

Pikes Peak Country



Pikes Peak
Photo by David Martinek

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The Case of the Disputed Chicken

THE MORNING TIMES.

VOL. V.		CRIPPLE CREEK, TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1897.		NO. 102	
G. A. R. VETERANS IN THIS CITY	CRIPPLE CREEK CLUB. Committee Appointed to Select Headquarters for the Organization. A meeting of the board of directors of the Cripple Creek club was held last night. W. L. Shepherd was chosen president pro tem, and G. M. Stewart, secretary pro tem. A committee on building suggests that papers and rules and by-laws for the club was adopted, consisting of G. M. Stewart, A. G. Brown and W. J. New. Today.	MURDER IS THE CHARGE. Fred Myers Dead at the Hands of Cremar.	JUDGE COLLIER COMPLIMENTS THE STRIKERS.	DR. DOTY'S LABOR BRINGS FORTH FRUIT.	MAY SHOW FISHING RESULTS. Bill of the Grand Fisher Reliability Adopted at that Purpose, Special to the Times. Grand Junction, Aug. 16.—Secretary of Agriculture James A. Wilson, and G. W. Taylor, government expert on the growth of trout, were in the city today. They visited some of the trout farms and expressed great interest in the industry. Mr. Taylor is of the opinion that the trout best will thrive in the Grand valley. They left tonight for Jackson, Utah, where a boat engine factory is now in operation.
Plans in Operation to Receive them Royally by Citizens.	PERITONITIS PROVES FATAL. CARRIE ANNE RUNDL. MORN-ING AT SIX O'CLOCK—STORY OF THE SHOOTING RETOLD—WAS UNPROVOKED AND UNCALLED FOR—MYERS WILL BE BURIED.	INJUNCTION ISSUED BY COURT.	STRUCK ORE IN THREE PLACES.	CARS WILL SOON BE RUNNING. Twenty-five Tons of Wire Received by the Electric.	ROLLING STOCK BUILDING.
DATE OF THE ENCAMPMENT	A committee of five on location of cemetery was chosen as follows: W. J. Miller, Howard Jones, A. G. Brown, Dr. J. A. Walker and J. L. Cook.	NOT AS SWEEPING AS MANY BELIEVED IT WOULD BE, SINCE ONLY FIVE MEN ARE BE RETAINED FROM MARCHING—OTHERS CAN MARCH IF THEY	FROM TWO TO SIX SHOTS OPEN UP THROUGH OUR BODIES—FOUNDED IN THE UPPER LEGS. —CARL JOHNSON IN GREAT DODS ON THE BLEND—NEWS OF		

Albert Fred Myers owned and operated the Gold Hill Lodging House on South Third Street in Cripple Creek during the summer and fall of 1897. Below the lodging house was a little grocery and feed store, which he also ran. Myers was a familiar face in the city, having come to the gold camp in the early days, about five years prior, when he managed the Nelly Bly dance hall down on Warren Street and later the Green Light dance hall near the corner of Third and Myers. Life must have seemed rather good to Myers at the time. He had amassed a little property where a couple of substantial businesses were providing a comfortable income. However, all that changed one Wednesday afternoon in August due to a quarrel over a chicken.

A neighbor, name Mrs. Selix, who lived across the street from Myers' lodging house and grocery, got into an argument with him when they both claimed ownership of a chicken. There's speculation that Mrs. Selix had bought the chicken from Myers' grocery; but perhaps forgot to actually pay for it. Or, maybe one of her live chickens got loose from a pin and Myers captured it. In any event, *foul* words were exchanged (*pun intended*).

Apparently, the quarrel ended with Mrs Selix leaving empty-handed but unsatisfied. She later happened upon Officer John N. Cremar, a *special* policeman for Cripple Creek, and claimed Myers had stolen her chicken and wanted him arrested.

Cremar was called a "special" police officer because he had been appointed to fill-in for a regular policeman - in this case, Officer Tom Bailey who had been shot and disabled in early July. Cremar was serving in his position until he recovered. A month later Bailey would lose a leg from complications of the shooting.

Cremar was a miner, about 40 years old, who arrived in the gold camp in 1895 from Leadville (*or Aspen - the records are unclear*). He was married and lived in Florissant. Before being appointed a "special" policeman, he had been working some mining claims in the Four Mile area north of the district.

Responding to Mrs. Selix's complaint, Cremar went to Myers' place and attempted to arrest him. But Myers only laughed saying he was just a special policeman and had no power to arrest a man in his own store unless he personally witnessed him committing a crime. The two

men argued violently with Myers finally telling Cremar to get out of his store and mind his own business.

"You can't arrest me without a warrant unless you see me doing something wrong," Myers shouted. "Go away and let me alone. You've no right to arrest me, get out of here!"

A passerby named Brennan overheard their angry voices and separated the men once, counseling them that there was no need for any trouble; but Myers was so hot he refused to be taken into custody, saying "you can't take me unless you kill me!" Whereupon, Cremar drew his revolver and shot Myers point blank in the chest.

