the Whites."

Of the 1,600 Mandans, 1,477 were dead before autumn. Catlin returned, only to write: "So have perished the friendly and hospitable Mandans. . .Although it may be possible that some few individuals may yet be remaining, I think it is not probable.

(See Disease on Page 11)

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Born in 1838, Story left his native Ohio at the age of 18. He spent two years in Kansas cutting, hauling, and selling wood and fence posts. He took advantage of an opportunity to buy condemned government wagons and used the vehicles to freight goods to Denver. Then, attracted to the Montana goldfields in the 1860s, the young enterpriser opened a store at Alder Gulch. He rented his eleven wagons to those needing transportation, and he also made about \$30,000 out of a mining claim.

Always thinking of new enterprises to take advantage

of the needs of western settlers, Story became keenly aware of the enormous prices that beef would bring in the booming mining camps. He



sewed \$10,000 into the lining of his clothes and headed for Texas, where cattle could be purchased cheaply. In Fort Worth in the spring of 1866, he bought 600 long-horns for ten dollars apiece. Some calves were thrown in with the deal, and eventually his herd grew to about 1,000 head. Story hired a crew of cowboys and headed north. When he got to Kansas, however, he met determined opposition from farmers

who feared “Texas fever” and from Jayhawkers who wanted his herd.

The former teamster boldly decided to drive his cattle to Montana via unsettled country to the west. Riding point, Story blazed the trail himself, turning his herd away from Kansas. Along the way, he was warned of great numbers of hostile Indians. At the Fort Laramie settler’s store, he purchased the latest Remington rapid-fire breechloaders for each of his 27 cowboys and bullwhackers.

Before he reached Fort Reno, an Indian party galloped away with a large portion of his herd, leaving two cowboys with arrow wounds. Story promptly pursued the warriors, wiped them out, and retrieved his cattle. One of his drovers later reported, “We surprised them in their camp and they weren’t in

(See Cattleman on Page 22)

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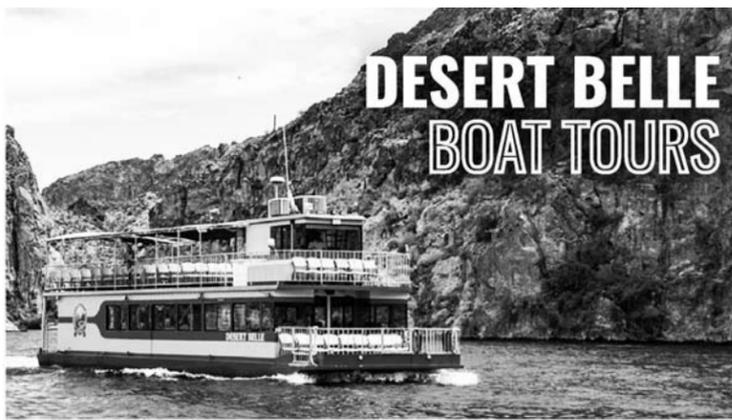
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# Bloody Espinosas

**Killers**

(From Page 4)

It was Corporal Decedero Abeyta. Marshal Austin broke a leg in the melee and Lt. Hodt had a minor head wound. The rest of the soldiers, angered by the death of a comrade, took out their

wrath on the Espinosa house by stealing everything of value and setting it afire.

The Espinosa brothers unleashed a reign of terror in the South Park area of Colorado during the next several weeks. They continued their vendetta against any Anglo they could find. The first casualty was William Bruce.

He was working alone at his sawmill. When he failed to return home at the end of the day, a search party found his body dead at the mill. He had been shot in the chest. A man named Henry Harden was found dead next. The Espinosas shot him in the forehead inside his cabin. One of the outlaws also smashed his head with an ax.

As Henry Harden was being buried by his friends, a local sheriff and his deputy arrived. They said they had been following two men believed to be killers since the murder of William Bruce. They did not know at that time that they were tracking the Espinosa brothers. The trail of blood broadened, and reports of more murders came from many places throughout southern Colorado—Colorado City, Manitou Springs, Ute Pass, South Park, and Red Hill. Tragedy was inevitable. A man named Baxter was hiding with a family in Fairplay when a posse rode up and surrounded the house. After several shots were exchanged, Mr. Baxter decided to surrender. He was taken into Fairplay and quickly hanged. Unfortunately, the murders continued unabated, so it was apparent that Mr. Baxter was not the one doing the killing.

