

THE GOLD SEEKERS.

A Romance of Early Times Brought Down to the Present Day in the Mountains of Wyoming Territory—A Blood Record.

The discovery of the bodies of eight Mexican prospectors at the mouth of the abandoned San Salvador mine in the northern part of Wyoming, has brought to light a romantic story, rivaling all the tales about seekers for Capt. Kidd's buried treasures. Miguel Martinez, at the head of a party of his countrymen was here last fall for two days. They confided to a Mexican gambler here that they were in search of an abandoned gold mine which they believed to be rich in the metal, and were going to develop. Martinez carried a chart traced on parchment, which they said was 200 years old and which was made by an ancestor of his in the seventeenth century. The chart had been lost for years but recently turned up, and at once the party was organized. The story that had run through the family for generations was that Martinez, the elder, was at the head of a band of Spanish gold hunters, who were working a rich mine somewhere in this part of the country. The miners quarreled and finally fought, and their fight resulted in the abandonment of the mine, though it was very rich. Martinez was wounded and died on the way home. With his blood he traced the chart which was to be a legacy to his children. A faithful friend delivered the document, which soon afterward was lost, and but recently turned up. Martinez, the descendant, was told of two mines up north that mineralogists have declared were worked by the Spaniards hundreds of years ago. His party was not heard of again till now, when a hunter named Keller reported that his party had discovered their bodies. All of the Mexicans had been shot and somewhat carved up by knives, showing that the struggle was a hand to hand one. There were evidences that the victorious party had lost three or four men and that they had made a hasty departure, carrying their dead and wounded with them. What surprised the hunters most was to find that the mines had recently been worked. It is not known that a pick-axe had touched it since two men starved to death there in 1877. Many believe here that the Mexicans located their ancient mine and were killed while urging their claim. There is reason to think, however, San Salvador was not the mine described on their chart, and that the murderers have taken the map and gone off to locate the ancient mine. The fact that the Mexicans' horses and tools were taken, and that their jewelry and some money was not removed from their bodies seems to prove this. Keller says that there was every indication that the San Salvador mine was paying, and believes that the mine sought for by the Mexicans is not far from the other, and is known to the party who were at work. No one here knows who the murderous prospectors were, and as the region in which the events occurred is almost inaccessible, it is not likely that any one will start to work the old mine and bury the Mexicans before spring.

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GOLDEN RULE—Twenty-one members, Stutte's New York Theater Company; L E Ray, Portland; Samuel Hall, Heppner; W Bentley, Wadner, Idaho; J M Walker, Centerville; M Flerchinger; C W Kroff; Jas P Thrasher, Flora Thrasher, F N Smith, Ridge; J B Krombach, J C Binbender, J A Mills, Juniper; H Lighthiser and family, Arkansas; C B Davis, Latah, W T; Samuel Atkinson; J W Jennings; L Dougherty and family; W E Wood; J R Dougherty; E M Platt; J M Matthews; R P Madden, La Grande.

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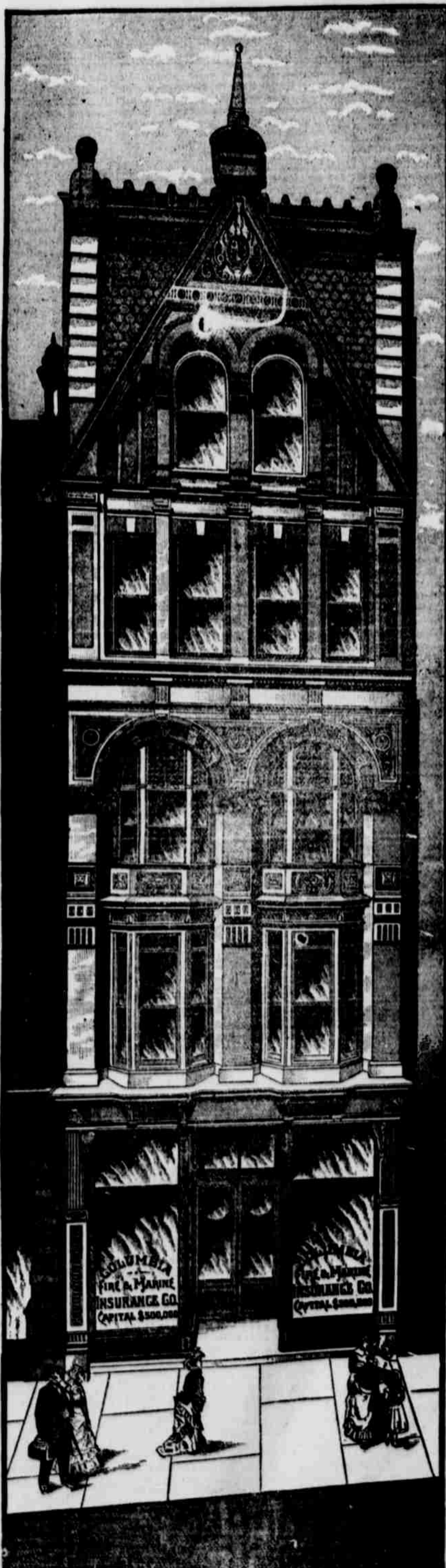
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