DESERET EVENING NEWS: SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1901.



Mr. Barnes Threatened With Lynching by Disappointed Gold Seekers-They Thought He Was Telling Them Fairy Tales About Treasures in the Rockies-Wanted to Hang Him or Shoot Him Full of Holes When He Was Located at Plattsmouth=Little Town on the Platte Itself Had a Close Shave from Extermination-Emigrants on a Howling Drunk Tried to Burn the Village and Started a Reign of Terror.

# ......

son G. Barnes of this city in 1859, when the rush to find gold in the Rockleswas on, says the Oniaha World-Herald. Such episodes as being threatened by a mob, with being banged or shot are not experiences a man cares to go through more than once.

Not the least interesting of Mr. Barnes' recollections is the reign of terror established at Platismouth in the summer of that year started by drunken emigrants on their way to Colorado, The people were threatened with vio-

en emisrants on en metered with vio-lence and the town itself fired in many portions of the business streets. Mr. Enrnes' narrative, aided by his diary, is continued from the article in last Sunday's World-Herald: "After we got settled for the winter at Pike's Foas we prospected up the Flatte river for ten miles, on both sides, and never tailed to find 'color' when-ever a pan was washed out. We could not go far because we dared not stay away from camp all night, for fear of the Indiana and wild animals. None of us ever L-4 down his gun while prospecting unless there was another man to take it up and stand guard. "On December 5th, 1858, we decided to stop prospecting for the winter and go into camp until spring, which was done.

stop prospecting for the which was done. into camp until spring, which was done. About this time two of our company decided to go back home and come out again in the early spring. The men decided to go back nome thome again in the early spring. The men who arranged to return to Plattsmouth were Mose Stocking and Milt Fellows, the latter being a brother-in-law of D. H. Wheeler. As I could do nothing H. Wheeler. As I could do until spring I went with them.

FRIGID DEET ENCOUNTERED.

FRIGID DIET ENCOUNTERED. "December 6th we started east. The snow was deep but the thermometer registered 22 above zero. After we had been on the road a short time the snow went off and the cattle were able to get plenty of grass and herbage to eat. We were making twelve miles a day when, on December 12th, a storm struck us. It turned colder by 40 de-grees than it had been. It had been thaving for several days and the cat-tles' feet were soft. As soon as it froze up their feet became sore and we could not make as good time as we had could not make as good time as we had been doing. Right there our hardships began. The buffalo chips were wet and when they froze we could no more burn them than blocks of ice. There was nothing else to burn and for three days ve lived on flour, wet with water, and

frozen into little cakes, and raw bacon. "December 16th we got to the old California crossing of the Platte river and there found a pony lying on the ice, unable to get up on account of the slippery surface. We tied pieces the slippery surface. We tied pieces of gunny sacks on the animal's feet and was then able to stand and walk. We took it along with us and eight miles further on we came to a ranch

Thrilling times, those were, for Addi- | proaching yoke of oxen that belonged to his party. His brother interfered and insisted that perhaps I was right. They got into a squabble among them-selves and as about fifty men had arrived by this time my friends took me by force from their midst and put me in a wagon. We left the mob and drove ahead, and around behind a high bluff out of sight and stayed there in hiding

for three "During the next three days and "During the next three days and nights the road was crowded full all of the time with men on foot and teamssuch a stampede never occurred before or since. The men yelled and cursed and swore vengeance on the man who had deceived them, meaning myself, although I had talked to but very few of them and to these I had told the truth

GREAT CROWD ON A SPREE.