Another posse under the leadership of John McCannon began searching every home and outlying buildings in the South Park area. McCannon's men found the trail of the outlaws and got hot on their trail. When two horses were seen hobbled in

(See Killers on Page 12)

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# Trail of Tears

## Removal

(From Page 1)

southern Alabama and Mississippi. From 1831 to 1834 they were rounded up and marched hundreds of miles to today's Oklahoma. An estimated one-quarter of the Choctaws died en route due to insufficient food, blankets, and wagons. In 1836 the Creek nation of Alabama, already weakened by intertribal warfare, were subjected to the same forcible removal, and 3,500 out of 15,000 died from hunger, exposure, and disease along the journey. Many Chickasaws from northern Mississippi, western Tennessee, and western Kentucky had already moved before the act came into force, and their journey's comparative shortness in 1837 meant that they suffered less on the march. Nevertheless, many died from cholera and food poisoning after their arrival in Indian Territory. While some 3,000 Seminole traveled west, those remaining in the Florida swamps put up a fierce resistance in the Second and Third Seminole Wars (1835-42 and 1855-58). The third war ended in a stalemate, and although some Seminole agreed to move, the nation never signed a treaty, and many stayed in Florida, where they still live today.

Of the five nations dispossessed of their tribal lands, probably the saddest case is that of the Cherokees, who lived in small villages in an area stretching from West Virginia to northern Alabama. American allies in the Creek War of 1813, they had adapted to white ways, become successful farmers and businessmen, evolved a written language, had a written constitution, and, from 1828, produced their own newspaper. Despite all this, the discovery of gold near Dahlonega, Georgia, was enough to seal their fate. The Cherokees took their case to the Supreme Court and won it, but Jackson simply ignored the decision.

The roundup of more than 15,000 Cherokees began on May 23, 1838. In July some 13,000 were imprisoned in military stockades to await the break of a drought, during which time approximately 1,500 died. The first of two journeys began in October,

and thirteen Cherokee contingents marched through Tennessee, Kentucky, and Illinois. Ice floes on the Mississippi prevented their crossing, and many died as they waited out the harsh winter. Chief John Ross received permission to lead the second march westward in December 1838. Yet despite the numerous precautions he had taken, disease, a shortage of blankets and food, and inadequate protection from the U.S. Army meant the loss of more Cherokee lives, (See Removal on Page 22)

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# Pike Gets Robbed

## War Party

(From Page 1)

halt, but perceiving those in front reaching out their hands, and without arms, we again advanced.

They met us with open arms, crowding round to touch and embrace us. They appeared so anxious that I dismounted from my horse, and in a moment a fellow had mounted him and driven off. I then observed the Doctor and Baroney in the same predicament. The Indians were embracing the soldiers.

After some time tran-

quility was so far restored, they having returned our horses all safe, as to enable us to learn they were a war party from the Grand Pawnees, who had been in search of the Ietans, but, not finding them, were now on their return. An unsuccessful war party on their way home are always ready to embrace an opportunity of gratifying their disappointed vengeance on the first persons they meet.

It was with great difficulty they got them tranquil, and not until there had been a bow or two bent on the occasion. When in some order,

we found them to be sixty warriors, half with fire arms, and half with bows, arrows, and lances. Our party was in all sixteen. In a short time they were arranged in a ring, and I took my seat between the two leaders: our colours were placed opposite each other; the utensils for smoking, etc., being prepared on a small seat between us. Thus far all was well.

I then ordered half a carrot of tobacco, one dozen knives, sixty fire steels, and sixty flints to be presented to them. They demanded corn, ammunition, blankets, kettles, etc., all of which they were refused, notwithstanding the pressing instances of my interpreter to accede to some points. The pipes yet lay unmoved, as if they were undetermined whether to treat us as friends or as enemies; but after some time we were presented with a kettle

(See War Party on Page 23)

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# Smallpox

**Disease**

(From Page 6)

As a nation, the Mandans are extinct, having no longer an existence. The Hidatsas and Arikaras suffered equally appalling losses.”

The Assiniboins infected the Crees, of whom some 7,000 died. The death toll among the Blackfeet reached 6,000. As tribes tried to flee the scourge, smallpox spread among the Crows, Dakotas, Pawnees, Osages, Winnebagos, Sioux, and Choctaws. The Kiowas called the winter of 1839-40 “Smallpox Winter.” Cases were reported as far north as the Hudson’s Bay Company posts in Canada, and as far south as Apache and Comanche country.

Wrote one observer from New Orleans, “The destroying angel has visited the unfortunate sons of the wilderness with terrors never before known, and has converted the extensive hunting grounds, as well as the peaceful settlements of those tribes, into desolate

and boundless cemeteries.”

