

FIRST DRAFT

Telluride was once ruled by wealthy 'savage' Bulkeley Wells

On Jan. 4, 1904, a Daily Sentinel headline blared the news from San Miguel County: "Martial Law Declared at Telluride."

The reason was a mining strike that began the previous October over issues that had been festering since 1900.

At the center of the dispute was a man named Bulkeley Wells, manager and part owner of the Smuggler Mining Company and leading citizen of Telluride.

For a time in 1904, Wells was virtual dictator of San Miguel County.

Wells was called "courageous" and "a glamorous man" by supporters. But a Socialist Party pamphlet that backed the miners described him as "a gentleman and a savage."

Wells was certainly wealthy, powerful and arguably glamorous in the early years of the 20th century — he was a polo player, member of the Masons and Elks, a host of elaborate dinner parties. A few decades later, however, he was destitute and alone. In 1931, in San Francisco, he shot and killed himself.

Wells was born in Chicago in 1872 and graduated from Harvard in 1894. He worked briefly for a New Hampshire manufacturing company and a Boston railroad firm before romance brought him fortune.

In 1895, he married Grace Daniels Livermore, whose father, Col. Thomas Livermore of Boston, was primary owner of New England Exploration. In 1899, that company purchased the Smuggler-Union Mining Co. for \$1.5 million.

Bulkeley Wells was named vice president of the company, and moved with his wife and young family to Denver.

A brief synopsis of Telluride's labor wars is listed below, from Roger Neville Williams 1977 book, "The Great Telluride Strike, Labor Struggles and Martial Law in San Miguel County 1901-1904."

■ May 4, 1901: Telluride Miners Union No. 63, affiliate of Western Federation of Miners, declares strike against Smuggler-Union because the company refuses to pay \$3 for an eight-hour day.

■ July 3, 1901: Gunfire breaks out between striking union members and scab miners working at the Smuggler. Two scabs and one union man are killed. Strike ends later that summer.

■ Nov. 19, 1902: Smuggler Mine manager Arthur Collins is murdered as he eats dinner at his house in Pandora (just east of Telluride). Wells moves to Telluride.

■ Sept. 1, 1903: Telluride Miners Union calls strike against the Smuggler-Union, Tomboy and Liberty bell mills.

■ Nov. 20, 1903: Gov. James Peabody orders National Guard troops to Telluride

under command of Major Zeph Hill.

■ Dec. 22, 1903: Eighteen union leaders and strikers are arrested and sent by train to jail in Montrose. Within days, Judge Theron Stevens of Montrose orders them all released. Most return to Telluride.

■ Jan. 3, 1904: Gov. Peabody declares martial law. Hill's soldiers arrest 50 men at the union hall, and place them on a train bound for Ridgway.

■ Jan. 11, 1904: At Hill's request, Wells establishes Troop A, First Squadron Cavalry, of local citizens. Wells is captain.

■ Feb. 21, 1904: Major Hill withdraws with his men. Wells becomes supreme military commander of San Miguel County. He restricts freedom of assembly, closes gambling halls, censors the press and telegraph dispatches.

■ March 11, 1904: Martial law lifted, gambling halls reopen, deported strikers begin returning.

■ March 14, 1904: Angry townsmen, led by Wells, ransack saloons, brothels and miners' homes in search of union members. Seventy men put on train to Ridgway.

■ March 24, 1904: Peabody reinstates martial law. Brigadier Gen. Sherman Bell of Colorado National Guard moves to Telluride with 300 troops. Bell orders Wells to reactivate Troop A.

■ Late March, 1904: Miners Union President Charles Moyer and Western Federation of Miners leader Big Bill Haywood are arrested in Ouray on charges of desecrating the flag.

Haywood is released but Moyer is transported to Telluride.

■ April, 1904: Judge Stevens orders a writ of habeas corpus for Moyer, and demands Moyer be brought before his court. Gen. Bell responds, "Habeas corpus be damned. We'll give 'em post mortems."

■ April 1904: Judge Stevens orders the arrest of Gen. Bell and Wells, but the Ouray County Sheriff is unable to do it. Wells warns: "Anyone who attempts to enforce Judge Stevens' order will end up in jail"

■ April 16, 1904: Gen. Bell withdraws his troops. Wells is again in charge of San Miguel County.

■ June 6, 1904: Colorado Supreme Court upholds the suspension of Moyer's writ of habeas corpus because Moyer had "kept alive insurrection and rebellion."

