

# THE DAILY KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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## A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY

### John La Ghrist Shoots Three Lead Bullets Into His Wife.

### URNS THE PISTOL AND PLANTS A PELLET IN HIS BRAIN

### His Wife Preferred the Companionship and Love of Another Man.

### She Had Purchased a Ticket for Nome to Join Her Amour, When She Was Confronted Last Night By Her Forsaken Husband, Who Had Just Arrived From the Outside--Three Children Survive Their Parents' Disgrace--Wounded Wife Has Good Chance for Recovering--Suicide Will Rest in Potter's Field.

Dawson's annual attempt at murder and suicide, both preceding ones having been successfully carried out, has been made for 1900.

Each year since Dawson has been a town the promptings of a jealous heart has caused some man to murder the object of his erstwhile love and temporary hatred, and then turn upon himself the weapon of destruction and end his life. In all three attempts of this kind within a period of two years, the latter part of the program has been successful, and in the two former cases, the woman has been killed. The latest attempt in this line of tragedy was, however, a deviation from the former program as in this case the woman, although shot in no less than three places, still lives, with fair chances for recovery. Her would-be murderer was more accurate in his own case, and his lifeless clay now remains of what was but yesterday a live and passion-animating man.

Yesterday evening about 6:45 o'clock people who were near the alley which runs between and parallel with First and Second avenues, heard a number of pistol shots fired in rapid succession,

and glancing along the alley to a point almost directly in the rear of the Pioneer saw a woman half running and half crawling along the street, and a man standing in the door or on the doorstep of a board shack which adjoins the alley near that particular place. When persons attracted by the shots hastened to the scene they found the woman lying in the alley, and at the same time the man retreated into the shack, closing the door after him. Sergeant Wilson, of the police, and one or two of the constables were soon upon the scene. A number of men made a rush for the shack, but were warned by an officer that there might be danger of bullets coming out through the door. This had the effect of causing them to fall back, when the officer approached the door and started to open it he found that the man's body was lying on the floor and against the door. He pushed the door open and entered to find the man unconscious, having turned the pistol upon himself, holding it well up on his left temple and firing one bullet through his hat and skull, into his brain.

In the meantime the woman had been carried to the Good Samaritan hospital, where an examination of her wounds were made, which revealed the fact that she had been hit by the three shots, one of which took effect in her right arm, another slightly penetrating and tearing one of her breasts, and the third passing through the right side of her neck. The wounds were hastily dressed and in five minutes after she was removed from the examination table, on which she was all the time conscious of what was going on, it was occupied

by him who had attempted her life and afterwards succeeded in numbering the minutes of his own. Drs. Duncan and Simpson made a hasty examination of the self-inflicted wound and saw at once that death was imminent. They were right, for, after three hours' heavy breathing during which time he never regained consciousness, the destroyer of his own life passed away.

Who was the man and who was the woman? were questions which were probably asked one thousand times before the tragedy was 15 minutes old.

The latter question was more easily answered than the former. The woman was known as Mrs. Madden, who came here in August, 1898, with Hugh Madden from Glenora on the Sticking, where they had resided since the previous March, and had since lived here with Madden as his wife until he went to Nome over the ice, she having all arrangements completed to sail on the Merwin to join him; but the troubles at the time of the date set for that steamer's starting on the trip caused the woman to decide to wait for a later steamer, and only yesterday she purchased a ticket on the steamer J. C. Bar on which, having had her baggage placed aboard yesterday evening, she intended passing the night in her stateroom when she had left not more than 30 minutes before the attempt on her life. While on the examination table at the hospital last night, being aware that her journey to Nome as a passenger on the Bar would not be accomplished, she had the forethought to arrange for having her baggage brought ashore, telling where the checks for it could be found.

