

Territorial News

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Vol. 22, No. 9

Your Connection to the Old West

April 23, 2014

Next Issue
Wednesday
May 7

Play
Arizona Trivia

See Page 2 for Details

This Week's
Question:

Filmed in Arizona,
the 1926 movie
"Son of the Sheik"
starred what
famous actor?
(16 Letters)

Index

Arizona Kid.....	12
Arizona Trivia.....	2
Business Directory.....	14
Classifieds.....	14
Jim Harvey.....	2
125 Years Ago.....	14
Recipe.....	14

'Indian Massacre' on the West-bound Stage

By Richard W. Kimball

On November 4, 1871, the *Prescott Miner*, a news-paper in Arizona Territory, carried a story about an Indian ambush on a California-bound stagecoach about nine miles out of Wickenburg.

Frederick W. Loring, a respected New York journalist, was killed in the attack along with five others. Loring had earlier accompanied the famous Wheeler surveying team throughout the West and was on his way home when the attack occurred.

Two of the stagecoach passengers escaped death, however; Wil-liam Kruger, about 40 years old and a cashier in the Army's Quarter-master Corps, and Miss Mollie Sheppard, a buxom Prescott prostitute in her early thirties.

The newspaper said conflicting accounts about the "massacre" appeared to put the blame on the Yavapai Apaches who lived in the area, but noted that the killers could have also been Americans or



Mexicans dressed to look like Indians.

Written under a headline reading THE WICKENBURG HORROR: MURDER AND ROBBERY ON THE HIGHWAY. WERE THEY INDIANS OR MEXICANS? the newspaper story said the attack was "one of the bloodiest deeds ever committed in Arizona."

The mail coach left

Prescott earlier in the week bound for Wickenburg. An experienced driver, "Dutch John" Lantz, was handling the team. Besides Kruger, Miss Sheppard, and the 22-year-old Loring, the other passengers included Fredrick Shoholm, a Prescott jeweler; P.M. Hamel and W.G. Sal-mon, former members of the Wheeler survey team; and C.S. Adams, a wealthy businessman from San Francisco.

Shortly before Loring left Pres-cott, the *Miner's*

editor interviewed the young journalist and discovered that he was a Harvard graduate and a well-known author of many popular articles. The editor also learned that Loring once worked for the *Boston Press* before he was employed by the *New York Tribune*. Loring kept his hair very short and jokingly told the editor that "any Apache would have a lot of trouble trying to take my scalp."

According to the *Miner's* article about the attack written a few days after the tragedy occurred, the stagecoach was traveling west about nine miles west of Wickenburg when "a party of mounted men, either Indians or Mexican bandits disguised like Apache warriors had rushed down upon the stage as it was passing through a canyon killing all but two persons and slightly wounding these. The wounded, Mr. Kruger and Miss Sheppard, not being disabled, imme-diately sprang from the stage which was now brought to a halt; and started together toward Cullen's Station. One detachment of the 'blood-thirsty demons' went in pursuit of the fugitives and

(See Massacre on Page 5)

The Captivity of the Oatman Girls

CHAPTER 3:

Lorenzo Oatman Conscious
of most of the Scenes of the
Massacre

By R. B. Stratton

In this chapter we ask the reader to trace with us the narrow and miraculous escape of Lorenzo Oatman, after being left for dead by the Apaches.

"I soon must have recovered my consciousness after I had been struck down, for I heard distinctly the repeated yells of those fiendish Apaches. And these I heard mingling in the most terrible confusion with the shrieks and cries of my dear

On August 9, 1850, the Oatman family left Independence, Missouri, headed for a new life in California. They would never reach their destination. On the trail in Arizona, an Indian party attacked the family. The only survivors were sisters Olive and Mary Ann and their brother Lorenzo. Lorenzo was left for dead and the sisters were taken captive. In 1857, R. B. Stratton wrote a book titled *The Captivity of the Oatman Girls Among the Apache and Mohave Indians*.

