

Cactus Gulch Gazette

Saturday, April 26 1884

Cactus Gulch Celebrates 20 Years!

Tonight sees celebrations begin for the twentieth anniversary of the founding of Cactus Gulch. Our town has grown from its beginnings of a few brave pioneering prospectors arriving in 1864 to the thriving community of 600 souls it is today. With the railroad expected to connect us to San Francisco, Cactus Gulch looks set to continue its growth and prosperity! Everyone is welcome to the celebrations tonight, beginning at The Silver Dollar Saloon, where drinks will be free for all—three cheers to Sheriff Blane and the management of The Silver Dollar—followed by dancing and all-you-can-eat hog roast and apple pie feast. Don't miss it.

Railroad Prospects

Mid West or South West Rail?

It seems certain that the railroad will soon arrive in Cactus Gulch—but which company will bring our lifeline to the coast? Both Mid West Rail and South West Rail have sent negotiators to meet our town council and local landowners.

Final Hurdle

The final hurdle to negotiations is the land to the southwest of town, known as Fat Bull Range and owned by Zeke Calhoun, successful prospector, landowner and founder citizen of Cactus Gulch. Unfortunately, these negotiations are complicated as Mr. Calhoun may no longer own the land!

Card Game Scandal

As reported in the Gazette last Saturday, Calhoun was involved in a drunken Friday night card game with the notorious gambler Doc. Faraday. Stakes increased as the night went on, and eventually, Fat Bull Range was “won”

by Doc. Faraday. There were witnesses to the game, and there have been unproven accusations of cheating.

Judgment Tonight

“Needless to say, this scandal affects the whole town badly, especially as the outcome is so essential to the rail negotiations. I will therefore rule on the land ownership tonight,” said Judge Paulson, who has reviewed the case with Sheriff Blane. The town eagerly awaits the judge's decision.

Calhoun's Fortunes

Should the judgment go against Mr Calhoun, he will still be easily the wealthiest man in town from his earlier prospecting—and rumor has it he has recently found another rich silver lode on unclaimed land to the northeast of Cactus Gulch.

To this reporter's knowledge, the location is still known only to Zeke. Whoever else knows when the next round of claim staking takes place could make themselves very rich indeed.

Trouble on the Reservation

Indians are rumored to be outraged about the railroad's desecration of their ancient burial grounds. Veteran shaman Three Feathers, much revered among the tribe, is in Cactus Gulch to represent their views.

Sinners Repent!

Traveling preacher Elijah Entwhistle is in town and plans to give a sermon, followed by baptisms, tomorrow morning at 10 am at Clearwater Creek. Revd. Entwhistle declared, “I am shocked by the lawlessness and godlessness of this town. Drunkenness and debauchery are everywhere. I will be at The Silver Dollar this evening, trying to save souls.” Anyone wishing to be cleansed and saved should be at the creek tomorrow morning.

Stagecoach to Bring New Telegraph

We are delighted to report that replacement parts for the telegraph should arrive on the stagecoach this evening. It will be a relief to be back in contact with the outside world after it broke down a week ago.