

COLORFUL CANYON

Eldorado canyon, historic old mining district 30 miles from Boulder canyon, is colorful in more ways than one.

It has furnished colors, in the mining man's sense of the word, for the larger share of a century. And it has furnished more "local color" of the old west than perhaps any other portion of southern Nevada in the early days.

A. G. Hillen, old time mining man, who now writes articles and edits a periodical on southern Nevada mining, centralizing on Eldorado canyon, has written an article of which the two following excerpts give fair samples of both these types of "colors."

"Early operating properties were the Wall Street, Techatticup, Quaker City, Venus, Mocking Bird and later the Capitol mine. A mill was built on the Colorado river at the mouth of Eldorado Canyon, values being recovered by the antiquated hyposulphate method of amalgamation. Tailings from the mill

found lodgment down the swiftly flowing stream on bank and sand bar as far as Needles. In fact, prospectors still report panning from these old tailings from the mill, which later fell into the river which had undermined the foundation."

And now for the local color samples:

"The story of the early days reads like fiction. Indians desperadoes, so-called bad men, night and day frontier existence, vigilantes who cleaned up the camp in a two weeks' round-up, and several killings. The last stand of the "big shot" who was caught in a shaft at Nob Hill, where he refused to surrender even under pressure of thirst and hunger; how he was shot and buried, the grave being still in evidence. Later, there was the murder of the Nelson Brothers and Tom Murphy.

"Then the tragedy of the Indian girl who jumped into the river when her white lover refused to admit fatherhood of her child, the

Nuggets of color

subsequent killings at the Gold Star of every watchman put there by the owners, in revenge for the death of the squaw; followed by the offers of reward for capture of the girl's uncle, on an order to bring him in dead or alive, resulting in a chase into Arizona and return of the chopped-off hand of the killer. But the old camp survived, the ore bodies showing value and tonnage, as development proceeded."

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