

# The Tombstone Epitaph

Proprietor and Editor, John Clum

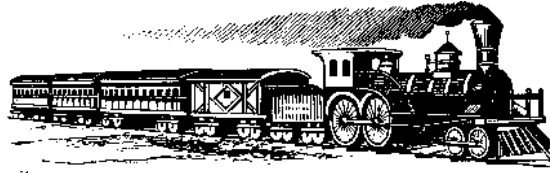
Tombstone, Cochise County, Arizona Territory

Friday night, 24 October 1881

## First Annual Tombstone Draw Poker Championship Draws in Visitors

by John Clum, Editor

The arrival of each stagecoach and train brings more and more visitors to Tombstone. The whole town is buzzing with excitement and gambling fever. Mayor Lawrence Murphy aims to establish this poker championship as an annual event, which will certainly help to put Tombstone on the map as a significant town of Arizona territory. The winner's prize of \$10,000 is encouraging many small-time poker players to try their luck alongside the professional gamblers. The legendary Marshal Rooster Cogburn has come to town at Murphy's request to referee. The contest will be hosted by Stella Marks at the Oriental Saloon on Saturday. Entry fee is \$500.



## Transcontinental Railhead Reaches Cochise County

by John Clum, Editor

At last the railway has come to Tombstone, and the future looks bright for our thriving town. Gabriel Morton, the railway's proprietor, has been supervising the construction of this latest stretch himself, and has arrived at the railhead just east of town in his own private railway carriage, on a train carrying passengers from the east to town.

The railway offers Tombstone its greatest opportunities for continued expansion, prosperity and refinement as it will link us to the east coast, and eventually to the

west coast as well. No longer will we be a backwater town, looked over in favor of more cosmopolitan cities such as Prescott and Phoenix; now we will see our stars linked to the cities of the east such as Kansas City, Chicago, New Orleans, even Philadelphia, New York and Boston. Already we are attracting famous entertainers such as singer and actress Adelaid Adams; perhaps one day Tombstone will boast its own theatre.

The route that the railway will take across the countryside surrounding Tombstone has not yet been announced, nor the site of the train station for the town. As news breaks, you can be assured the *Epitaph* will report it.

## Eastern Theatre Stars Come to Tombstone

by Rae Johnson

Josephine Marcus, the famous actress, has just arrived in town with her theatre troupe. They are set to perform at the Last Chance Saloon on Friday night at 10pm. The star of the show is the noted English Shakespearean actor, Romulus Fabian, whose talents have graced stages across the country.

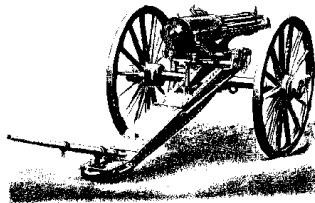
Unfortunately, Miss Marcus's theatrical company is sorely depleted. Their stagecoach was attacked by bandits a few towns from Tombstone, and most of her actors were frightened and turned back. Thanks to the bravery of Miss Marcus and Mr Fabian, however, the show will go on.

## Mayor Offers \$2,000 Own Money as Reward for Gatling Gun Recovery

by John Clum, Editor

Say whatever else you like about him, Mayor Lawrence Murphy is prepared to put his own money on the line when he wants to. He has offered a personal reward of \$2,000 for recovery of the two stolen Gatling guns or the arrest of the outlaws responsible.

As regular readers of The *Epitaph* will know, a train carrying military supplies was held up on 21 August. Two brand new Gatling guns, destined for the Seventh Cavalry outpost at Fort



Huachuca, were taken by the outlaws. A few days later, acting on a tip-off, Mayor Murphy personally led a posse to a site he believed the guns had been buried, but found only empty crates.

Clearly the Mayor is sufficiently steamed to put his own cash up as a reward. If this personal gesture leads to safe recovery of the guns then even this cynical organ would have to doff its cap to Murphy.

## Voter Registration for the Election of a New Sheriff

by John Clum, Editor

It's your civic duty to make sure that you are registered to vote in the election this weekend. The choice that is to be made is a vital one for the future of law and order in Tombstone.

All prospective voters must see Hezekiah Beckum, the Elections Officer, to register to vote by paying the \$5 poll tax. The *Epitaph* is publishing this handy guide to the electoral process:

- ◆ Deadline for registering to vote – 1 pm, Saturday
- ◆ Nominations for candidates for Sheriff to be made by – 1 pm, Saturday
- ◆ Hustings for Sheriff candidates – 3 pm, Saturday
- ◆ Election for Sheriff opens – 5 pm, Saturday
- ◆ Ballot boxes close – 6 pm, Saturday

## Election Called to Fill Vacant Town Councillor Seat

by John Clum, Editor

The disappearance of former bank manager Alexander Mitchell has left a vacant seat on the Town Council. Therefore the Council have announced that a special election will be held in conjunction with the election for a new sheriff.

The timetable for nominations, hustings, and the poll itself will be the same for the convenience of the voting public. Voters only need to register once with Elections Officer, Hezekiah Beckum to be eligible to vote in all elections in Tombstone.

## Cowboys Prance Across the Range

by Anonymous

These pesky varmints have attempted to strike fear into the hearts of the citizens of Tombstone and Cochise County over recent months.

Members of the gang, wearing their bright red bandanna scarves like a gaggle of girls playing dress-up, swagger around town, bold as brass, without being brought to justice. They are feared, but they deserve to be laughed out of town.



