

ARIZONA CHAMPION.

Vol. II.

FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA TERRITORY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1885.

WHOLE No. 104.

WEEKLY CHAMPION.

A. E. FAY, Editor.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

The CHAMPION is entered at the Flagstaff Postoffice as second-class matter.

TERMS: One Year, \$5.00; Six Months, \$3.00.

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LEAVE ARRIVE

3.40 a.m. Albuquerque 11.00 p.m.

8.30 a.m. Coolidge 6.00 "

9.22 " Wingate 5.30 "

9.48 " Gallup 5.00 "

10.26 " Huelmo 4.22 "

1.24 p.m. Holbrook 12.05 p.m.

3.09 " Winslow 9.15 "

6.01 " Flagstaff 7.00 "

7.30 " Williams 7.00 "

10.00 " Ash Fork 5.20 "

2.00 a.m. Peach Springs 2.00 "

3.00 " Hackberry 12.50 a.m.

4.25 " Kingman 9.15 "

7.30 a.m. Ar. The Needles Lv. 9.00 "

2.00 m. Lv. The Needles Ar. 4.10 "

9.30 p.m. Mohave 3.30 p.m.

2.40 " Ar. S. Francisco Lv. 9.30 "

7.55 a.m. " Los Angeles " 5.15 p.m.

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DANCE OF THE MOQUIS.

Red Revelers who Reel with Rabid, Rattling Reptiles.

An Interesting Account of the Barbarous Scene Furnished by an Eye-Witness.

[Special Correspondence CHAMPION.]

"Are you going to the 'snake dance?' " was the salutation from nearly every man we met for days and weeks before the date that this great event was to take place.

Well, we concluded to take it in, and being joined by that famous pioneer photographer, Ben Whittock, of Fort Wingate, New Mexico, our preparations soon made, a supply of grub laid in, our trusty team hitched up, and with the usual "good bye's" Flagstaff was soon left behind.

Our course lay north-east. After crossing the Little Colorado river, struck out for the Moquis Batters, over a long stretch of desert and sand hills, the heat perfectly terrible and water very scarce. But former experience had taught us that we must carry water for use on these desert wastes. On we toiled through the burning sand, with naught to break the monotony but an occasional Navajo "Hogan," which was indeed a welcome sight. The Navajos occupy a large belt of country, lying between the Little Colorado river and the Moquis Reservation. The next place of note on our route was Co Mah's Springs. Co Mah is a well-to-do Navajo Indian, located at the springs that bear his name. He sits there like a prince, surrounded by his bands of horses and burros, and flocks of sheep and goats, with an apparent surplus of squaws and dogs. Here we refilled our water barrels and pushed on for Moqui, and that evening as the sun sank behind the San Francisco mountains we reached an eminence from which we had a beautiful view of the three most noted Moqui towns ten miles away. Late as was the hour we did not halt till well under the walls of the ancient citadel. Weary and worn we threw ourselves upon our blankets and was soon lost in sleep, dreaming of the great event that was to take place on the morrow. At early dawn we were astir taking in the situation, and after an early breakfast at camp, we began the ascent to the cities on the rock.

The towns of Hual-pi, Chi-chum-ovy and Ta-wa are located near each other, upon the summit of an almost perpendicular rock, seven hundred and eighty feet above the plain, and is reached by a series of stairways, in some instances cut in the solid rock. After a long and tiresome climb the summit was reached, where we were met by Dr. Jeremiah Sullivan, who welcomed us in his true western style and his hospitality we enjoyed during our stay at the Moquis. From Dr. Sullivan was gained much valuable information about this strange people. At first everything looks repulsive, but soon one gets accustomed to the surroundings, and you can see at a glance that these people are happier and better fixed than the roaming nomads of the plains. Their houses are substantially built of stone and mud, and are from one to three stories in height. Many of the houses are plastered inside and out and some are whitewashed, which gives them rather a neat appearance. In most cases the entrance is from the roof which is reached by ladders, and are quaint looking affairs at best.

The Indians do not all take part in the snake dance. Those who do are banded together something after the style of some of our secret orders, having their signs, and symbols and rites, and to be able to participate in the frightful and disgusting orgies of the "snake dance," have to belong to this order.

For weeks past the bucks had been busy snake catching, armed with a long stick, and a sacred wand made of Spanish daggers and eagle feathers. With these weapons they tease his snakeship until he starts to run, and is off his guard, when he is easily picked up and taken home, where he is placed in a safe receptacle until he is wanted.

We could learn nothing as to the origin of the "snake dance." It has been lost in the mists of the long, long ago. The Indians can give no information as to its origin, or what

it is intended to symbolize. On the whole, it is a hideous, blood-curdling, loathsome relic of the barbarism of the past ages, and to the Moquis alone belong the honor (if honor there be) of keeping alive this revolting CARNIVAL OF SAVAGERY.