The *Cripple Creek Morning Times* reported the next day that the bullet 'struck below the breast bone, passed through the body ranging down through the intestines and out near his spine.' It was later found in Myers' clothing.

A physically strong man, Myers was not immediately affected by the wound. In fact, Cremar arrested him and forced him to walk up town towards the city jail. They made it to Bennett Avenue before Myers collapsed near Nolan's Saloon and was carried the rest of the way.

Disputed Chicken - continued from page 1

Dr. J. A. Whiting, a former mayor of Cripple Creek, was summoned and saw at once that Myers probably had a mortal injury. While still lucid, a statement was taken where Myers said that he was “in his place of business when Cremar came to make the arrest, and because he ordered Cremar to go out of the store and mind his own business, the latter drew his revolver and shot him down like a dog.” According to the *Morning Times*, the statement was written down and the dying man signed it.

Cremar, who had also been locked up in jail for the incident, gave a similar account with only a slight derivation. He said that when Myers ordered him out of the store, he reached behind him as if going for a gun.

Around 9:00 o'clock that evening, Myers was taken from the jail to the Pikes Peak hospital by ambulance where Dr. Whiting and a team of surgeons operated on him. They found that the bullet had not punctured his liver but had “perforated his intestines in four places.” The surgeons stitched him up but said at the time that there “was no more than one chance in a thousand to save his life.”

Cremar, on the other hand, was snuck out of the rear of the jail under armed guard and put on the Florence and Cripple Creek train to Colorado Springs. News of the shooting had quickly filtered out into the community and excited crowds had gathered to protest. City Marshall Williams thought it prudent to secure Cremar in the El Paso County jail, as the crowds were full of “idle talk.” Once the crowd learned that Cremar was gone, though, they dispersed.

For Myers, the shooting was doubly pathetic. His wife was already terminally ill from dropsy and other diseases. Friends of the family were not telling her of the shooting that happened downstairs for fear that word of the tragedy would almost certainly cause her death, as well. It was a sad affair. By Saturday evening, Myers was so weakened by peritonitis that doctors were helpless. Around 6:00 o'clock Sunday morning “death released him.”

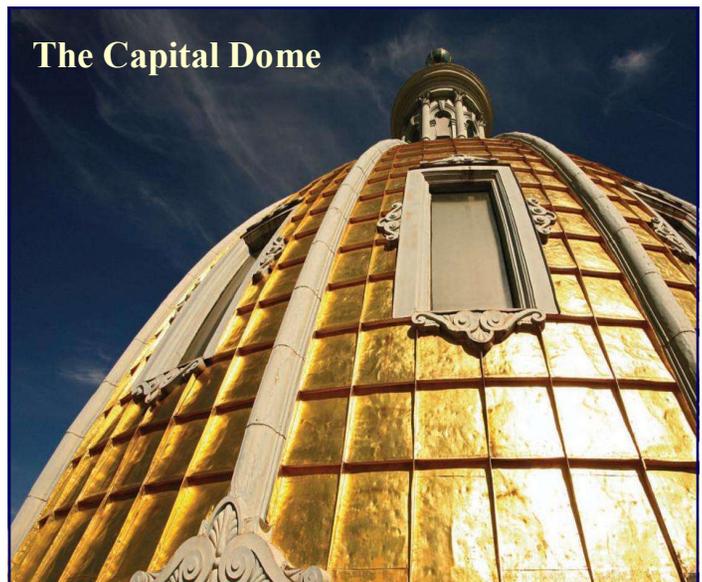
Myers was buried at Mount Pisgah cemetery and an inquest was held to determine the cause of his death and Cremar's fate. The jury's verdict was that “Myers death came at the hands of Cremar who fired the shot with felonious intent.” Cremar was subsequently charged with murder.

Feelings within the community were strongly against Cremar. In a retelling of the story, the *Morning Times* labeled the shooting ‘unprovoked and uncalled for.’ When informed of Myers' death, Cremar expressed considerable concern.

“When I shot Myers,” he reflected. “I was under the impression that he was armed. I didn't want to take chances of being killed myself, as so many officers have been shot in Cripple Creek by persons whom they were arresting”

And what of the person who set the tragedy of Cremar and Myers in motion? One wonders what Mrs. Selix, Myers neighbor, thought of the whole incident and her role in it. Was she remorseful or did she think Myers got what was coming to him for stealing her sixty-cent chicken? We'll never know.

Resources: This story was printed in two editions of the *Cripple Creek Morning Times* in mid-August, 1897. I could not find a follow-up story about a subsequent trial or verdict regarding special officer Cremar.



The Capital Dome

Following up on the April 2013 story, *Gold from CC&V donated for Capital Dome*, the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company (“CC&V”) announced recently that it will deliver the gold leaf received from the Giusto Manetti Battiloro factory in Florence, Italy to Governor Hickenlooper in a ceremony slated for Tuesday, June 18.