The *Territorial News* is serializing the book in its entirety. Look for a new installment in every issue of the *Territorial News*.

parents, brothers, and sisters, calling, in the most pitiful, heart-rending tones, for Help, help ! In the name of God, cannot any one help us?

"To this day the loud wail sent up by our dear mother from that rough death-bed still rings in my ears. I heard the scream, shrill, and sharp, and long, of these defenseless, unoffending brothers and sisters, distinguishing the younger from the older as well as I could have done by

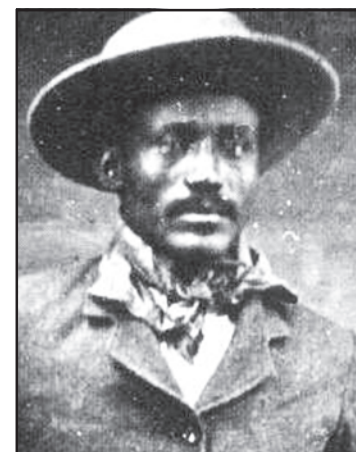
their natural voice; and these constantly blending with the brutal, coarse laugh, and the wild, raving whooping of their murderers. Well do I remember coming to myself, with sensations as of waking from a long sleep, but which soon gave place to the dreadful reality; at which time all would be silent for a moment, and then the silence broken by the low, subdued,

(See Captivity on Page 4)

Horse Thief Ned Huddleston

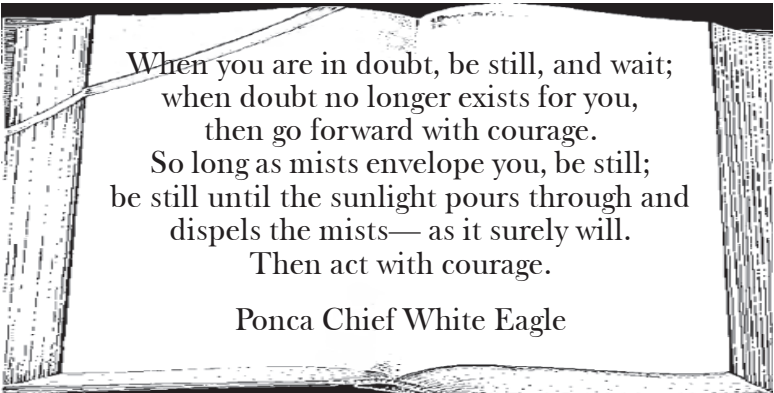
Reportedly one of the best bronco riders of his day, Ned Huddleston was also a horse thief and a cattle rustler. Despite his attempts to go straight, Huddleston met his end at the hands of one of the Wild West's most legendary gunmen.

Huddleston was born into slavery in 1849 in the state of Arkansas, taking the name Huddleston from his owner. During the Civil War, from 1860 to 1865, from the age of 11 years old and onwards, Huddleston served confederate officers as a servant and general hand,



working as a cook, nurse and scout. He was 16 years old when the war and slavery ended, and he decided to

(See Horse Thief on Page 6)



Captain's Bar Presents

ARIZONA TRIVIA

This Week's Question: Filmed in Arizona, the 1926 movie "Son of the Sheik" starred what famous actor? (16 Letters)

Last Issue's Question: What Arizona city holds an event every year called "Andy Devine Days?"
Answer: Kingman

Congratulations! You got the right answer! You are entered into our drawing

Ben Cerney, Sid Clarke, Barbara Edson, Doyle Ekey, Jack Gajewski, Kevin Gartley, Evelyn Kolsrud, Robert Lidgett, Marjorie Lozier, Marilyn Olsen, Judith Pratt, Myla Ringer, Katherine Sichling, Nancy Swanson.

OOOPS!

