NEWS OF THE WEST.

A Cruel and Coldblooded Murder Committed at Leadville, Colorado.

HORSE THIEVES IN IDAHO.

A Twelve-Year-Old Girl's Shocking Death.—The Sufferings of an Innocent Man.—Snake Story.

The Saratoga, (Wyo.,) valley is to be replete this season with general activity and prosperity. The rainfall this spring has been heavy, insuring a big grain crop, while indications of rich mineral development are rife.

Mary, the twelve-year-old daughter of Hugh Green of Lewistown, Mont., got tangled to the rope of the halter of one of her father's horses. The animal became frightened and ran, dragging the girl, whose head struck against a post, fracturing the skull and killing her.

At noon on Monday W. A. Woodruff, the Durango cyclist who is on his way to Chicago for a purse of $250 raised by the citizens of Durango, reached Monte Vista, Colo., four hours ahead of time. At 4 p. m. he left for Pueblo, via Magnolia and Salida, accompanied by an escort of Monte Vista wheelmen.

The Walla Walla, (Idaho) Statesman says rumors of an organized band of horse-thieves existing in Walla Walla county have been rife for some time past. A number of valuable animals have mysteriously disappeared, and on these can be found of them by their owners suspicion has attached to certain parties whose past record has been somewhat "shady" in this particular line, but no positive evidence of their guilt has yet been obtainable. One thing is certain sure, however, and it is if some of our horse raisers detect them in any tricks, it will be a case of "short shrift and no favors."

Joan, the well-known police captain of the Maricopas, will shortly leave on a visit to the World's Fair, says the Phoenix (Ariz.) *Republican*, and is already drawing vivid mind pictures of the scenes he will encounter in the Great White City. His life has been spent within the confines of Arizona, northern Sonora and western New Mexico. So that it may be easily believed that none of the millions of visitors who will see the great show will be more intensely interested in it. And yet, when one comes to think of it, there are hundreds of white residents of the Central, Southern and Eastern States whose experiences have been much more circumscribed than Juan's. Therefore they may be expected to look upon the fair with still greater open-eyed wonder.

Little Grace Dunaway sat on a bench at the union depot at Denver on Monday evening. The tiny visitor held fondly in her arms a doll baby almost as large as herself, while at her side was a basket containing lunch from kind hearted railroad men. The little stranger, scarcely six years of age, was on her way alone from Taylor, Tex., to Leadville, where she is to be placed in the care of Mrs. W. E. Tadd, as aunt. At the depot she was received and hospitably entertained by Officer Sullivan, whose heart is big enough for every case of need or helplessness that comes along. A piece of white paper pinned to the dress of the little girl gave her name and destination. She was sent to Leadville in charge of one of the old-time conductors running out of Denver.

In the early hours of Sunday morning a most cruel, cold-blooded and cowardly murder was committed in Leadville, Col., at the corner of Twelfth and Hemlock streets. A husband and father, just in the act of closing his business and returning to his home to his wife and little ones, was instantly killed by an assassin's bullet. John W. Walsh runs a small saloon in a building on the corner of the lot on which his residence is situated. Sunday night after the general business was over a few of his genial companions and himself engaged in a friendly game of cards. Nothing happened to mar the time spent in jovial companionship, and at 5 o'clock next morning his friends left after bidding him a pleasant good-night. That was the last seen of Walsh alive. On Monday morning at 8 o'clock James Swenman, a resident of that part of town, called for a morning drink. As he opened the door and walked in he was horrified to see the body of Walsh lying on the floor. He spoke, and, receiving no answer, stepped forward. One look, and the awful truth flashed over him.

Martin Urion and Will Meadows tell the champion snake story of the season, says the Banning (Cal.) *Herald*. While in the fields last week they heard a commotion in the grain and soon saw two snakes writhing and twisting in mortal combat. On closer view it proved to be a rattlesnake and a red racer fighting for dear life. The racer had the rattler's neck in his mouth, and was making an heroic effort to swallow him. They struggled for some time, and at last the racer's head began to disappear down the throat of the racer. He twisted and rattled furiously, but of no avail; he was "strictly in it" with a vengeance. When about two-thirds of the rattler had disappeared, the two men caught both snakes and tried to take them to town, but the racer became angry at being disturbed, and after several efforts at last disgorged his repast. A few people have stated that red racers would kill and swallow rattlesnakes, but this is the first well-authenticated case the *Herald* has knowledge of. Both men are willing to swear to the fact, and as they are neither of them drinking men, the snakes they say were not in their boots. The rattlesnake was about two feet long, and the other was about four.

As the fact became thoroughly impressed upon him he turned and fled for assistance. The neighbors were aroused and the coroner notified. Kind friends carried the awful news to the wife, who was calmly sleeping so near, unconscious of the great sorrow which had come to her and her six little children. The perpetrator of the awful deed is an unsolved mystery. From general appearances it is supposed Walsh had staggered up his cash after his friends left, as he had some $70 or $80 in gold and bills in his pocket and some small change in the drawer had been carried into the different denominations. He was all intact, as was also his revolver, which lay on the shelf behind the bar with all the chambers full. What is evidently was in the act of fastening the back door, which he barred by a heavy wooden bar. This he had in his hands and is supposed to have been placing it in place when alarmed by some noise, presumably the assassin entering. He had turned and was facing the door when the shot was fired. The fatal bullet entered just above the right hipbone and entirely severed the heart, causing instantaneous death. There was no sign of a struggle, so the revolver must have been here a few ago. Walsh fell with the assassin but in a heap, and was found in that position. He has no enemies that are known to, and it is believed was the victim of a robbery. The assassin was either frightened away or after committing the act of crime, could not find his money by reason of the darkness, leave a clue and escape. The deceased leaves a wife and six small children, the oldest ten and the youngest a week later. The news was communicated to an adjoining house where Dr. Schneidinger shot his wife last week, and Schneidinger was at the bed to respond to the general call.

In 1874 a woman was killed in a house which stood on the site of the present big Palace hotel at San Francisco. A young man by the name of Richard Ribera was arrested on suspicion of having committed the crime, as he was seen in the house on that evening. Ribera was tried, convicted and sentenced to hang. The principal witness who appeared against him was one Garcia, who exhibited great excitement in his testimony. A few days before the execution of sentence on Richard was to be carried out, he escaped from jail. Twenty-two years after his escape he was recaptured at Nogales, and on the 17th day of April, 1893, was resentenced to life imprisonment at the territorial prison. Some time after his escape evidence was developed which indicated his innocence, while it pointed to the guilt of Garcia the chief witness against him. Garcia was afterwards seen in Mexico several times. He made a full confession of the crime, claiming he a reason for his testifying against Ribera (that the latter had friends who could give him a defense, while he, Garcia, was without friends and without money. The evidence so the trial would indicate some truth in this statement. Garcia was a desperate character and the woman murdered had been his sweetheart, or mistress. He was jealous of young Ribera, who was a mere boy. These facts taken in connection with other evidence were taken up last week by Governor Hughes and a pardon granted, the governor being morally certain that Ribera was innocent. Furthermore he had made an excellent record in prison and was highly commended by all officials, both old and new, for his exemplary conduct. There is no reasonable doubt that Ribera was an innocent man, and that he has suffered these long years of imprisonment for the crime of Garcia, who is still at large in Sonora, Mexico.

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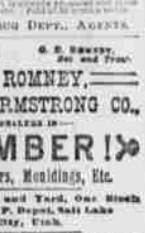

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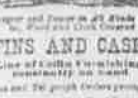

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