

EM
Maps
(Historical Data)

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT BY HUGH BOON

Not for publication within the next 10 years - by request of Mr. Boon.

Mr. Boon stated the nearest he ever came to witnessing a shooting was in Poncha Springs in 1874. He and Champ were sitting on a bench where the present general store stands, across the street from Jackson's saloon and gambling hall. A man by the name of Conway was running the gambling hall, an interesting entertaining fellow, formerly a physician in Iowa, but who had hurriedly left that part of the country following the embezzlement of some funds. There was a "tinborn" gambler who was always hanging around the tables watching for something to turn up. He and Conway got into a quarrel. Conway, being much the smaller man, drew a gun. The other fellow ran out of the place and headed directly across the street toward Boon and Champ. Conway after him with a gun. He turned, however, before he reached them and ran into a nearby saloon, Conway still after him. Conway attempted to strike him over the head with his gun, but the gun went off and killed the bartender.

They arrested Conway, but he got out on bail, and skipped the country, going to New Mexico. The incident gave Conway considerable publicity, and the sheriff back in Iowa got trace of where he was. The sheriff went to New Mexico and arrested him, and started back to Iowa with him. Conway telegraphed Miles Mix, who was a close friend of his. Mix dug up the old warrant against Conway for the shooting, and was waiting for the Iowa sheriff when he crossed over Raton Pass into Colorado. He took him from the Iowa sheriff and brought him back to Buena Vista, where he was again let out on bail. The next they heard of the incident was a notice from the Governor of Iowa to the Governor of Colorado to turn the prisoner over to the sheriff in Iowa. The sheriff of Chaffee County was obliged to take the prisoner back to Iowa. The expense of the trip almost broke Chaffee County.

Mix was a big stout fellow, somewhat of a bully, and usually made his bluff stick, but Boon mentioned once seeing him hopelessly bluffed in the early 80's. There were two fellows named Tom Smith and Wm. Green, who claimed to be Jessie and Frank James. They went down from Monarch to Maysville one night and got into a shooting scrape. Mix got a warrant and with four or five men on horseback came up to Monarch the next forenoon to arrest them. There was no road beyond Monarch at that time. Smith and Green went up the trail a little ways and got behind some logs and sat waiting for Mix and his followers to

WRONG DATE

come up. Mix watched them a little while and turned around and went back.

Boon stated that these fellows were not really the James boys; that Smith who claimed to be Jessie James was tall and light complexioned, while Jessie James was short and dark.

Boon recounted the story of the killing of Bob Pippin by Jim Buck, the Marshall at Garfield in the early mining days. Pippin was foreman of the Columbus mine at the time, and was on his Sunday's drunk, and most of the town was drunk with him. Some of the others were trying to hold church services, but Pippin and his crowd were creating so much disturbance that it was impossible. Buck attempted to arrest Pippin; Pippin resisted and Buck shot him. Buck was taken to Buena Vista and tried. A hung jury resulted. He was acquitted at the second trial, the jury claiming he was doing nothing more than discharging his duty as town marshall.

#####