We would like to apologize for the typo in the last issue which resulted in two different trivia questions. Correct answers to both questions were accepted. *Sorry!*

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 5/7/14 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 4/23/14 question, deadline is 5/3/14. Limit one postcard per household per issue. Must be at least 18 years old. Remember to put your name and address on your entry!

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The Territorial's East Valley coverage area includes areas east of Gilbert Road, including East Mesa, Apache Junction, Superstition Falls, Mountain Brook, Gold Canyon and Queen Creek. Copies are distributed free at convenience and grocery stores, restaurants and bars, RV parks and subdivisions and libraries. Subscriptions are also available.

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Arizona - Web of Time

Jim Harvey

The Arizona Trail

Spanish-speaking ranchers grazed their long horned cattle on the grasslands of southeastern Arizona in the 1820s and 1830s. In later years, the long horns became a symbol of the wild and wooly American West during the age of the cowboy.

years ago, in 1881, the federal government's Indian Agent on the Navajo Reservation was a thief and liar. The Navajos chased him out of Arizona because they said his stealing "gave them headaches and made their legs ache."

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cold of a Northern Arizona winter in 1893. One housewife said the lack of adequate insulation forced her to close her parlor four or five months a year. Often, she added, her bedroom "felt too cold to enter."

1901 Flagstaff residents saw a traveling motion pictures show at the Opera House. People were surprised at the amount of equipment required to project the moving pictures. An advertisement in the local newspaper promised "first class" entertainment.

A 1911 aviator named Robert Fowler flew 165 miles in 206 minutes without landing to set a new world sustained flight record. His route took him over the southern Arizona desert between Yuma and Maricopa.

Prudent 1920s sightseers motoring off the beaten path through northern Arizona's vast wide open spaces far from doctors, hospitals and improved roads carried large first aid kits. A typical one was assembled by a man from New York City for his 1927 trip east of the Grand Canyon.

His kit included bandages, tourniquets, scissors, tweezers, iodine, ammonia, aspirin, and a variety of ointments and other medicines for insect bites. There were cactus thorns to puncture blisters, and medications for sunburn, eye irritation, dry throat and coughing, chapped lips, aching feet, saddle sores, and motion sickness.

'First aid' supplies for his car included spare tires and inner tubes, an air pump, extra gasoline, water and oil, and a shovel to dig through sand.

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The Oatman Girls

Captivity

(From Page 1)

but unintelligible gibberings of the Indians, intermingled with an occasional low, faint moan from some one of the family, as if in the last agonies of death. I could not move. I thought of trying to get up, but found I could not command a muscle or a nerve. I heard their preparations for leaving, and distinctly remember to have thought, at the time, that my heart had ceased to beat, and that I was about giving my last breath. I heard the sighs and moans of my sisters, heard them speak, knew the voice of Olive, but could not tell whether one or more was preserved with her. "While lying in this state, two of the wretches came up to me, rolling me over with their feet; they examined and rifled my pockets, took off my shoes and hat in a hurried manner; then laid hold of my feet and roughly dragged me a short distance, and then seemed to leave me for dead. During all this, except for a moment at a time, occasionally, I was perfectly conscious, but could not see. I thought each moment would be my last. I tried to move again and again, but was under the belief that life had gone from my body and limbs, and that a few more breathings would shut up my senses. There seemed a light spot directly over my head, which was gradually growing smaller, dwindling to a point. During this time I was conscious of emotions and thoughts peculiar and singular, aside from their relation to the horrors about me. "After being left by the Indians, the thoughts I had, traces of which are still in my memory, were of opening my eyes, knowing perfectly my situation, and thinking still that each breath would be the last. The full moon was shining upon rock, and hill, and shrub about me; a more lovely evening indeed I never witnessed. I made an effort to turn my eye in search of the place where I supposed my kindred were cold in death, but could not stir. I felt the blood upon my month, and found it still flowing from my ears and nose. All was still as the grave. Of the fate of the rest of the family I could not now determine accurately to myself, but supposed all of them, except two of the girls, either dead or in my situation. But no sound, no voice broke the stillness of these few minutes of consciousness; though upon them there rested the weight of an anguish, the torture and horror of which pen cannot report. I had a clear knowledge that two or more of my sisters were taken away alive. Olive I saw them snatch one side ere they commenced the general slaughter, and I had a faint consciousness of having heard the voice and

