

### EARLY DAY KANSAS BANQUET

**Celebrated the Capture and Death of Horse Thieves.**

**Bodies Dangling From Limbs While Their Captors Indulge in Merry Making.**

One of the most remarkable banquets ever spread in Kansas was given at Wellington in 1874 by John Williamson, of Independence, Mo. The guests of honor were ten men, who lived four days on the single tiny carcass of a jack rabbit. The banquet, although exceedingly merry, had a gruesome association, with three corpses swinging from a cottonwood tree on the lonely banks of State creek. There is a long story connected with it, which is told by a Wichita correspondent of the Kansas City Times.

For four or five years the Southern Kansas State company had a monopoly of the government's business between Wichita and Fort Sill. In the spring of 1874 John Williamson, on behalf of the Southwest Missouri State company, made a bid of \$11,000 for the contract, while the Kansas company's bid was \$17,000. It has always been alleged that the friends of the Southwest Kansas company entered into a conspiracy to compel the Southwest Missouri company to throw up the contract. At any rate, the moment the Southwest Missouri company commenced business 35 head of their horses were stolen from their station at Turkey creek in what is now Oklahoma. Mr. Williamson offered a reward of \$400 for the capture of the thieves.

Ex-Mayor Albert M. Colson, who was the first superintendent of public instruction of Sumner county, was then a young man. One day Dr. Burkett, of Caldwell, hailed Mr. Colson and said: "You are a young fellow that I like, and I'll put you on to a scheme to get that \$400 reward. At 10 o'clock tomorrow morning the thieves will pass Devore's ranch, and if you have a posse there you can take them in."

Colson organized a posse of ten men, with Joe Thralls, now superintendent of the Wellington waterworks, as his leading man. When the men reached Devore's ranch, they found that the thieves had passed there the previous day at 10 o'clock and had taken the Ellsworth trail. The men had no provisions, but they expected to be able to kill a buffalo, and away they went after the thieves. After two days' fasting Colson killed a rabbit, and the ten men divided it and ate it from their fists as they pursued the thieves. Two days more they traveled without being able to get even a rabbit and were about starved when they sighted a party in the Sapd creek valley, in what is now Kingman county. There were only two men in the opposite party, and a remarkable fight ensued that lasted half a day. Over 200 shots were fired and not a man seriously hurt. Finally the superior force raised a flag of truce, and in the parley that followed the remarkable discovery was made that the attacked were innocent buffalo hunters, who thought the attacking party was a band of horse thieves. The hunters then entertained the posse at supper, and those who tried so hard to kill each other during the afternoon parted good friends.

The next day the posse found track of the real thieves, and the latter, finding that they were closely pursued, spread alarm among the farmers and settlers in Sedgwick county by saying they were fleeing from a desperate gang of horse thieves. The settlers believed them and organized to meet and take in the alleged gang. When the pursuers reached the settlements of Sedgwick county, they found themselves surrounded by the farmers, and had it not been for the fact that Colson was known among them he and his friends would have received rough treatment. When mutual explanations were made, the farmers joined the posse and came upon the three robbers, whose leader was "Hurricane Bill." Two of the robbers escaped; the third was wounded and captured. He made a confession, implicating Lawyer Hasbrook, Landlord Calkins of the City hotel, Bill Brooke, Dave Terril and Charlie Smith, all of Caldwell.

Sheriff Davis, of Wellington, organized a posse of 200 men, went to Caldwell and surrounded the town. The above named five men were captured and taken to Wellington. Terril and Calkins were released on habeas corpus, and Brooke, Smith and Hasbrook were placed in jail to await trial. That night the jail was broken open, and the

men were taken out by a vigilance committee and hanged.

#### Mr. Whitney's Gates.

One of the most unique front doors in New York city is the entrance to the new home of William C. Whitney, the treet car magnate and multi-millionaire. The main entrance to the veritable palace which he has erected on Fifth avenue is on Sixty-eighth street. The exterior of the house is gray and quiet, giving no hint of the luxurious interior, but when you see the massive gates through which the portal is reached you feel that many treasures must be hidden behind.

The gates are of iron and bronze, elaborately carved in a most artistic grill work design. They are very old. Originally they swung at the entrance to the famous Doria palace in Italy. They were fashioned hundreds of years ago by the clever artisans of Old Venice. The book agent, peddler or any other uninvited guest who dared to pass those forbidden barriers would be bold indeed.

Behind them a man might resist a mob or even an organized seige. They were made for use in the old baronial days, when every mighty lord was expected to defend his own castle. No robbing borders roam along Fifth avenue in these days, but perhaps Mr. Whitney thinks it best to be prepared for any emergency. It is more probable that he has guarded the entrance to his home with these gates merely as a matter of decoration.

Inside the gates is a vestibule formed of an old stone gateway which came from Florence. Inside are more relics from old palaces. It almost seems as if Mr. Whitney went wandering about Europe rifling old palaces at will. As a matter of fact he did despoil many a historic old pile, but he paid the owners for what he took away in good American gold, and it is likely they were glad to sell. As a result he has probably the most luxurious home in America.

#### Suggestions for the Celebration.

Gold Hill, April 29.

