

THE BUZZARD CREEK BUZZ

Editor: Sam Banks, who apologizes profusely that most of these stories are at least a few days old, but we all know that it takes a long time for news to reach Buzzard Creek.

BANK ROBBERY IN DUSTVILLE

A few days ago, a pair of thieving varmints in black masks robbed the Bank of Dustville (about two days' ride east of here). Despite the report that the thieves were clumsy, argumentative and did not really appear to know what they were doing, they have left many residents of that small town nearly penniless. The varmints were rumored to be heading West, so keep an eye out!

MINING OPERATION SABOTAGED

A gold mining operation was sabotaged in Sacramento several weeks ago, with tools and equipment being stolen and many bags of gold nuggets replaced entirely with fools' gold. This is rumored to be the work of the mysterious Gold Rush Ghost, who for the last year has perpetrated crimes of sabotage all over the American West. The Ghost has set tents on fire, robbed prospectors, set their dogs and horses free, and ruined so many mining operations that many wonder how just one person could accomplish these jobs alone.

WHO IS "THE STRANGER"?

The Stranger is a mysterious hero who appeared on the scene three years ago. He is known for defending the poor and innocent, and for bringing in wanted criminals before the law can. He can show up anywhere, and often adopts disguises to blend into his surroundings – once even dressing as a traveling priest to fool his enemies – but no one knows the true identity of that masked man. The Stranger was last seen riding west, toward San Francisco.

SMUGGLER STILL ON THE LOOSE

Infamous smuggler Handlebar Harry, identifiable only by his large, black, handlebar mustache, made another run of untaxed gold to the Mexico border just two weeks ago. Rumor has it that everyone's favorite hero, the Stranger, pursued Handlebar Harry on horseback but failed to capture him yet again.

Blaise Sadler Wins "Most Beautiful Girl in Town", Again

This year's beauty contest was won, for the third year in a row, by our own desert rose, Miss Blaise Sadler. Since she's the only eligible young woman in Buzzard Creek, we suspect she won't have much competition in the years to come. The contest was held at the Gold Nugget Saloon, which is rumored to be on the verge of bankruptcy – the Saloon may actually have to close this year if no new business comes in. Write and tell your friends to stop by the Saloon and spend some money as they travel past Buzzard Creek!

Mayoral Election Coming Soon!

Every good town needs a mayor: someone to keep the town running in tiptop shape. If Buzzard Creek is ever to boom again, you need someone you can trust in charge of the town's daily affairs! This year's mayoral election will be held by secret

ballot at the Gold Nugget Saloon, with a free drink going to anyone who votes for Sam Banks.

Don't Pay a Good-for-Nothin'

Our local ne'er-do-well, Good-for-Nothin' Ned, has messed up again; after being paid by one of our old-timers to pick up some groceries from the nearest town, Ned took the money, disappeared for a full day, and was next seen stumbling down Main Street, filthy as usual, with a bag full of all the wrong grocery items. He can usually be found sleeping off his last drink behind the Saloon. There's a reason they call him Good-for-Nothin': give this feller a job at your own risk.

Still No Gold in Buzzard Creek

Everyone knows that Buzzard Creek used to be an exciting boomtown, back when gold was discovered nearby and this was the nearest town for businesses and prospectors to make their home base. Well, Sheriff Cassidy has been known to keep his eye out for signs of gold in the hills

and gulches surrounding our fair town, and so far has found nothing. "It's all the fault of those blasted Indians!" Sheriff Cassidy has been quoted as saying. "Back when we was booming, they came in here suggestin' that over-mining the land would ruin it and cause the gold to run out – and just a few months later, the gold did run out! They did it, they must've stolen it all somehow – they stole it, I tell you!" Well, we all know how our dear Sheriff feels about Indians.

If you suspect there may be gold at a certain site, you claim the land in two steps (in any order):

- 1) Personally traveling there and marking it off with fences or signs (you must know the location of your claim in order to do this).

- 2) Obtaining claim papers for that land with your name and the Sheriff's signature on them. Good luck, and happy gold-hunting!