(See Captivity on Page 7)

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West-bound Stage

Massacre

(From Page 1)

kept up a desultory fire, but all being mounted their aim was unsteady, so beyond a slight wound suffered by Miss Sheppard, neither sustained further injury.”

Kruger told acquaintances later that he kept the Indians at bay with a pistol while he and the young woman made good their escape up a dry wash.

Historian Joseph Miller believes that none of the attackers saw the escape of Kruger and Miss Sheppard. He said any perpetrators of such an awful crime would certainly not permit the es-cape of an unarmed woman and a young man armed with only a pistol.

“The Indians would have killed them at long rifle range—for fun,” he said. “Whites would have done it for their own safety. No tracks had followed theirs up the wash.”

Kruger and his female companion continued up the wash for about five miles and flagged down an east-bound mail wagon driven by a man named Nelson. After hearing the details of what happened to the westbound stage,

Nelson hid his wagon in some heavy desert vegetation and told Kruger and Miss Sheppard to hide inside. Then he unhitched the horse and rode seven miles to the Vulture Mine to get help.

A short time later, a 25-man posse formed in Wickenburg and galloped off to the ambush site. The armed group arrived shortly before sundown. All six victims of the attack were still lying in the road. Hamel was the only one that had been scalped.

The posse surmised that

Loring and Hamel probably jumped out of the stage on the side occupied by the Indians. Loring was unarmed and could offer no resistance so he tried to run for cover, but his effort was futile. He found himself in the center of a group of the “savages” and was felled by two bullets and dispatched by a lance-thrust to the breast.

The newspaper said, “Mr. Hamel was killed about the same instant; and those who

(See Massacre on Page 10)

THE MONTANA GUY'S

Ken & Linda Petro

We would like to express our gratitude to our many faithful supporters, old and new, for our very successful 2013/2014 season.



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Ned Huddleston

Horse Thief

(From Page 1)

make his bid for a new life, packed up and went off to the state of Texas.

In Texas he got a job on a ranch and learned how to ride a horse and later how to handle a gun. His skill at horse riding was excellent and it was said that he had a natural talent for handling them. Later he became a horse trainer and rider in Mexico and it was there that he fell in with some Mexican bandits. Huddleston rode with them, stealing horses and driving them across the Rio Grande and into Texas to deliver them on a pre-ordered arrangement with crooked landowners.

When Huddleston came back to the United States, he tried mining, but was unsuccessful. He then joined some thieves known as the Tip

Gault Gang. Their hideout was in Browns Park in Northwest Colorado. The gang had a good run selling stolen horses, but one day in 1875 their luck took a bad turn. They had stolen some horses belonging to Margaret Anderson's ranch south of Saratoga, Wyoming. Late at night while the outlaws were huddled around a campfire, a group of lawmen snuck up on the unsuspecting gang members and started shooting. Every gang member was shot dead except for Huddleston, who is thought to have played dead from the first gunshot.

Huddleston spent a very unpleasant night hiding amongst the unburied, blood spattered bodies of his gang. A few hours later, as the sun was coming up, he rifled through their pockets and looted money belts, hidden guns and anything else he could find before he escaped on foot. He quickly stole another horse and made it to Oklahoma to lie low for a while. He changed his name to Isom Dart and decided it was probably time to go straight. He couldn't manage to get by, however, so several

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Mining Camp Earns Trip Advisor Award

The "Historic Mining Camp Restaurant & Trading Post" is pleased to announce that they have received a Trip Advisor® Certificate of Excellence Award. The accolade, which honors hospitality excellence, is given only to establishments that consistently achieve outstanding traveler reviews on the Trip Advisor website. Only the top-performing ten percent of businesses listed on Trip Advisor receive this award.