## Great Tombstone Horse Race

A grand event open to all comers!

Be there at High Noon on Saturday, when, on a course especially laid out by the famous lawman, Wyatt Earp, riders will compete on the circuit of Cochise County for the grand prize.

Wyatt Earp will act as race judge and glamorous performer Adelaid Adams will present the prize.

Entry fee: \$50

Entrants must apply to the race sponsor, Major Charles Terrill.



## Small Advertisements

**Earp's Emporium** – from the Everyday to the Exotic – if you want it, we've got it. If not in stock, we can order any item for speedy delivery.

**Exchange:** One energetic and well-bred horse for a square grand piano in good working order. Leave offers at the *Epitaph* office.

**Do not forsake me.** oh my darling! – October 24, 1881.

Why should we be scared of somebody whose nickname is "Curly"? When will anyone in authority have the guts to stand up to these posturing cowards who have taken to decorating the scenes of their petty crimes with flowers?

Western Lore:

## Gold Under Our Feet?

by Rae Johnson

Stories abound that some bandits' last great horde is buried somewhere around Tombstone. But they differ on whether it is the Hole in the Wall Gang, the James Gang, the Wild Bunch, or even some less infamous gang's haul.

But does it all arise from the old Indian legends of "the wealth of the earth" lying under our feet? We may simply have interpreted their reverence for the natural world as a material good to be plundered for profit.

## Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid Dead in Bolivia

by Rae Johnson

News has reached the west that the outlaw leaders of the Hole in the Wall Gang have been reported to have been killed in Bolivia during the recent revolution there.

Almost two years after the gang staged the Great Morton Train Robbery, the pair had been laying low. The infamous duo were last heard of sailing from New York to South America, where they got involved with the Bolivian revolutionaries.

It should come as no surprise that such desperadoes should have ended their lives violently, even thought they themselves famously never killed anyone in their crimes.

## Editorial: Why Mr Darwin's Theories Should be Taught in Tombstone's School

Our children need to understand the world as it truly is, not as backward-looking people might have it. They must have a grasp of the latest scientific developments if they are to grow up to live in this modern world and become thinking citizens. This is why it is imperative that Charles Darwin's revolutionary theory of evolution be taught in Tombstone's school.

Darwin's theory may not accord with some people's

religious views, but it is based on scientific observation and experiment. Many other venerable men of science have acclaimed Darwin's work, which helps explain how we came to be here on this earth, and how we are related to all the other creatures on it.

Even those who doubt Darwin surely cannot deny that his law of the "survival of the fittest" can be seen to accord with our experience of life in this western frontier land. Our Eastern countrymen would laugh at us as ignorant country bumpkins if we were seen to reject this rational view. Surely we cannot halt the march of progress and civilization.

*The Epitaph seeks to conduct a public forum on this issue. What are your views on Evolution? Post them to the Editor.*

## Strange Pranks Goings On

by Rae Johnson

Several petty thefts and acts of mischief have been reported recently in and around Tombstone. Sheriff Washington Dimsdale was sorely embarrassed to find that his keys, including the keys to the jail, had been pickpocketed. Having spent some time investigating their loss, he found that they had been returned to his pocket – with a cactus flower.

Similarly, Terrill ranch foreman Steve Leech had his gun lifted from his gunbelt without his knowing it,

then had it returned with all the bullets removed and replaced with the petals of a cactus flower. Even lovely schoolteacher Julie Maragon's front flower garden was desecrated by someone planting cacti in it.

The only clue linking all of these incidents to the unknown prankster has been the cactus flower. These acts may seem minor, but how many other incidents may also have occurred, and what larger crimes might their perpetrator next attempt when he or she finds that they've gone undetected so far?

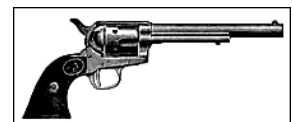
## "Buffalo Bill" Cody's Gun-fighting Contest

Announcing a gun-fighting competition, open to men only, to be held at 11pm on Friday in the OK Corral in Tombstone.

Any man seeking to enter the contest can contact Frenchy

LeDoux at the Last Chance saloon.

Organizer - Frontiersman and shootist William Cody.



The 1881 model Colt .45 which is to be the prize in Mr Cody's contest is forged with a sterling silver barrel. Colt revolvers are well known for their accuracy and range.

**Murphy's General Store** – oldest established store in Tombstone. If you want the best in the west, forget the rest. You know it makes sense.

**For sale,** two Gee Gees, special bargain. Interested bidders should leave an offer at the Last Chance Saloon.

**Furnished house,** four rooms, including a piano, to let. \$15 per month to a respectable party. Contact M. Bailey.

**Buffalo gals,** won't you come out tonight? And dance by the light of the moon.... See you at the show!

**Hostetler Assayers** – Gold and Silver finds valued and a fair price offered for any nuggets offered. Claims may be staked with Dr Frederick Hostetler.

**April '17** - Right under a twisted pine. Interested parties should meet at the Oriental at 11.30pm on Friday.

**Murphy's Bank** – Your Money's Safest Home. Our modern equipment guarantees your cash and valuables.

**Beckum Undertakers** – We'll Take Care of You in the End. Discreet, solemn, tasteful funerals arranged. Coffins to suit every purse.

**Hard-wearing trousers** - For sale, by mail order, Levi Strauss' own patented denim jeans. Now with copper rivets reinforcing the pockets for added durability. \$3 a pair.