Perhaps what is most astounding in these events is the casual attitude with which the disaster was ignored by the government, whose unstated policy was to let the disease “run its course.” Congress had appropriated \$12,000 toward Indian inoculation in 1832, but government action was focused more on President Andrew Jackson’s program of forcibly removing the In-

dians of the Southeast to locations in present Oklahoma than on combating disease.

The total number of Indian lives lost to smallpox from 1837 to 1840 is unknown. Experts believe there were no fewer than 100,000 deaths, perhaps as many as 300,000. Almost every tribe suffered from the disease, and some were wiped out. In truth, the winning of the West was well underway before the first shots were fired.



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# Bloody Espinosas

## Killers

(From Page 8)

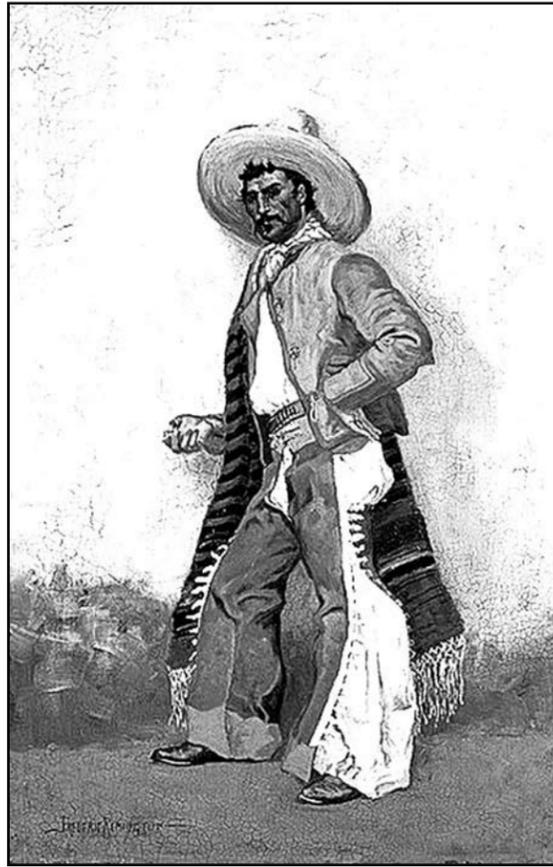
a gulch, the captain ordered his men to surround the area to see who they belonged to. After a while, Jose Espinosa came out of some willows to remove the hobbles. As he bent down, a posse member shot him. The bullet smashed into Jose's ribs on the right side. Another man fired a shotgun, but the pellets hit only a horse. A third shot was fired. This time, Jose was hit between the eyes. The other Espinosa brother was flushed out but was mistakenly identified as a posse member and escaped in the confusion.

Felipe went to the house of a relative where he convinced his nephew, a 14-

year-old youth also named Jose, to join him in his war against all Anglos. On September 5, they came upon a

As the buggy rolled into a canyon, the two Espinosas struck. One mule was hit and mortally wounded, but the man was able to drive the buggy as far as he could before the animal died. As the outlaws ran up to them, the Anglo man jumped from the buggy and ran into the mountain vegetation. The Mexican woman got out of the buggy and hid behind a rock.

A few minutes later, a wagon with two Mexicans drove up. When the woman came out from her hiding place, the driver, Pedro Garcia, said he would protect her. She was told to hide inside the wagon box. Meanwhile, the two Espinosas had lost the trail of



Felipe Espinosa

man and a woman in a buggy. The woman, who was of Mexican descent, was going to Costillo to visit relatives.

the Anglo and returned to the road.

(See Killers on Page 16)

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# Lotta Crabtree

## Entertainer Dubbed 'The Nation's Darling'

At six years of age, Charlotte "Lotta" Mignon Crabtree performed her first song and dance on an anvil at Fippin's Blacksmith Shop for the miners at Rough & Ready, Nevada. Born in 1847 in New York City to British immigrants, Lotta Crabtree would go on to become one of the wealthiest and most beloved American entertainers of the late 19th century. From her beginnings as a young girl until her retirement at the age of 45, she entertained and was named "The Nation's Darling".

Her father, John Ashworth Crabtree, a book seller, left for San Francisco in 1851 to seek his fortune in the California Gold Rush. Lotta and her mother followed two years later, joining John in the boomtown of Grass Valley. While in Grass Valley, the Crabtrees ran a boarding house. Lotta soon attracted the attention of a neighbor, the dancer and actress Lola Montez, who encouraged

Lotta's enthusiasm for performance.

The Crabtrees moved again and set up another boarding house, this time in Rabbit Creek, forty miles



north of Grass Valley. Soon after, Lotta made her first professional appearance at a tavern owned by Matt Taylor. She began touring throughout California, and Nevada, making a name for herself as a dancer, singer, and banjo player in the mining camps. In 1856, the family moved back to San Francisco. By 1859, she had become "Miss Lotta,

the San Francisco Favorite".