On the evening of August 18th the wonderful dance began. In the center of an open court is the Moquis' sacred rock, a conical shaped rock some fifteen feet high, and near this is a vault cut in the solid rock in which the snakes are stored. When all was ready about twenty Indians, called Antelopes, with slight but fancy dress, gaudy with paint and feathers, came marching out and around the sacred rock, keeping time the while to a wild, weird chant of the savage. Soon they formed in line on one side, when here came the band or order called "Snakes," about forty in number. Their dress was a sort of tunic from lower part of waist to a little below the breech clout, with strips of buckskin hanging down, moccasins on the feet and a fox skin attached to belt behind, hanging down. A tarapin, or land turtle shell was attached to the calf of each right leg, around which was strung dried hoofs of sheep, which at every step gave out a most hideous rattle. A band, or handkerchief was bound about the head: The upper half of the face was painted deep black, while the lower half was white, the body painted red with dark and white spots, which of itself created a most startling effect. After passing around the sacred rock several times they formed in line, facing the line of "antelopes" who had preceded them. Then began a wild, discordant chant which lasted some minutes, when with a given signal they fell into line double file, and around and around the sacred rock with measured tread they marched, and as they passed the snake den an Indian, to whom the duty was assigned, thrust his naked arm into the

WRITHING MASS OF SERPENTS, and brought out a snake, handing it to one of the dancers as he passed. This he did until all were supplied and until the supply of snakes was exhausted. Most of the snakes were rattlers and were from eighteen inches to four feet in length and about one hundred in number. Around they marched, with rattle snakes in their mouths and with both hands full, dropping them at times, only to be picked up by the next Indian behind. This frightful spectacle lasted nearly half an hour, when at another given signal the snakes were all thrown in, to the centre of the arena, where they were sprinkled with sacred meal by the "virgins," who were especially assigned to this work. In another instant the writhing, horrid mass of serpents were caught up by the bucks and away they darted like frightened deer down the almost perpendicular cliffs at a break-neck speed, where a misstep would hurl them hundreds of feet on the rocks below. But away they flew, about equally divided to the north, south, east and west, to the plains below, where they turned the snakes loose, and back the Indians came, up, up those dizzy heights, nor did they even so much as halt until all breathless they reached the estufa, and in its cavernous depths were lost to sight. So ended the snake dance, and a more revolting exhibition of savagery (Cannibalism not excepted) does not mar the face of history.

There was quite a number of visitors present,—Dr. Yarrow, of Washington, Mr. Graham, of Zuni, Mr. Roberts, of Santa Barbara, Cal., Mr. Hubbell and Mr. Lynch and the Misses Lynch, and three other young ladies whose names we have forgotten, from Navajo Springs; also Mr. Cal. Brown and Mr. Saunders, photographers, of Albuquerque, who all expressed themselves as amply repaid for their trouble.

On the morning of the 20th, with our boxes well filled with negatives of the ancient Pueblos, we turned our faces toward the San Francisco mountains, fully one hundred miles away, and glad we were to leave behind those horrid scenes, which can never leave the memory of

J. C. B.

The Pima Indians have on their reservation in this territory over 15,000 acres in cultivation, and have over 15,000 head of horses and 1,200 head of cattle. Their wheat crop this year will probably be 400,000 bushels.

OUR CATTLE INTERESTS.

Progress of the Cattle Raisers in the Verde Valley.

The growing wealth of the Verde Valley is well known throughout Northern Arizona, and the stock interests of that section are identical with Flagstaff. A correspondent writing in the New Mexico Stock Grower, gives a detailed report of the stock enterprise of that locality, from which we quote:

While the general conditions which prevail in Northern Arizona do not make it a particularly favorable section for cattle raising—the country being very dry, though covered with a fine growth of grass—there are exceptions, and principal among the exceptions is the section of country through which the Verde river runs, in Yavapai county. In comparing this section with the surrounding country it would seem that in its formation nature had exhausted itself of all the good qualities which it bestowed on the most favored lands created by its power, and the result was the creation of a paradise in a comparative desert.

In this region there is an abundance of water, a fine soil on which can be grown almost any product, a range surrounding on which the pasturage cannot be excelled anywhere, and a climate for which the famous songs and poems of praise given Italia's clear skies and Ceylon's soft, sweet-scented breezes, would be but faint praise.

The settlement of this favored portion was until quite recently retarded by the Apaches, who had many strongholds in the mountains surrounding, but now all danger is past, as in the last war they were effectually conquered, and many killed by the settlers. The government still sustains a military post in the valley—Camp Verde—to make assurance of protection from Indian raids doubly sure.

Now the valley is filled with farms whose owner's stock completely monopolize the adjacent ranges. The settlers are a thrifty and prosperous lot of citizens, whose progressive ideas and methods are rapidly advancing the country to the prominent position it should occupy.

The breeding powers of cows in this country is wonderful. From 100 cows a Mr. Wingfield branded ninety-five calves last year and one hundred this year. The showing made by the rest of the stockmen is nearly as good. A fence law prevails, so that agriculture and stock raising can be carried on together to good advantage.

The cattle in this locality are all of good grade and sell at \$23 to \$25 all around. Last year W. S. Head sold to Hicks & Wingfield 280 head at \$30. Three first class schools are supported by the settlers. The cheerful note of the six-shooter is never heard on the range, nor is the "weepin'" seen.