At a coroner's inquest conducted this morning by Magistrate Starnes, the mystery of the tragedy was cleared up, and the identity of the dead would-be murderer and suicide, and his relation to the unfortunate woman fully established by a long and somewhat rambling letter which he had prepared some time yesterday, as the letter bore the date "Dawson, June 7th, 1900." The letter, which embraced language which precludes its being printed, states that the woman is the wife of its writer, John La Ghrist; that they were married at Hamilton, Ontario, in 1876 and that the fruit of their marriage was four children, two daughters now in Boston, one son in Toronto and one son who died in infancy; that the fall of 1897 the husband and wife were both seized with a strong desire to come to the Klondike and in order to gratify that desire, sold their property in Hamilton, La Ghrist staying to settle up the business, his wife coming on to Vancouver there to wait until his arrival; that while in Vancouver she conducted a disreputable house, and met and began living with Hugh Madden, refusing to longer live with her husband when he arrived on the scene; that in the spring of '98 Madden and Mrs. La Ghrist went to Glenora, where the woman again ran a house of prostitution, coming with Madden to Dawson in the fall of '98, where they have since lived.

The letter further states the intention of the writer to attempt to persuade the woman to return to him and resume wifely relations, and that in case she refused then he would kill both her and Madden; that the letter was being written in order that, if anything happens to me it will fall into the hands of the officers of the law.

From the wording of the letter it is evident that La Ghrist intended, in case his pleadings with his wife to return to him were of no avail, to kill her and then himself.

It is not thought at the time he wrote the letter that he knew of Madden's having gone to Nome, as, after arriving in a small boat from Bennett with two or three other men on the 6th, the party had stopped in a tent near the Sister's hospital and La Ghrist had not been up town until yesterday afternoon.

The dead man, when seen at the Good Samaritan hospital, presented the appearance of being a man not over 45 years of age, well formed and vigorous, weighing perhaps 170 pounds; his complexion was dark and his face rather French in appearance, he wore a dark mustache and had been recently shaved; his hands presented the appearance of those of a working man.

After viewing the remains and hearing the evidence presented, the coroner's jury rendered a verdict to the effect that decessal came to his death by a shot fired by his own hands, the bullet from a .32 calibre pistol penetrating the brain. Jurors were: C. S. Burwell, foreman; W. J. S. Bennett, G. C. Al-

lenger J. F. Brewster, T. Lowe and W. Lowe.

La Ghrist came to Dawson last fall in an attempt to reclaim his wife when, it is stated, Madden bought him off for \$1500, the husband leaving alone for the outside on one of the late steamers last fall.

The wounded woman says that when she met her husband yesterday he asked her to return with him to the outside and they would go to Australia and begin their life anew, she demurred. He then asked her for money and she again demurred. According to her statement, La Ghrist then pulled his pistol and at once began firing.

The woman is at the Good Samaritan hospital, where she is resting easily, and, unless complications arise, has, the physicians state, an excellent chance to recover.

Except a few pieces of silver, less than \$5, the dead man had no money on his person. The body will be buried tomorrow in the potter's field.

#### Coming and Going.

An interesting sight is now to be observed by anyone going along the beach near the bridge. Scows are arriving and departing at frequent intervals, those from above loaded with merchandise and those going down usually with live-stock and a large number of men. One of the latter left this morning with 11 men and two horses. The scow was rigged schooner-fashion. She is bound for St. Michael.

#### A Dog Gone Place.

The C. D. Co. send all their dogs up river in the summer time to an island in Lebarge called Dog Island. There are but two men there and fully 200 canines. Nets are spread in the lake and the fish obtained are fed to them. The company also has another reserve near Cetele where mail dogs are kept, these are to be all sent up the river to join the Lebarge colony.

#### Sargent at Taggish.

C. S. Sargent, of Sargent & Pinska, has been heard of at Taggish where he was reported with a scow load of merchandise coming down the river. He is expected in Dawson on the 15th instant.

#### Royalty Travels Incog.

Not wishing to court notoriety on his way to Dawson, Count Carboneau, who was a passenger on the Ora from Whitehorse Wednesday night, traveled under the modest name of plain "Mr. Des Long Champs." He was around calling on his old friends yesterday.

#### Whitehorse Growing.

Mr. Arthur E. Maynard, formerly paying teller in the Canadian Bank of Commerce in this city, and who went to Whitehorse to fill a similar position for the big financial institution in its new bank at that place, was a passenger on the Ora Wednesday evening, having come down on a hurried business trip. He says that as yet Whitehorse is not much of a place, but that there is every indication that the place will have assumed the proportions of a young city before the end of the summer.

Mr. Maynard says the first train will run into Whitehorse today and that from now on that will be an active and busy place. Mr. Maynard will return to Whitehorse within the next few days.