Lotta's mother served as her manager and collected all of Lotta's earnings in gold, carrying it in a large leather bag. When this became too heavy, it was transferred to a steamer trunk.

Having made a name in California, in 1863 Lotta left to tour the East Coast where she began acting in plays such as *The Old Curiosity Shop*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *Little Nell and the Marchioness*. With her petite size, she became a favorite for her portrayals of children. The late 1860s would

see the "Lotta Polka" and "Lotta Gallup" as quite the rage in America. At age 20 she was a national star. By 1875, Lotta was touring the nation with her own theatrical company. She achieved the height of her success in the 1870s and 1880s.

The 1880s saw her perennially as the highest paid

(See Entertainer on Page 18)

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# The Cowboy's Spanish Ancestry

A good half century before the Western beef-cattle industry blossomed in Texas, a singular breed of professional horsemen calling themselves *vaqueros* had already set the style, evolved the equipment and techniques, and even developed much of the vocabulary that would become the stamp of the American cowboy. The range of the *vaquero* was Spanish California. There, roughly from the time George Washington crossed the Delaware until the United States annexed Upper California in 1848, a unique pastoral society evolved,



A Spanish *vaquero* drawn by Frederic Remington

sionaries first arrived in California around 1769 they brought with them a few modest herds of domestic cattle for dairy and brood stock. In the warm, grassy valleys of California the cows thrived and became an unexpected source of profit for the fathers. At San Diego and other California ports they had begun trading with Yankee ships like the *Pilgrim*, which Richard Henry Dana made famous in his book *Two Years before the Mast*.

When Franciscan missionaries first arrived in California around 1769 they brought with them a few modest herds of domestic cattle for dairy and brood stock. In the warm, grassy valleys of California the cows thrived and became an unexpected source of profit for the fathers. At San Diego and other California ports they had begun trading with Yankee ships like the *Pilgrim*, which Richard Henry Dana made famous in his book *Two Years before the Mast*.

On a more modest scale the same thing was happening to missions along the lower Rio Grande. There was, however, a major difference between this embryonic, California-centered cattle industry and the one that later grew on the prairies of the U.S. To the padres, beef was actually an afterthought. Most of their profits came from hides and tallow, the raw materials used by New England factories to manufacture leather goods, candles and soap. And from the beginning, profits were very good.

Consequently, the mission fathers were soon collecting as many pesos as souls, and local Indians found themselves learning as much about cattle as about the Trinity. For as the business and the herds increased, the priests, many of them sons of Spanish nobility trained from birth as superb horsemen, needed

(See *Vaqueros* on Page 17)

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# The Stage Stop

When stagecoach lines were established it was essential for stage stops to be selected in advance. Requirements were usually a convenient source of water and wood, topography conducive to defense and an adjacent area suitable for a corral for spare teams of horses. Availability of game for food was another consideration. After site selection, stage line employees were sent out to improve the site by building a shelter for stop staff and a corral for the stock they would tend. Eventually these individuals would become the staff of that particular stop on the route. Stage lines covered vast areas of desolate wilderness, so these outposts had to be established and functioning before the first stage could make its run.

Therefore, considerable investment of time and money was made before the stage owners ever hoped to see a

return on their capital. Stage stop personnel were. By necessity, an independent lot, used to living rough without much comfort in primitive surroundings for long periods of time. Stops were manned year round by one or two



individuals who tended the teams not in use, and hooked and unhooked teams as stages stopped for new horses and left almost immediately. Stops in remote areas, miles from any vestige of civilization and devoid of any real amenities, were little more than rude shacks that offered shelter (usually dirty), liquid refreshment (often bad), and food of varying quality. Any furniture was hand made, crude and utilitarian. Roofs were often made of sod, because it did not burn.

Floors were swept dirt when dry, mud when wet. In most cases these shelters could become defensive positions if need be. Stage line employees managing the stop were well armed for their own protection and the gathering of game to feed themselves and passengers.

The interiors of the stage stops were simple affairs, often with no closets as the staff had few clothes. Sanitation was non-existent in remote areas and little better elsewhere. Life was a real hand to mouth proposition. The stop crew ate, lived and slept in such a structure week in and week out. Along with a bucket for water and an axe for chopping wood, the firearm was an essential tool for survival—providing food and protection. Like most things on the frontier, the stage stop was simple and efficient. There was little need for foolish luxuries and non-essentials in this rough lifestyle.

