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THE CHRISTENING OF MASSACRE LAKE

Col. Thompson Relates Former Tragedy in High Rock Canyon

Atlas Plaindealer: The recent murder of the Sunrise Valley stock men by a band of outlaw Indians, brings to mind the fact that it is not the first tragedy that has been enacted in that gloomy canyon. Long ago before the axe of white man woke the echoes in the valleys of Modoc there was another compared to which the massacre of the stockmen sunk into insensibility. That was way back in the late forties or early fifties, we have forgotten the exact date.

High rock canyon may be said to be real freak of nature. To give the reader an adequate idea of its gloomy grandeur, one must imagine an elevated plateau. Through the center of this the earth has split open as if some Titan's sabre had cleft it asunder with one mighty stroke. The canyon is about 20 miles long, with almost perpendicular sides from 500 to 1000 feet high, in width it varies from ten feet to a hundred yards or more.

Through this canyon for a distance of twenty miles passes the old emigrant road leading from the Humboldt river to Southern Oregon and Northern California, and traveled by emigrants during the late forties and early fifties. In 1850, if we are rightly informed, a large party of emigrants consisting of men, women and child on with their wagons started through this gorge. The numerous pieces of iron, parts of whesis, broken tires, etc., scattered from one end to the other tell the pitiful story of the hardships, trials and dangers of that awful journey. Here they were beset by a swarm of Indians inhabiting that country in the early days.

Some years ago the writer was returning from a trip in the north-eastern part of Nevada, and had occasion to pass through High rock canyon. Travelling on horseback and without company, the many evidences of that ill fated journey were every where seen along the trail. With these evidences of ruin scattered about, and the remembrance of the fate of the ill-starred train, a feeling of loneliness crept over me as I wound my way through the canyon. Not a sound broke the stillness of these everlasting vaults of nature, and the only living object to be seen was an occasional coyote as he slid away through the rocks or the spae a too of a rattlesnake as it suddenly woke me from my reverie. In very desperation of loneliness I cried aloud and the violence came back in a thousand reverberations, and died away among the cliffs of that mighty chasm.

Again imagination peopled those dizzy heights with a swarm of leaping, howling naked devils—I could again hear the wizz of the bullets and the swish, swish of the speeding arrows. I could see the stern, set features of those rough bearded men as they rapidly loaded and fired their rifles, and I could see the women, pale and trembling. But there were no tears. The heroic pioneer women were cast in a different mold. Only a slight quivering of the lips as they yet more tightly pressed their babes to their bosom and murmured a prayer.

Here I could find the remains of rock breastworks thrown up to shelter the women and children. A little further on the sides of the canyon close in, leaving barely room for the wagons to pass through. To proceed while those frowning heights are occluded by yelling demons is impossible and to attempt it is certain destruction. They must be driven off. The more active men, leaving others behind the breastworks must make the attempt. Up these almost impassible walls, in the face of a shower of bullets and arrows, they clamber. The heights once gained and the Indians driven off they stand guard while the wagons pass through the gap. Again the walls recede and that heroic band struggle on, fighting as they go. And yet again the walls lose in. The wagons are corraled, rock breastworks thrown up, the heights cleared, and they slinger on. Bounding over rocks and boulders, a wagon is broken down. Old Irons indicate the spot. A few necessaries are taken out and thrown into an other and the struggle is resumed. The wounded are placed upon beds in the wagons, and the dead are hastily buried.

How long this devoted band of pioneers were passing through these "gates of hell" only they who have passed over the river to the white walled city of God can tell. We only know that they finally escaped from the "jaws of death" and staggered on to the plateau at the head of the canyon. A few miles further on they camped at a spring on the side of a mountain, overlooking a lake. I can imagine with what security they lay

CHANGE IN RULES OF EXAMINATIONS

Applicants for Teachers' Certificates Will Be Examined in June

EUGENE, March 10.—A competitive qualifying examination, to be held at the University of Oregon on Thursday and Friday, April 6 and 7, will determine Senator Chamberlain's appointment from the state at large of a cadet to West Point. The competition is open to every young man in the state who comes within the age limit. That candidate who passes the highest test in this qualifying examination will receive the appointment. The appointee will have to report to the Presidio in California on Tuesday, May 2, for the official examination of the government. If successful, he will be admitted to the Academy at West Point June 14, 1911.

