

Cactus Gulch Gazette

Saturday April 26 1884

Cactus Gulch Celebrates 20 Years!

Tonight sees celebrations begin for the 20th anniversary of the founding of Cactus Gulch town. Our town has grown from its beginnings of a few brave pioneering prospectors arriving in 1864, to the thriving community of 600 souls that it is today. With the likelihood of the railroad arriving soon, connecting us directly to San Francisco, Cactus Gulch looks all set to continue its growth and prosperity!

All townsfolk and visitors are welcome to join in the celebrations tonight, beginning at The Silver Dollar Saloon at 7pm, where there will be free drinks for all – three cheers to Sheriff Blane and the management of The Silver Dollar – followed afterwards 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 rail will soon be arriving here in Cactus Gulch – but the big question on everyone's lips now is **which** rail company will be bringing our life line to the coast? Both Mid West Rail (MWR) and South West Rail (SWR) have sent negotiators to meet our town council and local landowners.

Final Hurdle

The final hurdle to negotiations is the area of land to the south west of town, known as Fat Bull Range and owned by Zeke Calhoun, successful prospector, landowner and founder citizen of Cactus Gulch. These negotiations are complicated by the fact that Mr Calhoun may in fact no longer be the owner of this 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 as yet unproven accusations of cheating.

Judgement 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 be making a ruling on the land ownership tonight at 9.30pm." said Judge Paulson, who has been investigating the case with Sheriff Blane. The town eagerly awaits the outcome.

Calhoun's Fortunes

Should the judgement go against Mr Calhoun, he will still be easily the richest man in town from his earlier prospecting – and rumour also has it that he has recently found yet another rich silver lode, on unclaimed land to the north east of Cactus Gulch. To this reporter's knowledge, the location is still known only to Zeke. Whoever else knows it when the next round of land claim staking takes place could be in the position of making themselves very rich indeed.

Trouble on the Reservation

There are rumours of hostile Indian activity breaking out again, fuelled by outrage about the possibility of the new railroad line cutting through ancient burial grounds. Veteran shaman Three Feathers, much revered among the tribe, is in town to represent their views.

Sinners Repent!

Travelling preacher Elijah Entwhistle is in town and plans to give a sermon followed by baptisms, tomorrow morning at 10am 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 the new telegraph should be arriving on the stagecoach this evening. It will be a relief to be back in contact with the outside world, after the old machine broke down a week ago.