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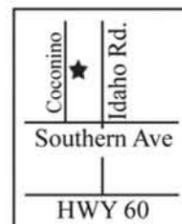


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# Bloody Espinosas

**Killers**

(From Page 12)

“Hey!” Felipe shouted. “What people are you? Answer quickly or we will fire on you. We are the Espinosas!”

“Mexicanos!” Garcia answered.

“Did you meet or see a Gringo running down the road?”

Garcia replied that he might have seen a man running down a steep embankment. He motioned the two outlaws to go back. “Did you see a woman around here?” Felipe asked. When Garcia denied seeing her, she lifted her head above the wagon box. Felipe saw her immediately. “Get that puta out of the wagon or we will fire on you,” he yelled.

Garcia refused. The



**Tom Tobin in his later years**

Mexican woman stood up and spoke. “Don Pedro don’t perish for me. These men are Christians. They won’t hurt me.” However, after Garcia drove away, Felipe and his nephew tied the woman to a tree and raped her.

The Anglo man remained hidden until darkness cloaked the mountains before going for help. He eventually made it to Fort Garland where he told the commanding officer what had happened. Col. Tappan immediately sent an aide to find Tom Tobin. The scout arrived at the fort within the hour. The colonel demanded the scout bring in the heads of the Espinosas and offered a large sum of money as an incentive.

Two days later, Tobin was in the mountains on the trail of the Espinosas. He was accompanied by a Lieutenant Baldwin, 15 soldiers, one civilian and a Mexican boy. Finally, Tobin spotted the Espinosas going up a ridge and disappearing over the top. Further investigation led him to believe the outlaws were driving two oxen. Tracking them farther, the scout noticed that the outlaws released one of the oxen. He presumed the outlaws were probably going to slaughter the remaining ox for food.

(See Symbol on Page 21)



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# Spanish Cowboys

## Vaqueros

(From Page 14)

help handling the cows. The only laborers available were their Indian converts, who were known as neophytes—a religious euphemism meaning trained slaves. Those selected by the Padres became skilled horsemen themselves, as they had to be to handle big herds of cattle on an open range.

The need to teach the Indians to ride created something of a dilemma, for an ancient Spanish colonial law, dating back to the time of the conquistadors, forbade the Indians from using horses, which were considered primarily tools of war. But the padres, laws unto themselves on the early frontier, decided to ignore the old edict in the interests of expediency. They also set about teaching the Indians how to snare a steer on the run by throwing a loop of braided rawhide rope, known for centuries in Spain as *la reata* and later Americanized to “lariat.”

The Indian horsemen used a horn-equipped modification of the old Spanish war saddle. Once a steer had been caught, they learned to bring the animal to a stop by wrapping quick turns of the lariat around the horn. This they called *dar la vuelta* (to make the turn), which came to be the American cowboys’ “dally.”

To protect their legs while riding through chaparral thickets, the mission hands wore heavy leather trousers called *chapparras*—subsequently abbreviated to “chaps.” As for themselves, the cowhands came to be called *vaqueros* (an extension of the Spanish *vaca*, meaning cow), and their American heirs changed it to “buckaroo.”

Mexico broke away from Spain in 1821, and 12 years later the new republic took the mission range away from the Spanish padres. The holdings were then snatched up by private rancheros, the first real cattle barons of the West. The vaquero went to work for the ranchero, be-

coming in the process a proud and independent range hand, who boasted the princely salary of up to \$14 a month. His clothing became tight fitting and decorative, while his saddle and bridle flashed with silver trimming. And, of course, his horsemanship was superb. At the annual *rodeo* (roundup) he drove his pony through milling seas of cows, cutting out his ranchero’s stock from that of neighboring herds and then branding them. Sometimes he would ride up behind a running steer, and rather than rope it he would grab its tail and flip the beast hind over horn, stunning it.

After the roundup, at the mass cattle slaughters known as *matanzas*, he would ride down upon one steer after another, killing each beast with a single flashing thrust of the long knife he carried in a boot scabbard. During lulls in the *matanza* or the rodeo he amused himself with competitions against other vaqueros; one favorite

(See Vaqueros on Page 23)

# AUCTIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

## Upcoming Events

**February 2 Auction:**  
Preview at 3:00, Sale Starts at 4:00

**February 9 Auction:**  
Preview at 3:00, Sale Starts at 4:00

**February 16 Auction:**  
Preview at 3:00, Sale Starts at 4:00

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Sunday, February 17 2pm

**Thursday, February 14 7pm**

## Valentine's Day Dance

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**Saturday, February 16 9pm**

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**Saturday, February 23**

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KARAOKE  
Inside With Trey 6pm