"When we finally made a new start we learned the reason for the crazy ac-tions of the men. At Elm Creek hundreds of teams from Omaha, Platts-mouth, Nebraska City and other places met and held a council. There were be-tween 5,000 and 6,000 men in the party. After holding a mass meeting they decided to turn back. They were then but ninety miles west of Plattsmouth. Many of them had good teams and plenty of provisions, while others had none. In the party were several men who were taking loads of whisky across. When the mass meeting was held one of these fellows rolled out a barrel of whisky and knocking the head In told everyone to help themselves. They did so, drinking out of tin cups, and soon one of the biggest drunks on record was under way. "After the drunk had lasted several

days, they decided to go back to the Missouri river and burn every town they came to and destroy the ferry that carried them over after they once got across on the Iowa side. A few days later the mob began to arrive at Plattsmouth and soon set fire to every business house in the place. For three days, I am reliably informed, they had full sway and did about as they pleased. The citizens organized for self-proteetion and the women and children were sent down the river for safety. The steam ferry was run over to the Iowa side and the captain refused to come back until a compromise had been reached. The mob finally left, after the business men had agreed to pay for

### ferrying them across the river. TROUBLE NOT YET ENDED.

"But to return to the day we again took up our fourney. We had been on the road but a few miles when we looked back and saw five men on horseback, well armed, followed us. At once we scented danger and kept on our way. That afternoon when we stopped for dinner the men rode up and asked to see 'Mr. Barnes.' We assured them that they had made a mistake, as there was no such a man with us. They seemed to doubt us, but finally rode off. We breathed easier and were soon on That night two of them came to our camp and this time asked for Barnes and Kennedy. We told them that we did not know the persons they sought, but that they might possibly be found up the road a ways, where there was another outfit camped. They left, but soon one of them came back and said he had been told that Barnes and Kennedy were with us. I was standing by his horse stroking his mane while he was talking, but I never flinched and mala. let the others do the talking. Our party clared that we were not even going to Pike's peak, but were on our way to California. The fellow growled and, mumbling something to himself, rode on. That night Kennedy and I slept in tent guarded by several men with rifles, but there was no attack. If they had found me I would have been shot. "The next morning, April 15, 1859, part of our party turned back and a part of Kennedy's outfit and mine went on. That night we came to Elm Creek where we found two or three men left to tell the tale of the stampede. They had wagon loads of picks, shovels They pades and other things that they had taken in exchange for a tin cup of whisky. "Tom Irons" were scattered whisky. all over the prairie, shot full of holes, and rendered worthless. "Tom Irons" were a kind of sheet iron affair, used to wash out gold dust, but the returning emigrants had no further use for them and they were discarded. "While at Elm Creek I learned that there had been trouble in store for others as well as myself. While the others as well as myself. While the big drunk was at its height, John Col lins drove into camp looking for horses that had been taken from near Platts For some reason he told some mouth. one that his name was Barnes and that he had been to Pike's Peak and back. He little knew how much grief he was stirring up and that the real Barnes was hiding over in the bluffs to keep from meeting this same crowd. "It did not take long for a committee to wait on the bogus Barnes and question him as to his identity, Their ac-tions aroused his suspicions that all was not right, and he tried to straighten matters out by telling who he really was, but he had already done the mischief and no explanation would go. Then some one yelled 'get a rope. He watched his chance and jumping on his horse escaped and rode to Plattamouth, ninety miles away, by daylight and thus escaped hanging at the end of wagon tongue.' At Elm Creek a portion of the Barnes and Kennedy outfit decided to turn back, but Mr. Barnes and others pushed on and in due time arrived at Pike's Peak. For many years after that Mr. Barnes freighted across the plains, but of numerous experiences he had none that was more exciting to him than the few days he spent in the vicinity of Elm Creek trying to keep out of the way of the emigrants, who believed he was responsible for all their afflictions. It might be added that in no way was Mr. Barnes interested in any mer-cantile establishment, nor did he even misrepresent the true conditions of af fairs. He had only believed in the richness of the Rocky mountain region, richness of the Rocky mountain region, invested his money there, and in time grew rich. A few years ago he lost his savings in a business venture at Lincoln and other places, and this is why he now holds a position under the government at the Willow Springs dis-tiller.



