

DEATH PURSUES "COUSIN JACKS" AS DECAY HAS OVERTAKEN BOOM CITIES

Denver, March 24 (AP)—The "Cousin Jacks," the prospectors after gold, are passing. Hardly a week now goes by but word comes down that another has been found dead in a rotting cabin in the "ghost cities" that dot the high country of Colorado and the mining west.

The towns, many of them, are dying too. Once well worn streets are grass grown, and pack rats haunt the buildings.

Decay—a sort of dry rot—has overtaken them. Doors creak mournfully in the breezes or grumble at a mountain gale, sunshine and rain pour alike through gaping holes in roofs and the skeletons of houses are outlined through walls laced by storms.

The name "ghost cities," is apt, descriptive in the direct way of the names of the old camps; Chestnut, Butter, Bald Mountain and Crazy Woman ranch were all named in Indian fashion for obvious reasons. Down in the southern part of Colorado, there is even a Cannibal plateau, so called because a guide named Parker charged parties of hunters and tourists high rates and then ate them. The graves of some of his victims may be seen today.

The names now linger in memory, but most of the bonanza mines are flooded or caved in. Scientific methods have supplanted the old time prospector and Colorado is talking about a new kind of mining boom in deep ores.

Central City is perhaps the most striking example of the change. Thirty years ago it boasted a population of 12,000. Today there are approximately 500 persons there, and the place has fallen from a booming city to a sleepy, though hopeful village.

President Grant and his daughter visited Central City and the residents paved the sidewalk from the street to the old Teller House with gold. The Teller House, a four-story building, is one of the few things in the town that attempts to keep an air of prosperity. A few travelers stop there and some mining men make it their home.

Most of the other buildings are deserted. Saloon signs hang over the streets and are legible. In one of the dance halls the proprietors did not bother to remove a grand piano and it has settled with the ceiling floor. Bars are covered with years of dust.

Black Hawk, near Central City, is in the same plight. Some old tunnels have been opened, a few people work them but vacant houses stand row on row. The towns were the center of the Colorado mining boom which for years held the nation's interest.

Many of the towns are virtually without inhabitants except for one or two old prospectors who still dream that the boom days will return. Nevada has two men left; American City about the same number. A person can wander through Lead, Tincup, Mound City, and Autumn for days at a time without seeing a face.

Leadville had the first Masonic lodge in Colorado and the third in Kansas territory, which then embraced this state. The lodge

ing its first occurrence of the kind since 1834.

"During the past year five states which had previously been on the honor roll, namely: Arkansas, Ohio, Virginia, Alabama and Utah, lost their places because of mob murder within their borders," the committee declared.

"Four states, Illinois, Kentucky, South Carolina and Tennessee, which had been on the roll in former years, were restored because their borders were free of lynching in 1925."

The council's roll of honor follows:

States that have never had a record of a lynching: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Additional states that have no record of a lynching since 1886: Connecticut, Maine and New Jersey. Additional states that have no record of a lynching during the past twenty years: Delaware, Michigan and Wisconsin. Additional states which have an record of a lynching during the past ten years: Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania and South Dakota.

Additional states which have no record of a lynching in the past five years: Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming. Additional states which have no record of a lynching in the past two years: North Carolina and Oklahoma. Additional states which have no record of a lynching during 1925: Illinois, Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Total states free of lynching in 1925: 28. Total states still having lynching: 19.

LYNCHINGS SHOW SLIGHT INCREASE

More Occurred in 1925 Than During Previous Year

Washington, March 26, (AP)—Seventeen persons—all negroes—were lynched in the United States during 1925, an increase of one over the record for 1924, the Federal Council of Churches set forth today in its annual report on the subject.

All the states in which the lynchings occurred were not named directly, but the council put on its honor roll 28 commonwealths where no lives had thus been taken. It also saw an encouraging sign in the fact that in thirty-nine cases officers of the law had prevented mob violence and that there had been a number of convictions of mob members.

The report was prepared by the council's Committee on Race Relations and the committee in an accompanying statement declared "mob law has thrown down the gauntlet to the churches and all other organizations standing for law and order and justice through the courts."

The goal of achieving a lynches had in 1925 could not be reached because a lynching had occurred as early as January, the report added.

Two unusual events were recorded in 1925, Texas for the first year since the beginning of records in 1882 being free of lynching and Utah hav-



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MARCH 22-29

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