THE ORIGINAL SKIDOO NEWS

by Ruby Ann Walker Yucaipa, California

After reading the last MAC (Issue Number 18 Spring 1993), I found the article by Bob Schroth entitled "Skidoo: A Death Valley Ghost Town" to be extremely fascinating. Mr. Schroth mentioned in his article that there was a headline in Skidoo's newspaper that read "Murder In Camp. Murderer Lynched With General Approval." The first thing that came to mind was how great it would be to own, or just see, that original newspaper. I remembered seeing a collection of old newspapers from various mining towns in Ted Bobrink's collection and thinking how broad the field of mining artifact collecting can be.

I decided that the first place for me to start looking for a Skidoo newspaper would be at the local library. I asked the lady in charge if she could assist me in finding any information about a certain incident that happened in Skidoo, California, on April 25, 1908. With her help, we found several books on Skidoo. One of them had a picture of the original "The Skidoo News" newspaper with the exact article I was looking for. The book gave reference to the Eastern California Museum in Independence, California.

Shown below is a copy of the original newspaper sent to me by the Eastern California Museum in Independence.



VOL. II, NO 18

SKIDOO, INYO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1908

TEN CENTS

rderer

Joe Simpson Shoots Jim Arno'd

Dead and Is Hanged By Citizens

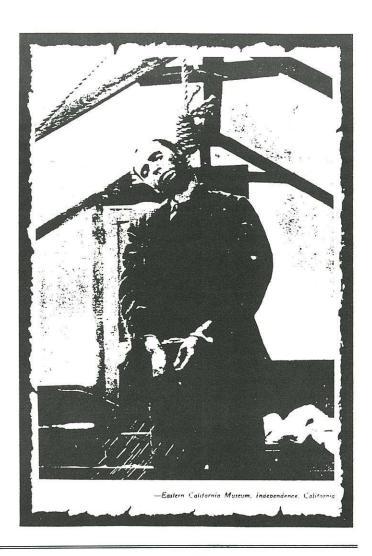
The disturbance which has shaken the community to the roots, in the past few days, opened on Sun'ny merraine last, at about eleven o'clock, when lee Supson, familiarly known as Joe Hooteh that being the sum of his 'ampron' here bever get held up the Southern Calif, Bank here, for the nimble sum of twenty dollars, that being the sum of his 'ampron' here or the nimble sum of twenty dollars, that leing the sum of his 'ampron' here or the nimble sum of twenty dollars, that leing the sum of his 'ampron' his content and his 'ampron' his 'ampron' his content and his 'ampron' his 'ampron' his content and his 'ampron' his 'ampron' his 'ampron' his content and his 'ampron' his 'a in the past few days, opened on Sun'ay mornin; last, at about eleven o'clock, when Ice Simpson, familiarly known as Joe 'Hootch' (that being his favor to bever ge) held up the Southern Calif. Bank here, for the nimble sum of twenty dollars, that being the sum of his annel ate need. He was everpowered before he could collect, and his gan taken from him. He returned to the bank (which is located in the store) again and became very abusive Jim Arnold, managing partner in the store, finally put him out. Three hours later, he returned again with his gan and deliberately shot Arnold, who was unarmed. He turned, and covered the bank er. Ralph E. Dobbs and would probably have killed him had not his common formation. He can be used to be a second of the managing with the managing structured again with the gan and covered the bank er. Ralph E. Dobbs and would probably have killed him had not his covering formation. The managing structured again with the managing partner in the store, finally put him out. The learned structured again with his gan and deliberately shot Arnold, who was unarmed. He turned, and covered the bank er. Ralph E. Dobbs and would probably have killed him had not his covering from beneath the formation formation of the collar below, he life below the same evening. An industed of the same evening. An industed of the same evening. An industry of the collar below, he life below the same evening. An industry of the collar below, he for the lad crossed the street, been a second of the same evening. An industry of the collar below, he for the lad crossed the street, been a second of the same evening. An industry of the collar below, he for the lad crossed the street, been a second of the same evening. An industry of the collar below here the lad crossed the street, been a second of the same evening. An industry of the collar below, he had crossed the street, been a second of the same evening. An industry of the collar below, he had crossed the street, been a second of the same evening. An industry of the collar below, he had crossed the street, been a second of the same evening. An industry of the collar below, he had crossed the street, been a second of the same evening. An industry of the second of the same evening and the same eveni collect, and his gun taken from Lim. He returned to the bank

I wrote a letter to that museum explaining my interest, and one week later I received a package in the mail with a photo-copy of the original newspaper dated April 25, 1908. Also enclosed were photo-copies of other reports and photographs on the murder and hanging that had been written about in various books.

It was surprising to me that it was so easy to find out so much information in such a short time and that everyone I contacted would be so enthusiastic and helpful. I'm sure that just about every collector out there has his or her favorite mining town and by simply going to your local city or county library, you will be able to find out a vast amount of information that will be of great interest to you.

Many thanks to all of the helpful workers at the Yuciapa City Library and the great folks at the Eastern California Museum.

Shown to the right is a copy of the photograph of Joe "Hootch" Simpson in his unique post-mortem encore. The body was disinterred and hanged a second time so that a reporter from the Los Angeles Herald could take this photograph. (Photo curtesy of Eastern California Museum, Independence, California)



ANOTHER HERCULES MATCH SAFE FOUND

by Larry Kuester Yorba Linda, California

I recently acquired another different Hercules match safe. This new style has the Hercules man on the front like all of the others, but with a different back. The back side shows a miner dressed in slickers with boots, a hat with an oil wick lamp, and holding two boxes of dynamite. The match safe, like the others, is made of metal and wrapped with celluloid plastic. The Hercules man and the miner are printed in black on an off-white background while the text, including the "H" on the Hercules box, is in red.