night's rest, quite a contrast from the night before, and a breakfast of hot milk and bread, we bade our kind host good by, and proceeded before sun up on our way. At the very first our trail ied up the mountain side, but the morning was cool and we had but little difficulty. In climbing. At fittle difficulty in climbing. At every turn a different view of the beautiful valley below could be had-more beautiful than ever it seemed in the freshness of the me ing. A number of little care fields, both above and below that of our friends, could be seen, and the tall bananas, with their wide leaves showed where the coffee orchards stood. It was a three hours' climb to the summit, or rather to the plateau on which is located El Rancho, a few scattering houses and Indian cottages., Here our road joined the comino real, and we soon learned that our companions had passed a few hours before us. A couple of leagues brought us to the little town of San Martin, a town on a hill, and beautifully located, the great white church prominently visible from afar. There are but few Ladinos, most of the two thousand inhabitants being Indians. Here we noticed more

conspicuously than ever before a

PROFUSION OF FLOWERS.

apparently unkept and uncultivated, yet the flowers grown would compare with those produced at home with the greatest care. They were of all ors and shades, from the pure white to the dark red, and grew along the ditch banks and along the fences, and appeared to be public property, An-other league brought us to the company, who finding good pasturage in a place where pasturage was scarce, had

camped early. The next day we had our hardest elimb. We were ascending the high mountain seen a few days back. Our road, which was good considering the country we were in, led up a canyon. Farms and ranches were everywhere, along the mountain side , and especially where a comparatively level place ap-peared. Our animals labored hard, and though the air was cool, perspired freely. It seemed hard for them to get their breath, and frequent rests were necessary. At 2 o'clock we reached the summit, and we were then nearly eleven thousand feet above sea level. Here we could see the valley, or rather plateau, which we had passed, and in front a wide stretch of country over which we were going. Around us were forests of pine and cedar, excellent saw timber, but far from the reach of a saw mill. Much of the timber is cut by the natives with hand saws, but millions of feet of cedar that would make a cab-inetmaker smile is doomed to decay. ABOVE THE CLOUDS.

Two leagues further down, and at an altitude of ten thousand three hundred feet, we pitched camp, and that night was the coldest we had experienced on the trip since leaving Upper Kanab. Ice as thick as a pane of glass formed on the water bucket, and everyone of us next monring told how cold he slept. We were glad when the sun arose.

Today we have descended, sometimes almost dropped, for the road has been very step. A league from our camp brought us to the top of another range from which we could see the valley of Huchnessen Huchuetenango. Immediately below us was a canyon, apparently two or three thousand feet deep. It was filled with clouds surging and rolling with every gust of wind and completely concealing the opposite mountain side. Two volcano peaks appeared above the sea







where the pony was claimed. It had been loaned to Majors, Russell & Wadell, contractors, who had made an agreement with the government to carry the mail from Washington, D. C., to Salt Lake City, in a given period, carry the They made the trip all right and this venture led to the establishment of the original Pony Express across the con-Later the stage line was put tinent. on and these two institutions continued in service for several years. "Leaving the ranch we went on down

the Platte river, making from six to ten miles per day. At Fort Kearney I met Alexander Majors and he took me with his outfit.

I went east with him until we ar rived at Salt Creek, where we separat-ed, his outfit going to Nebraska City and I on to Plattsmouth on my mule that I had brought along.

On the way down from Cherry Creek we had much trouble in getting water. All that we could get to make our coffee with, a part of the way, we secured from cattle tracks. It was the middle of January, 1859, when I got back to Plattsmouth, and so warm that I went in my shirt sleeves.

#### RUSH FOR THE GOLD FIELDS.

"The news of gold being discovered on the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains was carried all over the country in a very short time, and I received hundreds of letters making in I did not try to answer any of the letters, as I had given an interview to the paper and did not wish to say any more. In the spring of 1859, long before the grass had started, thousands of people had arrived in Flattsmouth, Nebraska City, Omaha and towns in Kansas, on their way to the gold diggings. I was annoyed so much I kept off the streets in the day time and only went to the stores at night after my supplies. After thi grass had started and was up about an inch about 100 wagons started to make the trip across the plains. Before this, however, many men had left, some pushing a wheelbarrow, some on horse-back, and many with only the food they They carried on their backs. had caught the gold eraze and did not stop to realize that they must travel nearly 600 miles before they could get a bit to eat, except what they carried with them. Two weeks later my outfit left but I remained three days and then started out, and a day later overtool the caravan near Salt Creek. At this point we had an experience that came near terminating my existence. "The people who had started out with

their carpetsacks and wheelbarrow had eaten up their provisions and started back. They claimed they had been through, and that there was nothing the color of gold at Pike's Peak, and that the excitement had been gotten up by a lot of merchants who wanted to make money off the emigrants by seli-ing them goods at exorbitant prices. Among others that I met were two young men on foot. I asked them it they were going back and they said they were: that they had been told that the whole matter was a humbug. I told them that they were mistaken, that it was a rich country.

