

1000 Miles Episode 8 Transcript

Robin Monteith: Welcome to our final episode of 1000 Miles of Desert and Mountains, brought to you by the University Libraries at the University of Nevada, Reno, and the Washoe County Libraries. We have so enjoyed exploring the diaries of George and Josephine Scott with you and we hope you have enjoyed coming along as George and Josephine, together with Jack, Tucson, Chino, Cyclone, Poonee and Mebbe trekked 1000 miles across Nevada deserts and mountains. Three diaries remain of the original four and they are housed in Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Nevada, Reno libraries. Our digital lab team has captured the diaries in their entirety and if you would like to explore George and Josephine's adventures in more detail, we invite you to visit them online. You'll find a quick link to the collection at library.unr.edu/1000-miles. As we join George and Josephine for our final episode today, the date is Tuesday, August 25th, 1914. George and Josephine are one mile south of Bridgeport and must figure out how to convince the burros to cross the East Walker River as they make their way into California.

Jeremiah G Nelson: One mile south of Bridgeport, California. Tuesday, August 25th. Sunshine and a beautiful day. We were in no hurry this morning and it was a great luxury. We did not break camp till nine o'clock. Our animals had all they could eat all night, and up until we began packing them, still they were logy and slow; Probably ate too much. It has been a wonderful day, the road followed the river for fully ten miles and there are ranches here and there all in hay. The green fields running right up to the foot of the mountains were very attractive, and the noisy river was always within sight. One man had raised alfalfa on a sage brush hillside so steep it could not be cut, but he had fine big cattle feeding it down. We passed one outfit that looked like a Nevada saloon crew, and about one o'clock we came to a bridge over the East Walker River where the river is very noisy and our burros absolutely refused to take it. We finally blindfolded Jack and by pulling and pushing he was landed on the other side trembling from head to foot. Then we took Tucson and she certainly gave us a fight for our pains. It took fully fifteen minutes to get her over but she was finally tied to the sage brush and began munching grass. Josephine put some barley in a pan and pulled Cyclone over inch by inch. The other two had been blindfolded but it was not necessary with him. Then Chino was towed across blindfolded and staked out. Josephine and I then pushed the wagon across the bridge and hitched up once more. Presently the road left the river and took to the sagebrush but becoming pretty sandy and heavy for several miles. I shot a little cottontail but it was able to keep going, and Poonee caught it. She brought it along holding it amidship and jumped into the wagon with it. We divided with her for supper. We finally made camp where a ditch came down from the hills, but a man who came after the cattle gave us permission to turn the burros into their pasture. Both yesterday and today we have seen great hedges of both willows and wild roses flanking the road. There have been miles and miles of these wild roses and often twelve to fifteen feet high. The sagebrush here, where it grows on ground containing some moisture is often six feet and seven feet high. The stems from four inches to six inches in diameter. Last night's camp was our last in the state of Nevada. In ten or fifteen minutes after starting this morning, we were at the upper end of the Fredrick's ranch and passed into California. We gathered some small nuts growing on small bushes by the wayside. Something we never saw before.

Robin Monteith: Thank you for listening with us today and throughout the series. We hope you have enjoyed following George and Josephine, and of course, the burros, on their 1000 mile trek across Nevada. We have enjoyed having you with us on this journey and hope you will explore more of the books, documents, letters, photos and so much more that Special Collections and University Archives has to offer. 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. Thank you to the talented 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. If you'd like to explore more of our digitized Special Collections, you'll find that link in the show notes as well. Thank you for joining us on this journey!