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On The Patio!  
2nd & 4th Tues/Month 7pm  
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS  
Open Mic Night

**WEDNESDAY**  
EARLY KARAOKE with Trey  
6pm INSIDE!  
POOL TOURNAMENT 7:30

**THURSDAY**  
LIVE ACOUSTIC MUSIC 7pm

**FRIDAY**  
LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC  
8:30-12:30

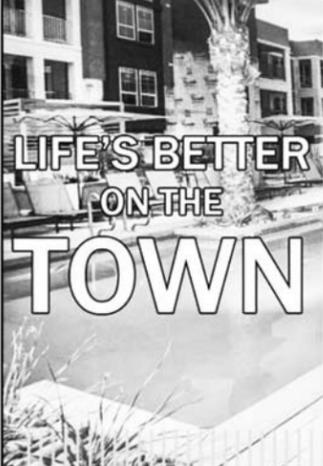
**SATURDAY**  
LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC  
8:30-12:30  
KARAOKE or ACOUSTIC 3pm

**SUNDAY**  
SUNDAY FUN DAY!  
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February 8th: **Dakota Kid**  
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# Lotta Crabtree

Entertainer

(From Page 13)

actress in America, earning sums of up to \$5,000 per week. Her mother was still managing Lotta's affairs: booking plays, finding locations, and organizing troupes of actors. When the steamer trunk became too heavy, she invested Lotta's earnings in local real estate, race horses, and bonds. As well as investing, some of the money was used to support local charities and build fountains. Lotta's Fountain, the most famous of these fountains, still stands at the intersection of Market and Kearny Streets in San Francisco, and is the site of meetings every April marking the anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco



earthquake.

Lotta traveled abroad with her mother and her brothers, where she learned French, visited museums

and began painting. After her tour abroad, Lotta returned to San Francisco where she played at the California Theatre, reprising her role in Little Nell and the Marchioness by John Bowen. Having missed her while she was away, the city responded warmly to her return and treated her like their very own star.

In 1885, Lotta's mother had an eighteen-room summer cottage built in the Breslin Park section of Mount Arlington on the shores of Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey, which was called Attol Tryst. The house, designed by noted architect Frank Furness, stands today and in recent years has been beautifully restored. Lotta gave parties, drove horses, and pursued her painting.

She was forced to retire as a result of a fall in Wilmington, Delaware, in May 1889. After recovering in Lake Hopatcong, she

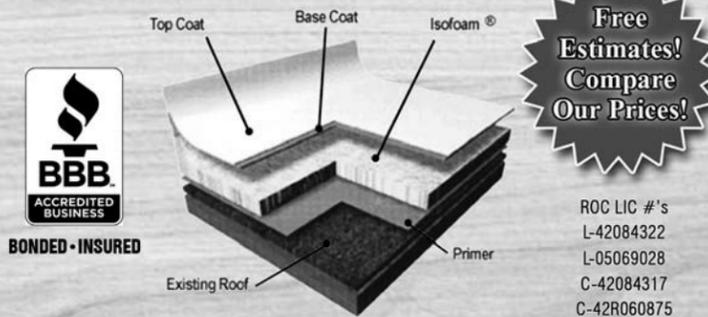
(See Entertainer on Page 20)

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# Arizona's Smith Gang

At the turn of the 20th century, St. Johns, a Mormon-settled town near the White Mountains in Arizona's Apache County, was the center of operations for one of the last major outlaw gangs in the state.

The gang, led by Bill Smith, specialized in rustling and roamed without much difficulty in and around the mountains of Apache County and along the Little Colorado River between St. Johns and Holbrook. But by early 1900 the ranchers in the area began complaining, and on March 26 of that year Apache County Sheriff Ed Beeler took a few men and rode north, in the general direction of what was thought to be Smith's hide-out area. The sheriff managed to stumble directly into the outlaws' camp. In a brief gunfight, one of the outlaws was wounded and the rest fled. Before following the gang farther into the mountains, Beeler sent a man into St. Johns for reinforcements. But when the help arrived in the form of several townsmen, the sheriff and his posse were gone. Rather than look for the sheriff, the second group forged ahead. The townsmen were armed, but were not trained lawmen, and the Smith gang quickly disposed of two of them, Frank Lesueur and Gus Gibbons. On April 3, two federal officers, U. S. Marshal George Scarborough and Deputy W. Birchfield, met a similar fate.

