

Jerry McKelvy's
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ALL BECAUSE OF A DOG

Two brothers, John and Count Gleghorn, were working clearing some new ground south of Emmet in the fall of 1905. Assisting them was Will Preston, a black man. While they were working, another black man named Squire Smith approached them and accused one of the Gleghorn brothers of stealing his dog and trading it to someone. An argument followed and Squire Smith shot and killed both Gleghorn brothers. The only witness to the killings was Will Preston.

Smith hid in the woods as authorities searched for him, but turned himself in the next day to Sheriff Hood. He was tried in March, 1906 and was convicted for murder. He was sentenced to be hanged. His sentence was appealed to the state Supreme Court which upheld the decision of the lower court. Will Preston was also arrested in connection with the murders and jailed. Before his trial date, he escaped from jail and was never seen again.

About a week before the hanging, the gallows for the hanging was constructed at the old jail in Prescott while Smith was being held in the new jail. I don't know if Smith could hear the hammering from the construction or not. I always wondered why they didn't just leave gallows in place as a deterrent. I'm sure hearing the gallows being constructed would have a psychological effect on the accused as he waited for the time of his execution

Hangings in those days always drew a large crowd including women and children and many times, the accused

spoke to the crowd. Squire Smith had told Sheriff Hood that he wished to make some remarks before his hanging.



Squire Smith

At 10 o'clock on June 14, 1906, Squire Smith was led to the gallows. He appeared calm with no signs of fear. He sat for a photo and then spoke to the crowd for 25 minutes. He showed no remorse. Here is a portion of his speech:

“Well, I am before you friends and I don't deny the charge of murder. I had to do it. As far as I am concerned, I am prepared to go and don't want anybody to shed a tear over me. Am not a bit scared. I am ready and willing to go. I feel as innocent of the crime as a child, but that don't better the case any. I have been in jail since the last days of November up to this time, have been well cared for and have had plenty to eat three times a day. You have a fine sheriff and the one you ought to have. He will put you in jail, feed

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you three times a day, and guard you”.



Sheriff Ed Hood

During his remarks, Smith said that Will Preston who had also been arrested was innocent. Smith concluded his remarks by saying “Of course, we know that we will have to die. I know when my time is and you don’t yours. That is the difference.”

Squire Smith’s body was cut down ten minutes after the hanging and turned over to his family. A local preacher then made a talk to the crowd. The two Gleghorn brothers were buried at Forest Hill cemetery. Their brother later used a team of horses to drag a large boulder to their graves as a marker. John Gleghorn was about 32 years old and had a wife and one child. Count Gleghorn was 31 years old and unmarried.

This was the last legal hanging in Nevada County. *(Photos from Nevada County Picayune)*

Details of this case and the decision of the Supreme Court on appeal can be found online. Just do a search for “gleghorn brothers squire smith” and click on some of the links that come up.



Thomas Gleghorn, a brother of the two deceased men, used a horse to drag this huge rock to Forest Hill Cemetery to mark the graves of Count and John Gleghorn.

CLOTHING CAN BE DANGEROUS

I’ve been going through some of the old newspapers from the early 1900s and I have noticed many cases of women dying from burns after their dress caught fire while doing their chores. Women wore long dresses back in those days and many homes were heated by fireplaces. One lady’s dress caught on fire from the fireplace and she did something you should never do if your clothing is on fire. She took off running which made the fire worse. She suffered for 30 hours from her burns before she died.

Many small children also died from fires. One was playing around the fireplace when the clothing caught fire. They even dressed young children (both girls and boys) in billowy type clothing. Families were large in those days, so I expect it was hard for a lady to watch all the young children while she was doing her chores. Another child was scalded by tipping over a pot of boiling water.

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Accidents do happen, but many lives could have been saved back in those days if women had only been allowed to wear blue jeans instead of those long dresses.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

When reading old newspapers, we sometimes find some things that seem strange to us. An example:

“One of his twin children died on the 9th inst.” What does that mean? The inst. Is an abbreviation for “instant” and means the current month, so if this statement appeared in the March, 1909 newspaper, it would mean the incident happened on the 9th of March. (the current month)

Another example:

“He committed suicide by jumping overboard at sea on the 27th ult.” The ult. Is an abbreviation for “ultimo” and means the preceding month, so if this statement appeared in the March, 1909 newspaper, it would mean the incident happened on February 27, 1909.

Another word you might find is “fortnight”. An example:

“The revolution is expected to end within a fortnight”. What is a fortnight? That means a period of two weeks. Prescott had a club back in 1909 called the Fortnightly Club. I suppose they met every two weeks.

A STUDY OF FINGERNAILS

Do you know what chiromancy is? That’s the idea that you can tell a person’s future by reading the lines in the palms of their hands.

Some even went a little further and did a study of fingernails. I found an article in the 1890 newspaper that explained it.

If your fingernails are long and slender, it denotes imagination and poetic feelings, a love of art, and laziness.

If your fingernails are long and flat, it denotes prudence, good sense, and grave mental faculties

If your fingernails are wide and short, it denotes high temper, rudeness, and desire for controversy and obstinacy.

If your fingernails are pink in color, it denotes virtue, liberality, and courage.

Dry and brittle fingernails are associated with murderers and other cruel persons.

Fingernails that are curved and in the shape of claws are as bad or worse than the last mentioned.

Soft nails are associated with feebleness of both body and mind.

Nails which are bitten close to the flesh are associated with dissipation.

RAINFALL RECORD

February rainfall -- 7.7 inches

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What is a Model Wife? (from The Nevada County Picayune Sep. 11, 1890)

A model wife is the woman in whom the heart of the husband doth safely trust.

She is the woman who looks after her household and makes her hospitality a delight to him and not a burden.

Who has learned that a soft answer turneth away wrath.

Who keeps her sweetest smiles and most loving words for her husband.

Who is the confidante in sorrow or in joy, and who does not feel the necessity of explaining his private affairs to the neighborhood.

Who respects the rights of husband and children, and in return has due regard paid to her.

Who knows her strongest argument is her womanliness, and so she cultivates it.

Who is sympathetic in joy and grief, and who finds work for her hands to do.

Who makes friends, and keeps them.

Who is not made bitter by trouble, but strengthens and sweetens under it.

Who tries to conceal the faults of her husband rather than to blazon them forth to the uninterested public.

The woman whose life-book has love written on every page.

Who makes a home for a man—a home in a house and in a heart. A home that he is sure of, a home that is full of love,

presided over by one who price is above rubies.

She is the model wife.

NO NEWS

Things were pretty dull around Prescott in August, 1910---This paragraph was printed in The Prescott Daily News.

Local news is very scarce today. Nobody has got married, nobody died, there are no new babies, no runaways, nobody has caught any fish (that we know of), nobody has brought in any vegetables (that we know of), nobody's been drunk—well, that's none of your business and we won't tell. There have been no dog fights; in fact, there has been little or nothing doing that the local man could gather news from. How would you like to be the news man?

WHAT IS IT?



You probably have one of these around your house.

Actual size – about one inch long