Last September CC&V presented the governor with a 68-pound gold ‘dore’ extracted from their surface mining operations in Victor. The gold was refined in Utah where seven 24 karat ingots were produced and shipped to Italy for conversion into a 140,000 gold leaf sheets about three inches square.

The gold leaf presentation ceremony in June is slated to take place on the west steps of the Colorado Capital building in Denver at 11:45 a.m. amid a host of corporate, non-profit and media sponsors.

“We are planning to take one of our tour vans filled with employees to the ceremony and make a day of it, including a box lunch on the capital lawn,” said Jane Mannon, CC&V Community Affair Manager. “We're so excited to be apart of refurbishing the Capital Dome.”

Completion of the regilding of the capital dome is scheduled for sometime in 2014.

According to Mannon, the mine hopes to lead a bucket brigade of CC&V employees and their families up to Denver to witness the delivery of the gold leaf to the Governor.



Dave's Buyers' Guide

Cabins, second-homes and land specials from Coldwell Banker 1st Choice Realty →

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(Martinek Team listings are **BOXED**)



\$449,900

1413 Masters Dr, Woodland Park On Golf Course! Great room w/ FB. Huge Kitchen w/ island, break-fast bar. Main level living. Covered deck & patio on 6th green. Lots of room. 5BR/3BA/3GAR, 3976 S. F. It has it all! #756034



\$379,000

14275 Westcreek Rd, Sedalia Quaint Home! 2BR/1BA/2GA, 1306 S. F. Zoned A-1, 81 acres w/ 2 wells. In Hayman burn area; re-vegetation in progress. Stone tile in kitchen, upgraded appliances. Views of Bell Rock. #731909



\$309,000

609 Cochetopa Rd, Florissant Low Maintenance! 0.71 acres in Trout Haven. 4BR/3BA/0GAR. 3144 S.F. Treed lot. Open floor plan w/ huge LR and MBR w/ walk-out deck, 5-piece bath. Walk-out bsmt, family room. #718434



\$290,000

221 Potlach Tr, Woodland Park Cedar Sided! Mature aspen/pine and mountain views. 2520 S.F. on 0.88 acres. 3BR/3BA/2GAR. T&G ceilings, great room, lots of windows. Gas-log stove, wood deck, lower level family room. MBR walks out to deck, too. #737841



\$249,900

2001 Julia Rd, Guffey Large Loft! Step back in time to see historic Guffey. Home is well maintained/private. Hdw floors in kitchen/dining. 3BR/2BA/0GAR, 1944 S.F. on 19.18 acres. Lots of trees and windows to see views of Black Mountain. #793640



\$198,500

39 Shawnee Creek, Florissant Secluded! 3BR/2BA/2GAR w/ 1740 S.F. on 2.09 acres. Log-sided, fully fenced. New roof, carpet, maple cabinets and other amenities. Move-in ready! Two wood decks. 20 x 40 garage/shop and 2 sheds. Zoned for horses. #770554



\$1,799,000

1854 S. Hwy 67, Divide Aspen Ridge Ranch! Bordering thousands of National Forest acres, this 238+ acre ranch is a paradise waiting for the right angel. 4BR/4BA/2GA, 3114 S.F. in the main house. There's also a rustic guest/caretaker's cabin, a modern shop and barn and stalls for horses. The property sports a stream, ponds, a water fall, numerous aspen groves and green pines, meadows and rock formations. Ideally suited for a corporate retreat or hunting lodge. #737073



\$637,000

115 Trull Rd, Woodland Park Mountain Lodge! Bright/spacious rooms with many details & spectacular views of Pikes Peak. 4BR/3BA/3GAR, 4458 S.F. on 2.5 acre lot. Open floor plan, knotty alder cabinets, floor to ceiling FP. Huge MBR with heated floors. Jetted tube in adjoining bath, walkin closets. Large patio in back. #791992



\$6,000

320 Beaver Pond Rd, Divide Peaceful! One acre of meadow and trees suitable for a building site with a great view of the Beaver Pond valley. Priced to sell, this lot is sloping and has the road running through it. #764924



\$17,500

432 Doublet Lane, Divide Seenic! 0.77 acres lot with a good open, level building site at the end of a cul-de-sac. Utilities at property line; mountain views. Manuf. homes okay. Nestled in the heart of Sherwood Forest. #722274



\$14,000

1001 S. Mtn Est. Rd, Florissant Meadow! Two acres of meadow and trees and some nice building sites in beautiful Colorado Mountain Estates, south of Florissant. Easy access to nearby Fossil Beds and Cripple Creek. #530773



\$9,999

0 McKinney St, Cripple Creek Three Lots! Here are three small lots sold together in the Montrose Addition of Cripple Creek, and located across Hetig Avenue from the Retirement and Rehabilitation Center. #738052



\$9,000

92 May Queen Dr, Cripple Creek Corner lot! 1.7 acres of gently sloping meadow makes a nice building site. Rock formations are across the road. A few trees add character. Just the right lot for that dream home! #791533

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