

## [Mrs. O. S. Warren]

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Date: Aug. 25, 1937

Words: 1750

Subject: Indians

Information: Mrs. O.S. Warren

Early Days Around Silver City

In 1882 when I came to Silver City the stage coach had to be guarded as the Indians were at that time on the war path.

I saw many exciting events. Every women carried a pistol not to kill Indians [but?] herself in case she were attacked by the Indians as they were greatly mistreated.

One of the first things I saw in Silver City was the hanging of two men. I stayed at the Southern Hotel when I first landed in Silver City, the Court House and jail at that time were then next to the Hotel.

Two men were tried and hung in the court yard. The unique way of keeping the prisoners from escaping was when the wall was made bottles were broken and stuck up in the wall, but once in awhile a break was made.

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There was a break one time when four prisoners escaped. Jackson who drove a livery wagon saw the escape, so he cut his horse loose from the wagon and called back to a fellow to keep him in sight and he would keep the escaped prisoners in sight. He followed the men to the old cementary where they were surrounded by the collecting posse.

One of the men escaped but was later captured on the Membres. The other three were captured two were hung at the cementary, but brought the other in as he proved to the posses that he hadn't fired a shot.

He was brought back to town and on examing his gun it was found that it looked, and that was the reason he hadn't fired.

Joseph La Ferra a promenant citizen of that time was killed in the capture of the prisoner's. In 1884 when a prisoner escaped and any one was killed the law dealt in a hurry not by trial, but by / a moose and a nice large limb.

One afternoon we heard a woman holler out in front of the place when we went out to see what she wanted she told us the Indians had attacked the Silver [????] 2 Ranch where Cottage Sand now is. There were two Spanish families living out there. The woman had gotten her brother-in-law in the buckboard and brought him to town where he died a few hours later.

A posses was formed to go in search of Geronimos Apaches but they were never seen.

About nine o'clock I was called to the door there stood a nine year old boy with a red scarf tied around his neck and waist. He had his baby sister under the shawl. The youngster had been in the cornfield when the Indians attacked.

He knew his little sister was up in a shed asleep. He crawled back to the cornfield then after the fight with his baby sister, and later walked into town carrying his little sister.

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The survivals of two large families. One small baby was found hung up by a meat hook. The Indians were very cruel to the people they captured especially women and girls. They liked to take white boys to raise.

Another time we were going to John Broahmans flour mill on the Membres. On this side of Ivanhoe the soldiers from Ft. Byard stopped us and told us the Indians were out, but we were safer to go forward as the Indians were behind us.

We stopped at a farmhouse to water the team. My three children and I was sitting on the steps. We thought the family was away when one of the children accidentally pushed the door open and a horrible sight we did behold. There were bodies lying around and the entire place was wrecked.

General Miles who was in charge of the soldiers of the district went out after the Indians. They finally overtook them and found that they had taken a small boy with them who General Miles recaptured and returned to Ft. Byard.

My husband was an insurance agent having one of the largest Co's in the Southwest. Mr. Warren died in 1885 and I took the company over, and at the same time to collecting real estates.

We needed sidewalk's but couldn't find any clean sand. Contractors came from Albuquerque and El Paso to put down the sidewalk, but as all sand had to be 2 washed, and the expense was proving to great.

One day one of the contractor's noticed some clean sand in front of the old Elks building. We couldn't find the man that had placed the sand there. We soon learned he was in California. Upon his return I asked, "Where did you get that nice sand," The reply was "That's my secret."

"I'll make it worth your time to tell me and let it be my secret also." I replied.

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"I will for all of your forms." To this I quickly agreed. We went to the place and I took the bearing in hopes of buying the property.

Imagine my surprise when I discovered I owned the property. Now that I had the clean sand I decided to build my own sidewalks. When I finished my walks my neighbors wanted their sidewalks laid. I liked the work and was soon in the contracting business.

I have build many of the larger dwelling's, remodled the business houses, and many of the old land marks.

When the flood came and ruined so many of the buildings on Main Street and started the street to sinking I started the Rock wall which the W.P.A. finished.

The flood isolated the Hotel in such a way there was'nt anything to / do, but tear it down thus losing \$40,000, and the best hotel in Silver City with the tearing down of San [Vicente?].

Most of the business has been taken up as a step to improve what I had so to be able to make a living.

I used to say a woman to be a success not only must do as well as a man, but much better.