Moving their opera-



U.S. Marshal George Scarborough

tions to the mountains south of St. Johns, the Smith bunch roamed unmolested for over a year. Then, in the spring of 1901, the territorial legislature created the Arizona Rangers, a fighting force to be patterned after the successful Texas Rangers. The Smith gang was high on the Rangers' priori-

ty list, and before long they had an arrest: Tod Carver, an admitted member of the gang. Carver confessed his part in the killings, but before he could be tried the gang broke him out of jail. A posse chased the outlaws and caught up with them along the Black River in northern Graham County. In a fierce gunfight, Ranger Carlos Tafoya and a volunteer posse member, Bill Maxwell, were killed. Two outlaws may have been hit, but the gang escaped.

As the gang scattered into the deep forest, the posse gave up the chase. The Smith gang escaped into New Mexico, then on to Texas. They were never seen in Arizona again.

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# Lotta Crabtree

## Entertainer

(From Page 18)

attempted a comeback in 1891 and decided to retire permanently from the stage. She later resisted calls for a farewell tour. At age 45, it was the perfect time to retire - she was the richest actress in America, the theatre was changing and she got out at the top. She made one final appearance in 1915 for "Lotta Crabtree Day" in San Francisco at the Panama-Pacific Exposition.

While Lotta apparently had her share of romance, her travel, lifestyle and mother made a long-term relationship difficult and Lotta never married.

Following retirement, Lotta traveled, painted (in-



**Lotta's Fountain in  
downtown San Francisco**

cluding studying at Paris in 1912) and was active in charitable work.

Late in her life, Lotta moved to Massachusetts and was owner of acreage

in the southern part of the Squantum section of Quincy, immediately south of Boston, Massachusetts. It is said to have been purchased for the benefit and health of her brother (Ashworth) and for their horses. Most of the land was sold as house lots in the 1930s and '40s. Children who walked to school through Lotta's land in those days often passed by two small markers of local granite set into the ground, engraved "Ruby Royal" and "Sonoma Girl" - two of the Crabtrees' horses.

Lotta spent the last fifteen years of her life at the Brewster Hotel which she had purchased in Boston. She died September 25, 1924, at age 76. In her obituary, The New York Times called her the "eternal child." She was described by critics as mischievous, unpredictable, impulsive, rattlebrained, teasing, piquant, rollicking, cheerful, and devilish. Lotta Crabtree was interred at the Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx.

Lotta left an estate of some \$4 million in a charitable trust for such causes as veterans, aging actors, and animals. The estate ran into complications when a number of people unsuccessfully contested the will. The trust still exists today.



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# Bloody Espinosas

## Killers

(From Page 16)

He was right. To get as close as they could, Tobin, the boy and two soldiers crawled on hands and knees through thick pines. When the scout could smell fresh meat cooking on a fire, Tobin knew he was close.

Tobin told his companions to prepare for action. They were not to speak or make any kind noise while he crept up on the camp. The silence was broken when the scout accidentally stepped on a dry stick. As soon as he heard the snap, Felipe Espinosa jumped up and ran for his gun, but Tobin sent a ball into the murderer's side. "Jesus! Favor me!" Felipe cried. Then he began yelling at his nephew, "Run! I am killed!"

The younger Espinosa ran off into a growth of aspens. Tobin ordered the soldiers to fire on the boy, but their shots missed. Since Tobin used only a one-shot muzzle-loader, he spent several precious seconds re-

loading his weapon. When his gun was ready, Tobin put it to his shoulder and pulled the trigger. The ball hit the boy in the back and immediately killed him.

About that time, Felipe, who was still alive, but mortally wounded, recognized Tom Tobin and called his name. As a soldier walked toward the wounded man to restrain him, Felipe pulled his pistol and fired. His shot missed. Tobin then moved in quickly to disarm the last of

the Espinosas. He grabbed Felipe by the hair, pulled his head over a log and sawed off his head with a Bowie knife. He ordered the Mexican boy to do the same to the other Espinosa.

Tobin put both heads into a burlap sack and brought them to Fort Garland where he presented the grisly remains to Col. Tappan. The bloody reign of terror in southern Colorado was over. Together, the Espinosas had killed 22 Anglos.

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## Nelson Story

### Cattleman

(From Page 7)

shape to protest much against our taking back the cattle."

Leaving his wounded men at Fort Reno, Story proceeded up the Bozeman Trail to Fort Phil Kearny. The post commander, Colonel Henry Carrington, had closed the dangerous trail to any party with fewer than 40 armed men. Story was ordered to corral his herd three miles away, because military livestock needed the land around the fort for their own sustenance.

Restless and apprehensive, Story spent two weeks guarding his cattle while winter grew nearer. After one of his cowboys was slain by lurking warriors, Story resolved to defy the army and finish his drive. He told his men that he intended to slip away at night. At this point, the drovers had so much faith in their daredevil leader that when one man expressed opposition, he was seized and forcibly car-

ried along.

