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Vol. 6, Issue 9 - October 2011

*The Marshall-Martinek Team*



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Martinek**

**Your  
Colorado  
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Equal Housing  
Opportunity



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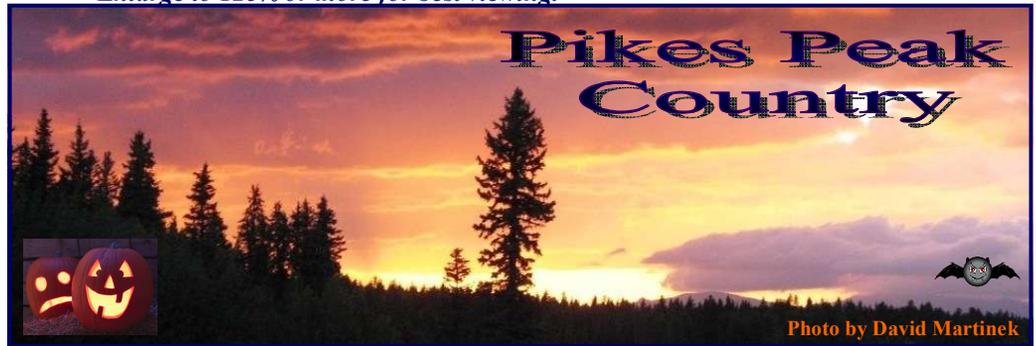
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**Pikes Peak  
Country**

Photo by David Martinek

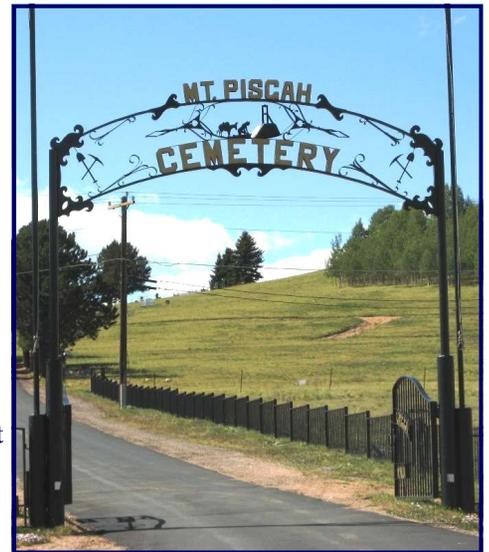
**Cripple Creek Death Notices**

In the early mining days of the Cripple Creek and Victor gold district lives were often snuffed out prematurely by disease, exposure, mining or railroad accidents and sometimes violently by murder or suicide. The death notices appearing in the *Cripple Creek Morning Times* were stories unto themselves and one of the more popular sections of the paper.

In a modern obituary you expect to learn certain things about the deceased, such as: when and where born, parents, siblings, school, marriage, profession, children, survivors, date of death, funeral arrangements, etc. Sometimes, there's also a phrase or two about how the deceased 'is now in a better place, relieved of his/her earthly burdens' or is 'nestled in the arms of Jesus.' But a detailed cause of death, particularly the circumstances, is rarely printed. Not true in gold district times. Back then, the obituary and death notices were full of very graphic descriptions telling not only that a certain person was dead, along with some customary information, but also *how* they died.

Just in time for Halloween, here are a few of the many examples from that newspaper (*exactly as they were written*).

May 20, 1898: **GILLETT:** *Fainted on the bucket.* A. De Lancy fell 100 feet down the shaft of the Bolivia mine at Gillett last evening and was instantly killed. De Lancy was a machine drill man employed on the Bolivia mine located south of the town of Gillett. It was 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and the day shift had come off duty, and the night shift was going on. Three men got on the bucket to be lowered into the mine, among them De Lancy. The three were standing on the rim of the bucket, holding on to the cable, ready to be let down. The signal to the engineer had not yet been given. Suddenly De



*The Mt. Pisgah Cemetery is the final resting place of some of the victims in these notices, although I found none of their graves. I realized that there are no names on a vast number of graves there. Directories do exist and can be found at the Cripple Creek District Museum. (more pictures on page 2)*

Lancy let go the cable, and before any of his companions had any intimation that anything was wrong he toppled backward off the bucket and was gone. The Bolivia shaft is 100 feet deep, and when the bucket was lowered with the other men, only a mass of crushed and disfigured bone and flesh was found. NO cause is known for the tragedy. De Lancy was well liked, and was of a cheerful disposition. The supposition among his fellow workmen is that he fainted. Deceased had been employed on the Bolivia for about three months. He was a single man, about 28 years of age. His only known relative is a brother at Corning, N.Y. who has been notified by wire.