Editor Daily Nugget.

Dear Sir: In view of possible arrangements about to be made for sports on the Queen's birthday, I would like to make a suggestion before completion of the program. Hitherto, sports relative to a mining camp, or in other words sports which the miner is adapted to, have been given almost the go-by, while other wearisome athletic events has crowded the program. In arranging a program of this nature it is not right to have men who have participated in athletic events as a committee.

I might add that the middle and long distance runs could be added to a program to good advantage, there being many long and middle distance runners around Dawson and vicinity, and a race of this nature would naturally be a warm one. With Bert Ford, Fred Thorneer, Montague Martin, Kinsner, Taylor, Fred Atwood, Geo. Russell, Ben Trenneman, Harry Palmer, Arthur Whalley, Al Lillico, Albro Gardner, Larsen Blanck, Ber Fielding, Arthur Taber, Percy Havers and others, I think a good race could be obtained. Trusting these remarks can be used as a timely suggestion, I remain yours respectfully,  
A HAS-BEEN.

#### Dawsonites Can't Help It.

No one who has taken the trouble to scan the average American bill of fare can fail to recognize the importance of the frying pan with us—fried ham or bacon and eggs, fried oysters, fried potatoes, fried steaks and so on. In our ad nauseum seem to be staple articles of food.

What can be done to lessen the fried food nuisance? Perhaps nothing so long as present conditions exist, so long as the highest ideal of the people is to accumulate dollars rather than to develop and preserve healthy bodies which shall be the servants of healthy minds. Yet if those who teach physiology in our public and other schools understood their subject and its practical applications as they should; if there were more schools in which wholesome economical cookery were taught as it should be; if physicians took every opportunity to impress such facts of practical hygienic importance, as they should, there can be no doubt that by some sensible and well informed people the fried abominations would be avoided.—Philadelphia Medical Journal.

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### WHITEHORSE TO THE FORE.

**Extensive Copper Plant Going Up at That Point.**

**Ore Will Be Matted and Sent to San Francisco for Refinement—Ore Assays \$25 in Gold.**

All the travel from Dawson on the opening of navigation will not, by any means, be down the river. There is a large number here who expects to go up the river as soon as opportunity presents, but not on to the outside. They propose stopping at Whitehorse, which new town gives promise of offering the best inducements of any point in the interior.

If for no other reason than that it is the point at which rail and steamer will meet—the southern terminal of Yukon navigation and the northern terminal for railway transportation—it would be a good site for business; but Whitehorse is to be the seat of extensive copper furnaces and reducing works. The vast copper mines which are located near there and which, it has been proven, are rich beyond conception, are to be developed at once in a substantial manner.

Already the preliminary steps for starting the big industry are being taken, as the following from the Alaskan will verify.

The first copper working plant of the north is to be put in at Whitehorse at the opening of navigation by Fraser & Chalmers, the big Chicago mining and manufacturing firm. They will put in a matting furnace there with a capacity of ten tons a day.

The company has so notified A. De Roux, the mining engineer of Skagway, and asked him to make preliminary investigations with regard to the establishment of a big copper smelter at the most economical point in this district for the working of the products of the Whitehorse mines.

Mr. De Roux will leave Skagway next week to look over the interior field. The machinery for the matting furnace is expected to be in here July 1.

The copper of the Fraser & Chalmers Company at Whitehorse, says Mr. De Roux, assays from 52 to 72 per cent, and also runs as high as \$25 to the ton in gold. The company hopes to prove with the matting furnace the virtue of the field at large, and is so well pleased already that it has instructed me to make investigations to ascertain the most economical point for the establishment of a smelter. The matter of transportation, the nearest point at which coal and fluxes can be had the cheapest, and the most advantageous location in other regards is to be considered. I shall go to Whitehorse next week to look into the matter. Then, no doubt all indications being favorable, after my report has been submitted, the company will send out one of its regular employed home experts to go over the ground. We cannot expect to see a smelter established in a day. They are costly institutions and the original expenses of their construction run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

It seems that from what I have learned flux and coal cannot be had in the interior, and it will be more economical to have a smelter at this point where such material can be brought in by sea, and the ore can be brought in by cars. The mines of the company are but a few miles from the northern or Whitehorse terminus of the White Pass & Yukon railroad.

The matting furnace which the company is going to put in this summer will cost probably \$500,000 laid down at Whitehorse. This furnace is intended only to reduce the ore to a mat, in which form it will be shipped to San Francisco for refinement. However, the matting furnace is a smelter on a small scale. The smelter at Tacoma, one of the biggest and most costly on the coast, will not refine ore. It simply produces the mat which has to go elsewhere for refinement.

The matting furnace at Whitehorse will employ only eight or ten men, but the smelter that is in prospect will, if established, give work to a small army of men.

Fraser & Chalmers, should they put in a smelter, will not do outside work. They will confine themselves strictly to the working of the output of their own copper properties.

The firm of Fraser & Chalmers is the largest in the manufacture of mining machinery in the world. The members of the firm are also heavy mine operators in various parts of the world, among their interests being some in the Transvaal. Mr. Chalmers is the chief owner in the Poor Man mine in the Coeur d'Alenes.

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