Story left after taps one evening and pushed up the trail all night to outdistance any military pursuit. The drive at night proved to be so successful that he decided to travel nights and rest the herd during the days. Consequently, there were only a handful of Indian attacks during the remainder of the journey. Each attack took place when the herd was under daytime guard, and the cowboys easily drove the warriors away.

The herd reached Virginia City, Montana, on December 9, 1866, after a six-month drive of 1,500 miles. Story sold his cattle for \$100 a head, although he kept the best breeding stock. Headquartering in Bozeman, Story built a cattle empire, raised horses, invested in real estate, and acquired a fleet of steamboats.

As his wealth and prominence grew, Story became a generous philanthropist. He built palatial homes in Bozeman and Los Angeles, where he died in 1926, only a few weeks before his 88th birthday.

## Trail of Tears

### Removal

(From Page 9)

including that of his own wife.

The first Cherokee contingent arrived at Fort Gibson in January 1839; the last, led by Ross, arrived in March. In addition to the thousands who had already died, 800 more died of disease and starvation in Oklahoma. In all, over one-quarter of the Cherokee Nation was lost.

The Cherokees and other Native American, including nations from the Great Plains and Old Northwest, soon began to rebuild their lives in Indian Territory, which at the time stretched from the Red River in Northern Texas to the Missouri River in Nebraska. But as more white set-

tlers moved west, the Indians were repeatedly forced to sell or cede their lands as new states were created. Following the formation of Oklahoma Territory in 1890, the Cherokees and Choctaws sued in the federal courts to retain their lands, but the Curtis Act of 1898 dissolved their tribal governments and imposed land allotment policies on them. Oklahoma became a state in 1907.

Following the Trail of Tears, widespread indignation throughout the country and charges of fraud resulted in a government inquiry carried out by Major Ethan Hitchcock. However, his report of "bribery, perjury, forgery. . . and every conceivable subterfuge" was not made public at the time.

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# Spanish Cowboys

## Vaqueros

(From Page 17)

stunt was to lean out of the saddle at a full gallop and pluck from the ground a rooster buried up to the head.

A French sea captain, who visited California, after noting all this in his diary, added that the California horsemen "are so little accustomed to make use of their legs in walking they carry the entire weight of their body from one side to the other, as if they were lame." Thus the vaquero had developed,

along with everything else, the characteristic bowlegged cowboy walk.

The time of the vaquero was short, however. In 1846, when Mexico and the United States went to war, Mexican troops retreated below the Rio Grande, leaving the ranchos at the mercy of marauders, both Indian and White. Cattle were slaughtered and driven off by the thousands. Drought killed many more, and those that survived were herded north to feed hungry miners in the newly opened gold fields around San Francisco. Ranges that once swarmed with

cows were emptied even of breeding stock. By the time the herds began to recover decades later, the emphasis of the cattle business had changed from hides and tallow to beef. And the center of the industry had moved to Texas, nearer the railheads leading to Eastern markets. The men who worked beef cattle spoke English and called themselves cowboys. But whenever they swung a lariat, held a rodeo, or pulled on their chaps and wore wide-brimmed hats, they were paying mute tribute to the vaquero who had started it all.

# Pike Gets Robbed

## War Party

(From Page 10)

of water, drank, smoked, and ate together.

During this time, Dr. Robinson was standing up to observe their actions, in order that, if necessary, we might be ready to commence hostilities as soon as they. The Indians now took their presents and commenced distributing them, but some malcontents threw them away, as if out of contempt. We began to load our horses, when they encircled us and commenced stealing everything they could. Finding it was difficult to preserve my

pistols, I mounted my horse, when I found myself frequently surrounded, during which some were endeavouring to steal the pistols.

The doctor was equally engaged in another quarter, and all the soldiers at their several posts, taking things from them.

One having stolen my tomahawk, I informed the chief, but he paid no respect to my remonstrance, except to reply that "they were pitiful." Finding this, we determined to protect ourselves as far as was in our power, and the affair began to wear a serious aspect.

I ordered my men to take their arms, and separate

themselves from the savages, at the same time declaring to them I would kill the first man who touched our baggage, on which they commenced filing off immediately. We marched about the same time, and found after they had left us that they had contrived to steal one sword, a tomahawk, a broad axe, five canteens, and sundry other small articles. When I reflected on the subject, I felt sincerely mortified that the smallness of my number obliged me thus to submit to the insults of lawless banditti, it being the first time a savage had ever taken anything from me with the least appearance of force.

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