Owner Vinton Fugate said, "We strive to offer our customers a memorable experience, and this accolade is evidence that our hard work is translating into positive reviews on Trip Advisor."

Starting on May 18th, the Mining Camp Restaurant and Dutchman's Hideout Stakhouse will be open on weekends (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) for the summer.

The Historic Mining Camp Restaurant & Trading Post is located four miles north of Apache Junction off of Hwy 88 at the base of the "Majestic Superstition Mountain." For more information, call 480-982-3181.

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The Oatman Girls

Captivity

(From Page 4)

sighs of little Mary Ann, after all else was hushed, save the hurrying to and fro of the Indians, while at their work of plunder.

“I made an effort to get up, and succeeded in rising to my hands and knees; but then my strength gave way. I saw myself at the foot of a steep, rugged declivity of rocks, and all about me new. On looking up upon the rocks I discovered traces of blood marking the way by which I had reached my present situation from the brow above me. At seasons there would be a return of partial aberration, and derangement of my intellect. Against these I sought to brace myself, and study the where and wherefore of my awful situation. And I wish to record my gratitude to God for enabling me then and there to collect my thoughts, and retain my sanity.

“I soon determined in my mind that I had either fallen, or been hurled down to my present position, from the place where I was first struck down. At first I concluded I had fallen myself, as I remembered to have made

several efforts to get upon my hands and knees, but was baffled each time, and that during this I saw myself near a precipice of rocks, like that brow of the steep near me now, and that I plainly recognized as the same place, and now sixty feet or more above me. My consciousness now fully returned, and with it a painful appreciation of the dreadful tragedies of which my reaching my present situation had formed a part. I grew sick and faint, dizziness shook my brain, and my senses fled. I

again awoke from the delirium, partly standing, and making a desperate effort. I felt the thrill of a strong resolution. ‘I will get up,’ said I, ‘and will walk, or if not I will spend the last remnant of my shattered strength to crawl out of this place.’ I started, and slowly moved toward the rocks above me. I crept, snaillike, up the rock-stepped side of the table-land above me. As I drew near the top, having crawled almost fifty

(See Captivity on Page 12)

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Ned Huddleston

Horse Thief

(From Page 6)

weeks later, with only a few dollars to his name, Dart rode back to Browns Park to try his luck again at stealing horses.

This time it didn't take the law very long to find him and soon he was sitting in the back of a sheriff's buckboard on his way to jail. Fate presented Dart an opportunity for escape when the sheriff's horse bolted, the buckboard turned over, and the sheriff's leg was broken. But rather than leave the sheriff



behind, Dart chose to help the man. He caught the horses, righted the buckboard, took the sheriff to a doctor, and turned himself in at the local jail. The sheriff promised to put in a good word for Dart at his trial and the good deed was rewarded when Dart was

acquitted.

Dart decided to keep to the straight and narrow and became an honest citizen. He even ran for a lawman's position and was elected constable in Sweetwater County, Wyoming, in 1884. He was defeated for re-election the next term and later in 1890 he went to live with the Bassett family of Browns Park and lived a quiet life there for several years.

Dart went to work breaking wild horses. People who watched him work began to call him "The Black Fox". He was an acquaintance of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, who often visited Bassett's ranch, but there is no recorded documentation that Dart ever rode with them.

After years of hard work, Dart finally saved enough money to buy his own ranch. But just as he was getting settled, he ran afoul of bounty hunter and paid killer Tom Horn, who had been employed by local land owners and cattle barons to hunt down cattle rustlers and horse thieves and force them off the land. Horn wasn't one to mess around with legal niceties and as often as not simply shot those who he felt were involved in the rustling business.

