

# SENSATIONAL EVIDENCE UNCOVERED

## An Old Case in Modoc County, Cal., Reopened.

As ex-Judge George F. Harris stepped out of the little brick jail at Alturas this week, says the San Francisco Examiner and stamped moodily across the clover field in which the building stands, he looked as though he were going to make life a wild nightmare of misery for somebody, and it was pretty generally agreed among the bystanders that there was trouble ahead for Harrington, Judge of the Superior Court of Modoc county. The bystanders seem to have been right; for already Harris has begun a campaign he threatens to pursue to the everlasting undoing of the man on the bench. Something picturesque may be expected of Modoc under the circumstances. Modoc is never commonplace, Harrington has a deep notch in his gun, Harris has an occasion handled a knife with the deftness of a Corsican, and—well, anyhow, the feud now on promises Bret Haite developments, especially in view of the fact that Harris says a murder charge against Harrington will be revived in a fashion which will make the Judge hustle for liberty.

Harris is riled because Harrington put him in that jail amidst the clover, and he won't be happy till he can stand on the outside, whittling a stick and asking Harrington how it feels to be behind the bars. Everybody who loiters about the little brick building whistles sticks and chats with the prisoners.

The trouble is an aftermath of the Lookout lynchings. They used to be close friends—Harris and Harrington, but the train of events following the night affair on the Pitt has driven them apart. Harrington went in, hammer and tongs, to have the lynchings indicted by a Grand Jury, and indictments were found against three suspects. Harris

I will further state that new evidence of a sensational character bearing on the killing of Joe Frank by Harrington has been uncovered—evidence which, in my opinion will lead to the conviction of the assassin. Just wait.

The Joe Frank incident has been a favorite topic with Raker, the associate of Harris, ever since Harrington took a strong stand against the Lookout lynchings. Raker is the gentleman who while the Grand Jury was investigating the lynchings was in frequent consultation with the suspects and devoted himself to bullying court and neighborhood in the interest of the cowardly criminals responsible for the hangings.

Six years ago Harrington shot to death a saloon-keeper named Frank. Raker became attorney for Harrington.

"It's a mighty good thing for the— that my mouth is shut by professional ethics," said Raker, recently. "I can't talk about that case, because I was his counsel, but if ever there was a coldblooded murder—the killing of Joe Frank was one. Harrington was never regularly on trial. There were Grand Jury inquiries but I handled things for him and he pulled through without indictment. Of course I can't say anything under the circumstances—attorneys and client, you know—but that self-defense story—bah!"

Modoc is queer when it comes to lawyers. There are so few attorneys up there that each of them gets a turn at wearing the ermine and every case that's worth while brings the entire bar into court in full war paint. To-day some of the learned gentlemen have their heads together in the most brotherly fashion and are associated in the possession of inside knowledge of this or that client; to-morrow each will be seeking another's scalp.

Take Harrington, Harris and Raker, for instance.

Harris was on the bench when Harrington eliminated Joe Frank from the population of Alturas. He ran his court with a great deal of dignity well moistened with hard liquor, and as Harrington was dignified and a Kentuckian the two got along very well together, and whenever Harris adjourned the hearing of a case in order to reduce the visible supply of distilled optimism ten chances to one Harrington folded some legal document



The above is an exact reproduction of the badge worn by members of the National Editorial Association at their meeting at Buffalo. It is made from type metal and electrolyzed so that it can be mounted on wood and used for printing purposes. When worn it hangs by rings from a blue leadpencil. Its meaning is significant to the fraternity.

went in for defending the indicted men and for liberating Albert L. Colburn, a witness held in prison as assurance that he would be on hand to testify against them. Associated with Harris has been and is John E. Raker. Harris and Raker filed in Harrington's court a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the matter of the imprisoned witness, and the language of the petition was such that Harrington deemed it contemptuous and ordered both attorneys to be committed to jail. Raker escaped to San Francisco and Harris crossed the clover patch and looked out where the loiters whittled and whittled through the long, sweet summer days. Raker sued out a writ of habeas corpus and the Supreme Court told the Sheriff of Modoc to turn Harris loose, which he forthwith did.

Harris felt his dignity fearfully hurt by the stay in jail. He has been District Attorney of Modoc, he had occupied the bench Harrington now holds. To be in jail in the bailwick he had so adorned was hard.

"Now, see here," said the ex-Judge yesterday in his office at Alturas, the trouble with Harrington is that he has a political bee in his bonnet, and has been so misled by the flattery of detectives and prosecutors that he has started out to crowd things in a biased way in this Lookout matter. But he shall not crowd ME with impunity. So far as I am concerned I shall seek redress in the courts for the false imprisonment imposed on me, and the complaint to that end has been drawn and in due time will be filed.

and sallied forth to clink glass with him and murmur courtly compliments across crystal brims with what old Colonel Thompson of the Modoc "Plaindealer" calls "that soft Southern accent, suh."

When Harrington put aside his smoking gun, six years ago, he turned to his friend Raker, and Raker "saw him through." They were chums for a long time afterwards; but there came a day when they quarreled and ever since then Raker has gone about pointing his thumb significantly backward to the passing of Joe Frank. After Harrington went on the bench Raker made the Superior Court a place of bullying impudence and gave to Modoc many and many a disgraceful scene.

Harris and Raker are men of very different stamps. They have not been real friends at any time, and once Harris took a little liberty with Raker's throat which somewhat strained their relations. It appears that in course of a trial Raker said something which annoyed Harris, whereupon Harris threw aside his law books and proceeded to cut Raker's throat in open court.

Now Raker and Harris are associated in defending the men accused of being the leaders of the Lookout lynchings, and Harrington has taken up the Raker cry about Joe Frank.

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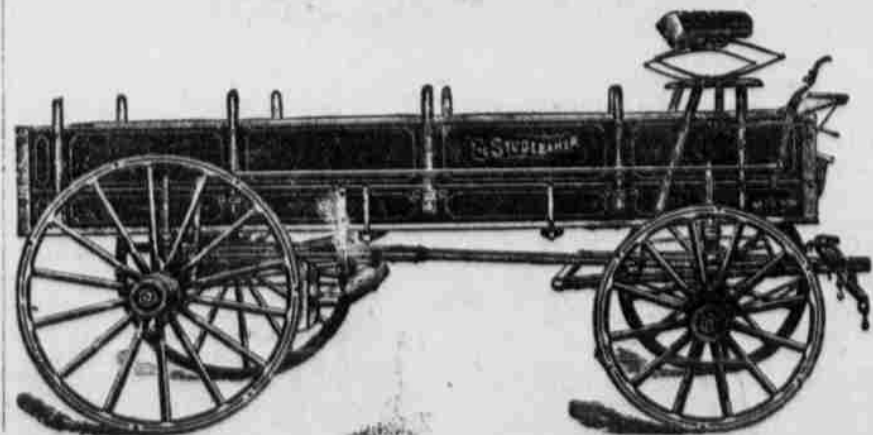
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