

Literature and History

Legends of the Gold Country

By Martin 'Red' Johnson



Henry Plumer's First Love

Chapter 13

Last Month: "Henry, the city needs you as its Marshall! The income is above average for gold country towns", David closed on the money. "I can tell you the Marshall position will be a dog fight to the end", Henry declared.



Martin 'Red' Johnson

"Let us say you are correct in your assessment of the election. Would that not give you a lot more public notice even if you lost, which you will not lose? David asked. "I suppose you are right. I may have a strategy worked out. You concentrate on the town folks, and I'll get miners I know to help us in the mining camps. Many of them spend more time in Nevada City than working their mines. Nowhere in the city incorporation does it say they can't vote, right?" Henry asked his attorney friend.

"Henry, you have a good idea there. You are correct, that issue was never brought up. You muster as many votes as you can in the mining camps, and you just might win that race." David Belden said with a little more enthusiasm.

"Oh, now it's not a sweep, I just might win, huh? Henry said with a grin. "Yes, you will win!" David replied and continued, "Johnson missed out on the capture of Dr. Thomas

Hodges. He is on his way to prison for grand larceny. Sheriff in Marysville is escorting him to the island. Johnson is good with the local drinkers, but he's not a man hunter. When Boss Wright needs to hunt a man down, he uses Steve Vinard. When you get into office keep that one in mind. It could get you re-elected", David concluded his conversation. Both men had their work cut out for them.

Chapter 14, The 1856 Election

The campaign was a horse race to the end. In the Marshall's race, Henry Plumer and Dave Johnson were at a dead tie. As Henry and David Belden had prophesied, the City was three quarters in favor of Dave Johnson and the vast majority (nearly all) of the miners in the surrounding mining camps were overwhelmingly in favor of Henry Plumer.

Dave's political power base was the businessmen of Nevada City. They liked the fact Dave was tough on the rougher element and didn't aggressively collect taxes from them. He was

the perfect Marshall for them, and they campaigned hard for Dave Johnson. Dave also had Boss Wright, County Sheriff, on his side in the race. That was a powerful base of influence.

Sheriff Boss Wright was very well liked and he was a man hunter. Steve Vinard was his righthand man with such matters; that is, when he wasn't on the Wells, Fargo & Co. payroll. James Humes, Chief Detective for Wells, Fargo & Co., former County Sheriff of El Dorado County, said that Steve Vinard of Nevada City, and Benjamin Kent Thorn of Calaveras County were the best two man hunters in the country. That is pretty good coming from the recognized best detective in the country.

Steve Vinard wanted to be the American Party's choice for City Marshall, but the power people in that Party talked him out of running against Dave Johnson. Dave had a proven record, and was just too well liked in Nevada City.

Henry told his friends in the mining camp if they didn't come in to Nevada City and vote for him, they would be the victims. The miners knew all too well the attitude of the existing politicians in Nevada City. The miners are the economic base for the City's very existence; yet the townspeople do not want them to have a say in anything. They knew Henry when Henry had mined with Robinson, and he knew many of the miners there. Henry worked hard for their vote.

Henry's strongest base of support in the City itself was among the 65 sorting clubs (saloons), and a small percentage of the businessmen. The vast majority of the saloon owners were his customers from the bakery, and he spent some of his profits with them gambling and toasting to everyone's good health.

Henry was not a heavy drinker, but a good social drinker. *To Be Continued*

Manzanita Call for Submissions

Submissions of poetry, prose, photography and art inspired by the Mother Lode and Sierra regions of California are being accepted for the sixth volume of *Manzanita: Poetry and Prose of the Mother Lode and Sierra*. The deadline for submission is Dec 15, 2009.

All poetry and prose submissions must be made electronically. Art and photography can be sent electronically in small jpeg files for previewing, or can be dropped off at the Calaveras County Arts Council Office at 22 Main St. in San Andreas between 10 and 4pm daily, Attention Manzanita Writers Press.

Submission guidelines can be found at the Manzanita site: www.manzanitacalifornia.org. Manzanita's previous volumes have received acclaim from writers, editors, and readers throughout California, said Editor Monika Rose. "People submitting material do not have to live in the region, but their work should resonate with area and visiting readers and reflect regional influences," Rose said. "Our aim is to represent the beauty of our area and the rich treasure of words and art mined from our rural hills."

Rose said that artists and photographers should keep in mind that the publication will feature artwork and photography in black and white, so good contrast and resolution is optimum. "People can view sample poems posted on the website from our previous volume 5 to get a flavor of the publication," she said.

Rose said *Manzanita Volume 6* will be published in Spring of 2010. "There will be a gala opening, public reading and reception celebrating the writers, artists, and readers of the book in the spring," she said.

The new volume of the 160-page, perfect-bound, glossy color cover collection of new, previously unpublished works will be published by Manzanita Writers Press, a new literary press formed by Writers Unlimited, a regional writers

critique group, affiliates of the Calaveras County Arts Council, that has been an integral part of the literary scene in our county for years. For more information about meeting times, the publication, and the literary press, call 209-754-0577, or the Arts Council office at 754-1774. Or email: mrosemanza@jps.net.

Placerville Speedway TWEETS

Race fans and teams that are looking for up to the minute announcements regarding ASA sanctioned Placerville Speedway can now find the foothill speedway live on the rapidly growing technology of twitter.

Special announcements, news bulletins and new promotions will be broadcast frequently through the worldwide networking service. "Twitter is a rapidly growing trend in the world of web marketing and public relations, explained Bill Sullivan, Director of Communications for Placerville Speedway. "Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read each others' updates, known as tweets."

"This will be used to frequently remind fans and teams of upcoming events, promotions and schedule changes." Race fans, teams and associates wishing to receive Placerville Speedway updates via "tweets" can sign up for free at website: www.twitter.com.

Placerville Speedway can be followed by searching the keywords Placerville Speedway or visiting the direct link at <http://twitter.com/pvllspeedway>.

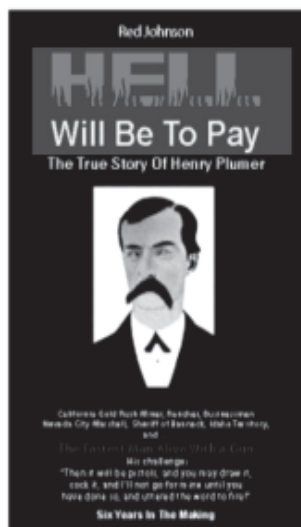
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