Horn accused Dart of the murder of a local citizen named Matt Rash. It is thought that Horn committed the murder and just used Dart as a convenient fall guy. Horn announced that he would deal with the killer and on the morning of October 3, 1900, Dart opened the door of his cabin in Cold Springs, Routt County, Colorado, when two 30-30 bullets from Horn's Winchester smacked into his head and chest, instantly killing him.

Ned Huddleston, alias Isom Dart, was buried in an isolated spot on Cold Spring Mountain, close to his old cabin. The grave is still there today, surrounded by a wooden fence among the aspen trees.

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The ‘Chapel of the Gila’



Courtesy of Pinal County Historical Society

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West-bound Stage


Massacre

(From Page 5)

are best acquainted with the Indian customs believe that he must have fought bravely for his life as he was the only member of the party who was scalped—it being customary with the savages to disfigure the bodies of those who fall while fighting to defend their

lives.”
Most of the baggage was yanked from the coach, but none of it appeared to have been opened except for the bags belonging to Kruger and Miss Sheppard, which were marked with their names. A valise belonging to Adams still contained more than \$8,000 wrap-ped inside a shirt. Smaller amounts of money and jewelry were found in

Shoholm’s suitcase. All of the mailbags had been cut open, but only letters addressed to the Army Quarter-master had been opened.
There were many other facts which seemed strange to the posse. For instance, no trace was ever found of an iron strongbox containing an estimated \$100,000 in Army funds destined for troops stationed in California.
Eyewitnesses stated they saw Kruger place the box on the back of the stage shortly before he boarded the mail coach in Prescott. A small “safe-box” containing a reported \$44,000 be-longing to Miss Sheppard was also missing, as was the stage shovel.
The stage itself had been riddled with bullets on all four sides—seventeen bullet holes, each one “at the proper elevation to perfect the work of a murderer,” yet every one of the vic-tims was found outside the coach.
The newspaper reported that “no clothing had been carried off, nor had blankets, parti-colored rugs nor gay shawls; these were untouched. The weapons were all carried off except one pistol, which was found under the driver’s cushion, but am-munition was left in the wagon. No harness was cut, nor was any strap of leather carried off. The off leader was dead, shot through the shoulder; the other three horses were unharnessed and turned loose with their collars on, and afterward recovered; one of them was found near Wickenburg that night. The harnesses had been taken off and stacked up on the lead-bars and double-trees as if done by some old hostler.”
Some members of the posse remarked that it seemed unusual for Indians not to take such items as booty because the Apaches always placed a great value on horses, leather, blankets and ammunition.
The posse made a camp near the massacre site as the sun went down, and several of its members went to retrieve



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Gunfight in Fort Worth

Luke Short was a gunfighter, gambler and bar owner who had drifted down to Fort Worth, Texas, from Dodge City, Kansas. While in Dodge City, Short had dabbled in gambling, and became friends with several other noted Old West figures such as Bat Masterson, Jim Masterson and Wyatt Earp, who had also become friends with Jim Courtright.

Courtright was at various times was a jailer, deputy sheriff, deputy U.S. Marshal, hired killer, private detective and racketeer. In February 1887, he was the marshal of Fort Worth with a reputation as being fast with a gun.

Some claim that Marshal Courtright was running a protection racket at the time, and needed to make an example of Short, who owned a saloon called the White Elephant, and who also had a sizable reputation as a gunfighter.

Most historians tend to support the claims that Courtright had previously offered his “protection” to the White Elephant, and that Short informed him that he didn’t need his protection. Whatever the case, the two men did not get along.

On February 8, 1887, at about 8:00 p.m., Courtright called Luke Short out of the White Elephant. Courtright reportedly had been drinking. Some words were passed and the two men walked down the street about one block until they were in front of bar and brothel owner Ella Blackwell’s Shooting Gallery Saloon. There, facing one another, Courtright said something in reference to Short’s gun, apparently to give the impression that the inevitable gunfight was in self-defense. Short stated he was not armed, although he was. Short then indicated that Courtright could check for himself, and walking toward Courtright, he opened his vest. When he did so, Courtright said loudly, “Don’t you pull a gun on me!” and quickly drew his pistol.