'How do you know it is?' one inquired. 'Because I have been there,' I re-

plied. "We met Mr. Barnes at Plattsmouth and he told us the same thing, but we are going back just the same,' was the

reply. "'I ara Mr. Barnes,' I answered, 'and you are foolish to go back, if you are fixed for so long a journey.' They said they had all the feed and provisions they would need and were discussing the matter when another man, who ap-

peared to be a brother of one of the young men, came along. "'John,' said one of the men, 'here is Mr. Barnes, and he is going back, and says it is all right.'

BARNES' EXECUTION SEEMS NEAR.

" "That is just the man I am looking for,' replied the newcomer. 'I have heard of him and his lying to get all of us fellows out on the plains. Now, I am gaing to help hang him to a wagon tongue, just as soon as that ox team sickly, run-down man or woman. Price gets here,' and he pointed to an ap- 50 cents. Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

### Spread Like Wildfire.

tillery.

When things are "the best" they be-Abraham come "the best ering. Abraham Hare, a leading druggist, of Belleville, O. writes: "Electric Bitters are the best O., writes: "Electric Bitters are the best selling bitters I have handled in 20 years. You know why? Most diseases begin in disorders of stomach, liver, kidneys, bowels, blood and nerves. kidneys, bowels, blood and herves, Electric Bitters tones up the stomach, regulates liver, kidneys and bowels, purifies the blood, strengthens the nerves, hence cures multitudes of mal-adles. It builds up the entire system, Puts new life and visor into any weak, stokly run-down man or woman. Price

of clouds, like two klands in an ocean They were Quesaltenango of water. and Santa Maria, both over ten thou-sand feet high. This was the grandest and

sight of the kind we have seen. It was nearly noon when we reached Chiantla and camped on the plaza to feed and rest our animals, everyone of which showed signs of fatigue. The roads were very rocky as well as very steep, and the long dry season had made them very dusty. But we have passed them, and are glad to learn that we have passed the worst country be-tween the line and the city of Guate-

### BENJ. CLUFF, JR.

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and eager to learn new things and to popular. Your learning is mostly surface knowledge, as you take no time for deep study. Your love of na-ture is deep and true. Your life is long and you will live to 71 years of age

#### C. LIVINGSTON, Desk Sergeant of Police.

Your hand is a good one, because every line and mount is fully devel-oped. You deserve a great deal of credit for the good you have done in the past pertaining to man. You have a degree of respect for the opinions of a degree You value praise, but will not sacrifice self respect or principles to gain it. You can endure censure when administered in the proper spirit. You like to appear well. Are very cour-ageous but not vain. You have a fine degree of ambition and are a self-made man. You were always an observer. You would have been a wealthy man today-the reason you are not such, I that you were too generous and too forgiving.

A. C. REESE,

Reporter of Daily Herald.

The hand of this person is remarkable, and it expresses in the strongest terms the qualification of a noble and refined character: the head line shows a clear brain, the heart line an fectionate heart, also a great rectitude of mind; also a great talker; saying neither too much nor too little. Great success is shown for this person in the future.



Police Officer. Much painstaking and perserverance are well developed in your hand. You

are of a courageous disposition and are a steadfast friend. Your hand shows a capacity for passionate tendencies and self-devotion, which is fitful while it lasts. You have a long life before you, and you will have many changes in life pertaining to domestic and business affairs.

S. H. LYNCH, Deputy County Treasurer.

You must cheer up and do not worry Life is a struggle, a school, a test of fitness. No struggle, no school, no fitness, no fitness, no fitness, no fitness, no future, either in this world or in any that may follow.



You are capable of doing a great deal of good. You have great strength of character.

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