In addition to those in the valley engaged in stockraising there are settlers who attend exclusively to agriculture, and this year the valley produced 2,500 tons of alfalfa, which sold at \$14 a ton, 100 tons of corn at \$38; 250 tons of barley at \$38; and 150 tons of potatoes at \$60. Two thousand acres of land are irrigated from four ditches taken out of the Verde, which runs 1600 inches of water in ordinary seasons.

Commencing about twenty-five miles north of the military post we find Munds & Willard, located at Cottonwood Springs and Spring Creek, with a mountain ranch, thirty miles northeast and about sixteen miles south of Flagstaff on the A. & P. They started in business seven years ago with about 150 head of cattle, and now have 2,500 head of improved stock with a band of forty mares. They have a fine range and the stock looks well.

David Strahn, on the Upper Verde, runs 200 head of American cattle and has fifty acres of ground under cultivation, on which he raises alfalfa and small grains. He has a good mountain range for his stock, and his success is a notable instance of what pluck and a close attention to business will do. He started in four years ago with a broken down span of mules.

Mr. Scott, just below Strahn, has 250 head of cattle and forty acres of ground on the Verde in a high state of cultivation. His cattle range is to the west eight miles distant in the

Black Hills, where he controls a fine range by the ownership of splendid springs.

James Loy has hoed a hard row, but is now doing well. He has 300 head of fine cattle ranging west of the Verde at Jumping Springs, eight miles distant. He makes this showing in six years from a start of four horses.

Dan Marr branded 600 head of calves this year and can round-up 1,800 head of better cattle than can be found in New Mexico, outside of the Shorthorn herds. His brother Joseph has about the same number. Their cattle range is on the Verde about 8 miles above the military post. They are old timers in the county and are progressive and highly respected citizens.

W. F. Wilber started in seven years ago with 50 head and now has 1,200 head of cattle on his range above the post.

Robert M. Rogers, who worked by the month until he got a small start, now has a good range with 250 head of cattle with some stock horses.

J. C. Bristow is finely situated on the river, where he has a good range and 250 head of cattle on the range adjoining. Mr. Bristow has a large and interesting family, and everything about his place indicates comfort and happiness.

At the military post we find W. S. Head in charge of the store, which is run by W. S. & C. P. Head. These gentlemen are old-time residents of northern Arizona, and were formerly in business in Prescott. They have been prominently identified with the progress of Arizona, and have been very successful in all business enterprises. In addition to their store these gentlemen have a splendid range on Clear Creek on which they have quite a stock of cattle, from which they fill the contract at the post at \$8.50 per 100 on the block.

Chas. Ryall, south of the post, has a nice little bunch of cattle, well graded up with Hereford bulls. His herd numbers 100 head.

Jordan Brothers, by good management and hard work, in eight years accumulated 100 head of fine horses, 100 head of improved cattle, two good ranches and a grist mill.

John Davis has 30 head of horses, 100 head of cattle and 100 acres of highly cultivated land, with a fine vineyard and an abundance of peaches, apples, apricots and pears in his orchard.

John Woods commenced about ten years ago with twenty-five head of cattle and now has 400 head on his range and has a beautiful home with a fine farm planted with alfalfa and grain. He also has a splendid orchard and vineyard.

James Brown threshes all the grain raised in the valley, owns two good ranches and has 100 head of cattle.

W. G. Wingfield runs 300 head of cattle and has the best improved ranch in the prolific and beautiful Verde valley. He lives on Clear Creek, a tributary of the Verde. He has a fine farm fenced with stone, and in connection a fine orchard, where is grown all kinds of fruits.

David Hurst, on Clear Creek, commenced seven years ago with 100 head of cattle on credit. By close application to business he now has accumulated 1,400 head, and ranges on locations in the mountains near Fossil Creek.

Charles Morris, whose range is on Clear Creek and the Verde, has 260 head of good cattle and a well improved ranch.

Lewis M. Turner runs about 100 head on his range on Clear Creek. Walker & Ackers, on Beaver Creek above Camp Verde, have 1,500 head of cattle, and 150 head of blooded horses. Their range runs to the Mogollon mountains, fifteen miles distant, where they have two lakes and a well.

Brannen, Finney & Brannen run 400 head of cattle on their range, which extends to the Mogollon mountains, where they have three good springs. The Brannens are the principal business men of Flagstaff.

Mehrens & Sherman have 1,000 head of cattle and 70 head of fine horses.

Robinson & Marbury run 300 head of cattle in the Verde mountains, ten miles west of te valley. They own some fine running horses, among them the fastest quarter horse in the territory. He is a chestnut sorrel called "Crowder," from Pointer stock; was raised in Missouri by Keartlett; is six years old, and his owners challenge any horse in the territory to run against him.

James Smith owns a fine ranch on Clear Creek, which he is preparing to stock this fall.

Hicks & Duncan run 500 head of cattle about thirty-five miles east of Clear Creek and are improving a number of claims on the Verde.

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