May 27, 1898 **GILLETT:** *Ran over by a train.* In an old warehouse in Gillett four men lie dead, another is nursing a bruised head at his room, and half a dozen men are slightly hurt, as a result of a catastrophe on the Midland Terminal road just beyond Gillett yesterday morning. Twelve men on a handcar were overtaken by a train on a high trestle and the dead are the ones who lost their self-possession and jumped from the trestle to the ground, sixty-five feet below. The dead: Ben Eberly., Ed Flynn, James Hanrahan and William Flynn.

June 12, 1898 **VICTOR:** *Felled by a rock.* J. C. Holt, a miner in the Gold Coin, was killed last night by having a heavy rock fall on him while at work in the second level of the mine. He was working at the breast of the drift when a heavy rock, weighing several hundred pounds, fell from the roof a distance of four feet above his head, and crushed him to the floor. His companion removed the rock alone, and then gave the alarm. The wounded man was hoisted to the surface, but after gasping a few (continued on page 2)

See past issues of Pikes Peak Country at <http://www.davidmartinekc.com>

**Death Notices - continued from page 1**

times he died. The doctors could find no broken bones, but said his injuries were internal. Holt was one of the best known and most popular men of the city. He was a member of the Miners' union, the A.O.U.W. and the Woodmen. He was married only three months ago in Pueblo, his wife now residing in Victor. His parents live in St. Charles, Mich. He has a brother in Leadville, a sister in Aspen.

June 15, 1898: **VICTOR:** *Committed suicide.* W. J. Flowers committed suicide yesterday at Independence by shooting himself in the head. No reason is known for the deed, but his friends say he has often threatened it. The weapon used was one seldom carried in this section. It was a derringer, carrying a 38-caliber ball. He placed the muzzle to his head just above the right eye, and fell dead instantly. This was at 2:30 p.m. Flowers used to work on the Strong mine, and has a brother now employed on that property. He was a single man, about 38 years old. The body was taken to Hunt's at Victor, and Coroner Hallett summoned to hold an inquest.

October 28, 1899 **Cripple Creek:** *Accident in Joe Dandy Mine.* An accident occurred at the Joe Dandy mine about 2 o'clock this morning, by which two men lost their lives. The names of the dead men are: W. L. Lambert, aged 40 years. William Van Why, aged 33, married, of Cripple Creek. The men were being hoisted from the bottom of the shaft, which is down about 130 feet. They had just finished drilling and four shots were burning in the bottom. When the men had been hoisted a distance of about sixty feet, the pin which holds the gear of the drum in some unaccountable manner became detached, and the drum was immediately reversed, and the men were let down into the shaft toward the burning fuses. The shots exploded and they were both instantly killed. The bodies of the unfortunate men were badly torn and mangled by the explosion and one of the men was nearly covered by the debris caused by the explosion. It was one of those unaccountable accidents which no one can explain, with no blame to be attached to either the engineer or management of the mine. The bodies were removed to Cripple Creek.

November 22, 1899 **CRIPPLE CREEK:** *A Lover's Quarrel Causes a Dance Hall Girl to Take Her Own Life.* Blanche Garland, an inmate of the Bon Ton dance hall, committed suicide this morning by taking chloroform. During the evening, it is said, she had trouble with her lover and this is the cause assigned for her rash act. She procured the drug from a night clerk at one of the drug stores about 1 o'clock, and when it was discovered what she had done it was too late to save her life. Dr. Funk was called, who did everything possible but to no avail. She died at 1:50. The deceased was about 20 years of age and has been working in the dance halls in this city for some time. She has a sister living in Victor and her parents reside at Crystal near Aspen. The remains were taken to the morgue where they will await the disposal of relatives. Her maiden name was Suexee, she having been married about two years ago to Wm. Garland. When the Spanish-American war broke out her

husband enlisted and went to Cuba. He received a bullet through the lungs and died from the effects at Aspen last winter.

February 13, 1900 **CRIPPLE CREEK:** *The Woman Who Killed Williford was his Chief Mourner.* The sounding of taps and the ring of the triple salute over a new made grave closed another scene in the tragedy in which the life of E. E. Williford is taken by his wife. The body of the man who last Thursday evening was shot to death by the woman who claimed to love him was yesterday afternoon buried with military honors, the deceased having served in the Philippines with Company B, First Colorado volunteers. The funeral was under the auspices of Outpost No. 1 Colorado volunteers, the new organization of returned Philippines soldiers. The remains were escorted from the White undertaking rooms to the First Baptist church, where a large crowd had assembled to do honor to the murdered man. After a simple but impressive service conducted by Rev. T. T. Martin, the cortege marched to Mt. Pisgah cemetery, where the burial took place with the usual military ceremonies.