#### Select Dinner Party.

Col. and Mrs. Wiggins, Miss Spencer and Mr. Hastings, of the A. C. Co., were the guests of honor last evening at a dinner given at the McDonald hotel by Mr. and Mrs. G. K. French. The others present were Capt. and Mrs. Starnes, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. French, Mrs. McDonald and Lieut. Col. Hemming.

Newly opened—Mrs. West's ice cream and confectionery parlors.

The liquors are the best to be had at the Regina.

Fresh eggs just arrived. Mohr & Wilkens.

The only first-class market in the city is the Denver Market.

## WON BY SINCLAIR

### Glove Contest at the Orpheum Attracts a Good-Sized Crowd.

### BOTH MEN WERE IN GOOD FORM

### And Made the "Go" Brisk and Lively While It Lasted.

### COOPER FOULED HIS MAN,

### And the Referee Gave the Decision to Sinclair in the Seventh Round.

At the Orpheum last night Billy Cooper and "Caribou" Sinclair were matched in a ten-round go. The affair was pulled off successfully and a splendid exhibition was given. The fiasco in which Dick Case and McKenzie appeared recently had a great deal to do with the lack of interest displayed by the people in the event, although a fairly well filled house witnessed the go. Both men evidently went in to win from the start, with Caribou the aggressor. All the work of the men was done with their lefts only an occasional right being delivered.

Round by round was contested fiercely by both men, Caribou showing up better in each round until finally in the seventh he was given the decision owing to a palpable foul by Cooper, who it is believed delivered the blow in a clinch knowingly as he realized he could not win and thus saved himself from a knockout.

It was noticed that Caribou has improved won't fully in his style of fighting, but has poor judgment in delivery, otherwise he would have had his man in lullaby town in the first few rounds. Cooper did the best he could and made the hit of the night in the first round, landing on Caribou a straight left which brought the blood from his nose much to his discomfort. Several times during the contest Caribou was fouled, the onlookers yelling and directing the attention of the referee to the fact. He warned Cooper several times, until the last, which was so palpable that he gave the decision as noted above.

Geo. L. Graham acted as referee with Tidball official timekeeper. Geo. O. Willice and the Colorado Kid challenged the winner, the latter being backed by Eddie O'Brien.

Time was called at 12:15.

Round 1.—Caribou led and landed left on jaw, again leading and landing, then upper-cutting and clinching, following with four left swings, all landing with more or less force on jaw. Cooper came back with left landing heavily on nose and drawing blood; then swinging and missing as time was called.

Round 2.—Cooper led driving in left and right on jaw, then two stiff left jolts. Caribou swung and missed twice, then delivered a left swing and clinched. At breaking Sinclair got in a straight right on wind and had Cooper going but was too rattled to follow his advantage. He followed soon.

(Continued on page 4.)

## Ladue Co.

Has received its beautiful Calendars for 1900 and cordially invite the people of Dawson and vicinity to call and select one for their homes.

## Fine Groceries

Our Stock Is Still Complete

### ..Steam Fittings..

A full line has been brought in over the ice. Special prices in quantities.

## Bar Glassware

A Choice Selection

## Ladue Co.

## ARCTIC SAWMILL

Removed to Mouth of Hunker Creek, on Klondike River.  
Sawing, Flume & Mining Lumber  
Offices: At Mill, at Upper Ferry on Klondike River and at Boyle's Wharf

J. W. BOYLE

## Townsend & Rose

The Leading

## ..Tobacconists

Have removed from their former location on Second Avenue, to their

### NEW STORE....

First Ave. Next to Madden House

Club Rooms Attached

This week we offer...

**Ladies' Shirt Waists**  
Fancy and plain patterns, all sizes, daintily made, at \$3

**Ready Made Skirts.**  
Correctly cut, allowing them to hang gracefully and the right length.

**Clothing, Gents' Furnishing AND Seitz' Famous Shoes.**  
2nd Street, Opp. Bank of B.N.A.

"If You Bought It At Parsons It Must Be Good."

## FRESH GOODS

FANCY ELGIN CREAMERY BUTTER

\$1.25 a Two Pound Tin.

The Ames Mercantile Co. F. JANSEN Res. Manager