

## 1000 Miles Episode 5 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 1000-mile long prospecting trip across Nevada in 1914 through the pages of their diaries. The three diaries, which are housed in Special Collections and University Archives at the University Libraries, are a terrific primary source and give us insights into what life was like at the time while connecting us to George and Josephine and the details of their adventure. As we join George and Josephine today, the date is Wednesday, June 17th, 1914. George and Josephine are still in Amargosa, Nevada, and are learning more about the area, courtesy of their new friend, William G. Morris.

Jeremiah G. Nelson: Amargosa, Nevada. Both men have been at the crater on Lassen's Peak, and want the news about it. The train crew tells me that a party of sight seers who went up the mountain to witness the eruption was destroyed by falling stones. Both these men believe that there is a vast deal more gold in California than in Nevada, but that a man should give his attention to placer mining in that state and leave the quartz alone. Dauberman came over in the evening and stayed until ten o'clock. About eight o'clock a man came driving into camp on the Fairbanks road. He is from Ash Meadows and he was expecting wheat, for chicken feed, from Las Vegas. He made camp at the hydrant. He strongly urges me not to try to cross Death Valley, and told me that an old desert man, from Beatty, who tried it last summer depending on Panamint Jo, and indian guide, succumbed to the heat, the indian died also. Dauberman insists that it is the first crop of alfalfa that carries the seed, and if you let it mature you will get nothing more for the year. Thursday June 18th. Partly cloudy and a heavy wind arose about ten o'clock. We had a little drizzle in the afternoon, but there was a heavy rain in Death Valley and along the Amargosa. The man from Ash Meadows turned out to be William G. Morris, who has a homestead and is running a chicken ranch. He had mined in California but was born in North Carolina and is probably part Cherokee. He has a prospect in the Funeral Range. Lead, Silver, Copper, for which he wants 7,000 dollars. I told him that if I could find a buyer I would put the price at ten thousand and would want the three thousand to help me make the sale. He said that my terms were entirely reasonable. His address is Death Valley Junction California. He was the first white settler in Ash Meadows and for two years there was no other white man there, and his only neighbors were Shoshone indians. During this period everything he had was perfectly safe wherever he left it. But since then some white settlers have come in and now his tools and other things are taken. The hanging wall at his prospect is quartzite and the country rock is dolomite. He thinks this green rock that we have found among the samples in the camp came from Sterling, and carry both silver and copper. He was at Greenwater at the time of the excitement. The regular price for a gallon can of water was fifteen cents, but on days when the water wagon did not come in to camp the price was twenty-five cents. He named several poor men who made from thirty-thousand to forty-thousand each, and then squandered. The regular price in Rhyolite when water was hauled in from Beatty was two bits for a five gallon can. He worked at La Grange where he drifted and shoveled the dirt out to his sluices. At another time, he grounded sluiced about three miles from Mokelumne Hill. He noticed that on Frenchman's Hill the ground was full of round shafts and he asked an old timer about it. The ground was so rich that each miner was allowed a claim only as large as the circle he could make with his outstretched arms and shovel, and out of those small claims as high as forty-thousand dollars was taken. He says that only in late years has there been any cyanide plant on the

Johnny, and the old tailings ran down the canyon which shows from this camp. He thinks those tailings would be well worth cyaniding, although the later tailings have been run on top and would have to be removed with a scraper. He says that rock which we showed him looks as if it came from the Johnny. He supposed it was picked up in the sample pile in camp, but it is rocks that I brought in, in which we have found gold. I placed shoes on brake blocks and greased the wagon. Seems that the trailing vine which grows here so freely and which the burros like so well, is not eaten by horses. I gathered up a big feed of it for Tucson and similar feeds for the others. I put a pair of lifts on the old white shoes, and Josephine put in a pair of asbestos insoles. Morris did location work on a section and a half of land beyond Indian Springs, during the Owen excitement of four years ago.

Robin Monteith: Thank you for listening with us today and please join us next time when George and Josephine pack up and set out on the next leg of their adventure. 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](http://library.unr.edu/1000-miles), or simply find the link in the show notes. Thanks for joining us!