

1000 Miles Episode 3 Transcript

Robin Monteith: Welcome to 1000 Miles of Desert and Mountains, brought to you by the University Libraries at the University of Nevada, Reno, and the Washoe County Libraries. This project explores George and Josephine's diaries which document their 1000-mile long prospecting trip across Nevada desert and mountains in 1914. The diaries are housed in Special Collections and University Archives at the University Libraries and are an excellent primary source. As we read through George and Josephine's experience, they give us insights into what life was like in Nevada in the early 1900's. As we join George and Josephine today, the date is Sunday, April 5th, 1914. They are in Indian Springs, Nevada and are searching for the ever elusive gold.

Jeremiah G. Nelson: Sunday, April the 5th. Sunshine. Broke camp at 7:15\ . Past a large number of monuments and frequent assessment holes. I looked at one of the notices and found it to be an oil location in September 1909\ . A number of Yucca are in bloom, this is about two months earlier than along the parker cutoff in Arizona. Our trail was still upgrade till about 8:30, when we saw the cluster of green trees below that marked the site of Indian Springs. We reached camp about 9:00 and had come about four miles. We made eighteen miles yesterday in seven hours. We found a prospector named Kimball, staying over Sunday at the springs. He tells us that a man, named Towner, took up these springs and struggled along here in this out of the way spot for twenty-five years. By that time his wife and child had all left him, refusing to stay longer in this isolated spot. Then a man by name of McFarland came along and bought him out for 2,500 dollars, and later selling the place to the railroad company for 10,000 dollars. Towner still lives in Las Vegas. The spring runs fifty inches of water. Temperature 78 degrees. Elevation here 3,136 feet. Average rainfall less than 3 inches. Kimball showed me a piece of jasper quartz. Heavy laden with galena and showing a good deal of free gold. It came from a wash a few miles farther on, and an even larger piece of jasper quartz showing free gold has been found in the same wash. We spent the last two mornings trying to find the ledge, but having no success. We have given up the search and will start north, thirty five miles, to quartz springs tomorrow. Towner told him to go over there and search for the porphyry dike that came down from Rhyolite. Two holes are being driven in this vicinity for artesian water. The place has about fifty acres underwater. Most of it in alfalfa, but it also has a good apple orchard and a peach orchard. The peaches and early apples have finished blooming. The late apples are in full blossom. There are two graves out on the mesa. An indian and a white man. There's a little commissary here, also hay. A good many indians have camped here at various times and we found a little bow, made by some indian boy, and two cane arrows. McFarland was formerly with the Ingersoll-Rand company of New York City and is addicted to cigarettes. Kimball is interested in Christian Science. The johnny mine has closed down so there is no prospect of getting any grain before we reach rhyolite. McFarland called at the camp with a Mr. Putney who was at one time the section foreman at Rox, and has been the section foreman at Indian Springs. McFarland took us over to show his place. Puppies, house, orchard, and chickens. His pools are full of german carp. I've been bothered a good deal at night by the buzzing of blue bottle flies, and they have bitten me several times. They turn out to be desert mosquitoes. Paxton told us that there were two mills built in Aurora of brick which were burned in Folsom, California. He also said this country was covered by prospectors who went out with a team. While one man made camp the other built monuments.

Robin Monteith: Thank you for listening with us today and please join us next time when George and Josephine are in Amargosa, Nevada and Chino gets his foot stuck in a tin can! Special thanks to Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Nevada, Reno for making the diaries available, and to our reader, Jeremiah G. Nelson for bringing George and Josephine's words to life. Big thanks to the 1000 Miles project team: Kim Anderson, Reed Barrus, Katherine Dirk, Emily Dunster, Nathan Gerth, Chrissy Klenke, Michelle Rebaleati, Landon Renwick, Laura Rocke and Luka Starmer, along with me, your host, Robin Monteith. Episode music provided by Thomas Jones Chase, Tim Torrance and Per-Anders Nilsson, courtesy of Universal Production Music. You can explore more of the 1000 Miles project at library.unr.edu/1000-miles, or simply find the link in the show notes. Thanks for joining us!