Sources: USGenWeb Project Archives - Teller County; all photos by David Martinek



*After looking through the directories of those interred at Mt. Pisgah Cemetery, and finding none of the victims in these stories, I walked the hollowed grounds in search of...something. It was a solemn experience. Some graves are ringed with rocks headed by white wooden markers whose names have long since faded (top left). Many are marked only with small gray (blank) plaques (bottom). There are unmarked graves among the trees, and some trees are growing on top of them. And a scant few, like the grave of famed Old Homestead madam, Pearl DeVere (top right), are decorated with gifts, wine bottles, fruit and flowers.*

**Dave's Buyers' Guide**

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

**Prices and status effective as of September 30, 2011**



\$360,000

**238 Shadow Lake Dr., Divide Owner-built!** 3BR/3BA/1GAR, 2476 S.F. on 2.55 acres. Wonderful raised ranch with lots of wood and a spacious great room and kitchen. The large country kitchen has rustic pecan cabinets throughout. Downstairs is 14 x 45 foot family room. Outside a welcoming flagstone patio sports a custom iron grill. A regulation horseshoe pit and detached "recreational house" are perfect for entertaining. See spectacular views of Pikes Peak from the 320 sq. ft. deck. It's time to buy! #641935



\$474,500

**470 Pembroke Dr., Woodland Park Exquisite Custom Home!** Built on 0.66 acres in 2005 in the Reserve at Tamarac, this home has 3514 S.F. and features 4BR/4BA/3GAR. Enter at the great room to see a cultured stone FP, the living & dining/kitchen area and 12' 14 foot ceilings. Main-level living. The master BR has a FB, sitting room and 12' ceilings, luxurious double vanity bath with tiled shower and jacuzzi tub. Landscaped and oversized garage for that workshop. There more here than can be described; so come see! #734444

*The cemeteries are filled with people who thought the world couldn't get along without them. Proverb*

**To inquire, email or call 719.687.1516**

(Marshall-Martinek Team listings are BOXED)



\$449,900

**841 CR 112, Lake George Fisherman's Dream!** On the South Platte River and backs to Nat'l Forest. 4BR/3BA/1GAR and 2049 S.F. Fully furnished; large deck. 2.5 acres. Breath-taking views. Don't miss it! #718120



\$349,850

**3707 Omer Rd, Divide Pride!** 3BR/3BA/2Gar, 3568 S.F. on 2.0 acres. It has an elevator! Up graded kitchen w/ breakfast nook and garden window. Master has 5-piece bath and jetted jacuzzi. Workshop. Immaculate! #782111



\$279,900

**Listing Expired**

**1100 Ponderosa, Woodland Pk Passive Solar!** 3BR/3BA/2GAR and 2444 S.F. Cedar-sided w/ a Pikes Peak view! Large garage & attached greenhouse. Huge family room w/ wood FP. A master BR to die for. Location! #671364



\$239,750

**472 Rhyolite Ln, Florissant Immaculate!** Custom-built on 1.24 acres; 4BR/3BA/2GAR and 2940 S.F. Main-level living w/ 3 BRs laundry and 2 bath on one level. Fantastic kitchen w/ oak cabinets. The walkout lower level has large family room. Must see! #770078



\$219,850

**710 W. Northwoods, Woodland Pk Family-friendly!** 4BR/3BA/2GAR, 1940 S.F. Excellent condition; walk out lower level. New carpeting and roof. Main level laundry; lots of storage. Huge deck w/ great views. Large yard is completely fenced. Great neighborhood! #792374



\$149,900

**Under Contract**

**127 West Street, Cripple Creek Step back in Time.** 1909 renovated log home in Knob Hill area. 2BR/1BA/1GAR, 1268 S.F. on 0.22 acres. Natural wood beams, T&G ceiling, loft bedrooms, modern country kitchen. Family room added recently. Beautiful! #723177



\$33,900

**127 Carlton Cir, Florissant Building Plans!** This 2.04 acre lot is ready to go. Perc test done, fire mitigation trees cut, building plans available. A well permit is waiting. This is a beautiful parcel overlooking the CME valley. A dream lot for a dream home. #465075



\$19,900

**2847 N. Mountain Est. Florissant Two Lots!** Two adjacent lots on a corner that total 1.18 acres. Several building sites are among the many Ponderosa and Fir trees. A selective build produces a great view of Pikes Peak. #675664



\$96,500

**380 Paradise Cir, Woodland Pk Condo!** Perfect for weekends in the mountains. Condo G3 has 1BR/1BA and an upgraded kitchen and bath. 600 S.F. New LR window. Care-free living. Easy commute to Woodland Park and Colorado Springs. #663316



\$16,000

**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



\$16,000

**2856 Blue Mesa Dr., Divide Fronts Water!** This heavily treed lot in Highland Lakes (1.67 acres) slopes down to Beaver Lake No. 2. Strategic tree cuts will make room for a driveway and a building site. See this beautiful lot. #457747

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