However, Courtright’s pistol hung on his watch-chain for a brief second, at which time Short pulled his pistol and fired one shot. The bullet

tore off Courtright’s right thumb, rendering him incapable of firing his single-action revolver. As he tried to switch the pistol to his left hand, Short fired at least four more times, killing him.

Short was placed on trial for the shooting, but it was ruled justified self defense, and that was the end of it. The gunfight would become famous, due to the notoriety of both men as

gunmen, and is what both men would become best known for. Unfortunately for Courtright, that fame was posthumous

Short continued his life as a gambler, investing in other saloon interests, and traveling to several other cattle towns over the next five years. He died peacefully in bed in Geuda Springs, Kansas, on September 8, 1893, of congestive heart failure.

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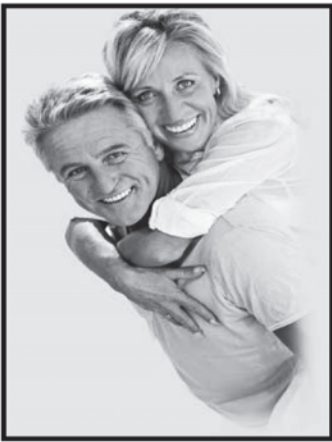
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The Oatman Girls

Captivity

(From Page 7)

feet, I came in sight of the wagon wreck; then the scenes which had been wrought about it came back with horror, and nearly unloosed my hold upon the rocks. I could not look upon those faces and forms, yet they were within a few feet. The boxes, opened and broken, with numerous articles, were in sight. I could not trust my feelings to go further; 'I have misery enough, why should I add fuel to the fire now already consuming me!'

"I turned away, and began to crawl toward the east, round the brow of the hill. After carefully, and with much pain, struggling all the while against faintness, crawling some distance. The hot sun affected me painfully; its burning rays kindled my fever, already oppressive, to the boiling point. I felt a giant determination urging me on. Frequently my weariness and faintness would bring me to the ground several times in a few moments. Then I would crawl aside, (as I did immediately after crossing the river) drag myself under some mountain shrub for escape from the sun, bathe my fevered head in its friendly shade, and lay me to rest. Faint as I was from loss of blood, and a raging inward thirst, these, even, were less afflicting than the meditations and reflections that, unbidden, would at times steal upon my mind, and lash it to a perfect frenzy with agonizing remembrances. The groans of those parents, brothers, and sisters, haunted me with the grim, fiend-like faces of their murderers, and the flourishing of their war-clubs; the convulsive throbs of little Mary Ann would fill my mind with sensations as dreary as if my traveling had been among the tombs.

"O my God!" said I, 'am I alive? My poor father and mother, where are they? And are my sisters alive? or are they suffering death by burning? Shall I see them again?'

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Chapter 3:
Lorenzo is attacked by wolves
In the next issue
of the Territorial News



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"1/3 lb. Burger Mania" \$5.00 w/any side

Tuesday

Taco Plate \$7.95

All U Can Eat!

Saturday & Sunday

12oz. T-Bone or New York Steak Dinner \$11.95

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GIANT PORK TENDERLOIN \$9.95 Available 7 Days a Week

West-bound Stage

Massacre

(From Page 10)

Kruger and Miss Sheppard from their wagon hideout.

The next day, Kruger told the posse his hair-raising story about the ambush. He said Adams had been riding on top of the stage with Lantz while all the others were inside. Those inside were playing a game of Freeze-Out using one of Mollie’s shawls as a table and “warming themselves with wine, and humor.”

A short while later, Dutch John shouted, “Apaches!” Before any of the passengers could react, the stage was riddled with bullets. Bullets came from the front, the right side and at the rear of the coach, Kruger said.