In both the qualifying examinations at the University, and in the final examinations at the Presidio, the subjects for examination will include the following studies: Algebra, Plane Geometry, English Grammar, English Composition and English Literature, Geography, and History. In addition, a strict physical examination will be required.

Candidates must not be less than seventeen, nor more than twenty years of age, nor less than five feet four inches in height at the age of seventeen, or five feet five inches in height at the age of eighteen and upwards.

All candidates for the appointive examination should present themselves at the University administrative office at 8 o'clock on the first day of the examinations, Thursday, April 6, 1911.

FLAT SALARY FOR OREGON'S PRINTER

Effort to Have New Law Go Into Effect Immediately

SALEM, March 7.—Petitions for the enactment of the state printer's flat salary law passed by the legislature at its late session to make the law operative immediately instead of after January 1, 1915, will be started simultaneously in different parts of the state within a few weeks. Copies of the proposed amendment are now being prepared and will be ready for distribution within a short time. The amendment to the flat salary enactment will be simple. It will merely replace that section of the act which provides that the flat salary shall not go into effect until January 1, 1915, with another section providing that the state printer shall go on a flat salary at once.

The act can, of course, not be voted upon by the people until November, 1912, and cannot go into effect until a vote of the measure is canvassed after the general election in November. Those behind the movement say that sentiment is very strong against postponing putting the printer on a flat salary for four years and that little difficulty will be experienced in getting names for the proposed initiative petition. The state board under the act passed by the legislature is already authorized to begin negotiations for acquiring a printing plant.

ATTACKS SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

A severe attack on school principal, Chas. B. Allen, of Sylvania, Ga., is thus told by him. "For more than three years," he writes, "I suffered indescribable torture from rheumatism, liver and stomach trouble and diseased kidneys. All remedies failed till I used Electric Bitters, but four bottles of this wonderful remedy cured me completely." Such results are common. Thousands bless them for curing stomach trouble, female complaints, kidney disorders, biliousness, and for new health and vigor. Try them. Only 50c at A. L. Thornton's.

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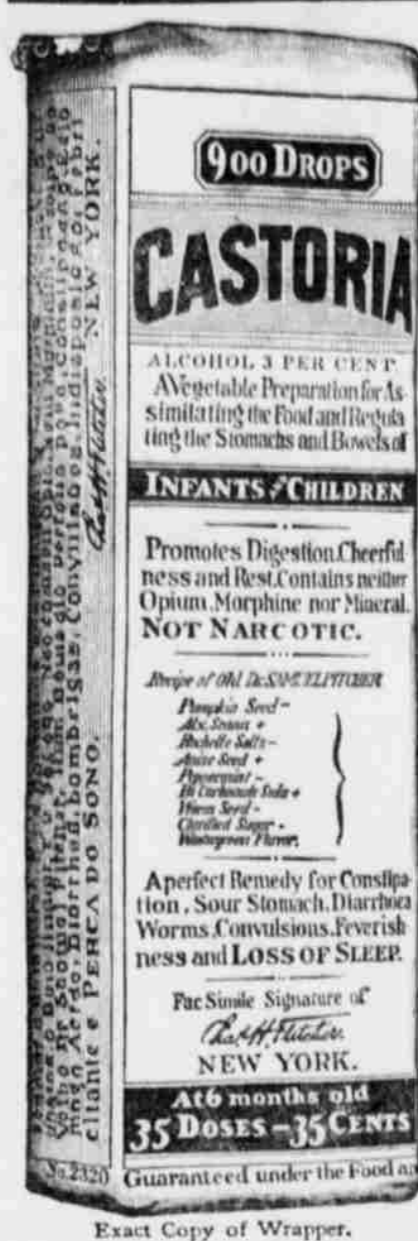
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