A few of the passengers had been wounded in that first volley. Then all, except Mollie and Kruger, opened the door on the right side of the coach and leapt out—right into a rain of bullets and they were gunned down.

Mollie and Kruger left the coach on the left side of the coach and dashed through the mesquite towards a small dry wash, about three-quarters of a mile away. A few of the at-tackers saw them and shot

rifles at the couple, but, Kruger said, “I kept them at bay by shouting and firing and brandishing my pistol.”

Kruger also fabricated an untrue story about Salmon that angered some of the posse members. So, instead of being brought into

Wickenburg with the others for burial, Salmon’s corpse was thrown into a hastily dug grave at the site.

Despite the claims of miners who were certain that Yavapai Apaches from the

(See Massacre on Page 15)

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GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST	\$7.99
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CHICKEN FRIED STEAK	\$8.99
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Daily Dinner Specials Served After 3:00 pm

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Meat Loaf • Liver & Onions

Tuesday:
Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce
Veal or Chicken Parmesan

Wednesday:
Broasted Chicken
All You Can Eat Fresh-Breaded Cod

Thursday:
“The Original”
Chicken & Dumplings

Friday:
Grilled Lemon Pepper Salmon
All You Can Eat Battered Cod

Saturday:
Broasted Chicken

Sunday:
Roast Whole Turkey & Dressing
Pork Roast & Dressing

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West-bound Stage

Massacre

(From Page 13)

Date Creek Reservation were to blame, many skeptics believed the raid was actually carried out by bandits disguised as Indians.

Fortunately, there were several people who had been at the scene of the attack who were observant and qualified enough to believe that Americans or Mexicans (not Indians) planned and participated in the crime.

C.B. Genung was present when General George Crook visited the area to investigate the incident. Genung said publicly that he believed the Loring massacre was staged by some Mexicans dressed to look like Indians so the tragedy could be blamed on the Apaches.

Another man, J.M. “Crete” Bryan, said he also believed Mexicans were involved. Bryan had a military contract with the Army to haul government freight through the desert to the various Army posts. He said one day before the massacre occurred he had been warned not to ride in the westbound stage. His informant told him he had overheard several Mexicans making plans to rob the stagecoach.

Some writers say that the attack was blamed on the Indians because most Americans in the Territory wanted the Army to send more troops so entrepreneurs could continue with their money-making ventures supplying the military posts. In fact, some people even tried to prevent the publication of any information which could be viewed as being favorable to the Indians.

The clincher occurred in 1916. An old soldier, Berton L. Shipp who was dying in Sacramento, California, made a request that a silver watch fob he had been carrying since 1872 be returned to the family of Frederick W. Loring. The item was monogrammed with the initial “L.” Shipp said he bought the watch fob from a Mexican woman in Wickenburg about three months after the attack on the stage.

“From that day to the present time,” he commented, “I never believed the Indians had a hand in the Wickenburg massacre.”

The approximately \$140,000 taken from the stagecoach was never found. Some people think that the incident was an elaborate setup masterminded by Kruger and aided by Mollie Sheppard to steal the money.

When their wounds had healed, Kruger and Mollie left



Frederick Loring

Arizona Territory for Los Angeles.

A few months later, Capt. Chas. Meinhold, an Army investigating officer at Fort McDowell, talked to a Prescott prostitute who once worked with Mollie Sheppard. She told him that she had seen Kruger talking with some

Mexicans behind the brothel a couple of days before the ill-fated stagecoach departed.

Meinhold also saw to it that Salmon’s body was removed from the massacre site and brought into Wickenburg for a proper burial. The Prescott newspaper duly reported that “this humane and benevolent act was done at the insistence of James Grant, mail contractor, and under the direction of Dr. J. Pierson. The bodies of the six murdered men now rest side

(See Massacre on Page 16)

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