■ June 15, 1904: Gov. Peabody again declares end to martial law. Bulkeley Wells tells any "idlers" to go to work or get out of town.

■ November 29, 1904: Strike is officially called off. Wells agrees to institute 8-hour day for \$3-a-day pay at all Smuggler facilities.

Author Maryjoy Martin, in her 2004 book about the Telluride labor war, "The Corpse on Boomerang Road," described Wells as "a peacock, all spangled, spurred and armed with a pistol."

However, a 1918 book about Colorado's leading citizens was far kinder: "Bulkeley Wells is possessed of rare courage, which, added to a keen sense of justice, is largely

responsible for his success in dealing with great bodies of men."

E.B. Adams, lawyer for the Smuggler-Union Company beginning in 1908 and author of a 1961 booklet titled "My Association with a Glamorous Man ... Bulkeley Wells," also said Wells was courageous. But, he added, "I suppose that a foolhardy man must be courageous."

Adams didn't touch on Wells' involvement in the labor wars, but he noted that Wells divorced Grace Livermore, and married two more times. Wells left the Smuggler-Union company in 1923, but became friends with New York millionaire Harry Payne Whitney, who funded most of Wells' mining and other ventures through the 1920s, Adams wrote.

But that money eventually dried up, and so did Bulkeley Wells' glamorous life. A mutual friend told Adams he ran into Wells shortly before his



SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL/The Denver Public Library

A more mature Bulkeley Wells posed for this undated photo. As manager and part owner of the Smuggler Mining Company and a leading citizen of Telluride, Wells was a virtual dictator of San Miguel County for the better part of 1904. Several decades later, however, he would end up living as an unsuccessful gambler in San Francisco before committing suicide in 1931.

suicide in 1931. He described the once-powerful man as an unsuccessful gambler whose clothes were so shabby "he would walk only through the alleys and back streets" of the city.

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Pipeline breach spills oil into Yellowstone River

By MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Montana officials said Sunday that an oil pipeline breach spilled up to 50,000 gallons of oil into the Yellowstone River near Glendive, Montana, but they said they are unaware of any threats to public safety or health.

The Bridger Pipeline Co. said the spill occurred about 10 a.m. Saturday. The initial estimate is that 300 to 1,200 barrels of oil spilled, the company said in a statement Sunday.

Some of the oil did get into the water, but the area where it spilled was frozen over and that could help reduce the impact, said Dave Parker, a spokesman for Gov. Steve Bullock.

"We think it was caught pretty quick, and it was shut down," Parker said. "The governor is committed to making sure the river is cleaned up."

Bridger Pipeline Co. said in the statement that it shut down

the 12-inch-wide pipeline shortly before 11 a.m. Saturday. "Our primary concern is to minimize the environmental impact of the release and keep our responders safe as we clean up from this unfortunate incident," said Tad True, vice president of Bridger.

The EPA and state Department of Environmental Quality have responded to the area about 9 miles upriver from Glendive, Parker said.

An Exxon Mobil Corp. pipeline broke near Laurel during flooding in July 2011, releasing 63,000 gallons of oil that washed up along an 85-mile stretch of riverbank.

Montana officials are trying to determine if oil could have been trapped by sediment and debris and settled into the riverbed.

Exxon Mobil is facing state and federal fines of up to \$3.4 million from the spill.

2015 THIS WEEK IN THE LEGISLATURE

Now that all the opening day, inaugural and State of the State speeches are over, the various legislative committees will begin in earnest to hear bills that have been introduced so far. To date, 136 have been introduced since the 2015 session opened on Jan. 7.

■ **Today:** The Legislature is closed in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

■ **Tuesday:** The House Public Health Care & Human Services Committee will debate HB1039, which would allow nonprofit groups to use donated medications to aid victims of disasters.

■ **Wednesday:** The Senate Health & Human Services Committee will discuss SB19, which would authorize the State Auditor's Office to conduct performance audits of the state's health

care exchange. Currently, the auditor's authority to audit the exchange is limited.

■ **Thursday:** The House Health, Insurance & Environment Committee will hear HB1029, which removes telemedicine restrictions related to the state's health care benefits exchange.

■ **Next week:** While the House will discuss bills to provide all-day kindergarten and extend in-state tuition to Native Americans, the Senate will consider a bill to allow community college workers to be included in the state personnel system, essentially allowing them to unionize.

All floor action and committees can be watched or heard on the Legislature's website at www.leg.state.co.us.

— Charles Ashby

Pot association forms in southern Colorado

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PUEBLO — More than a dozen marijuana business people have formed the Southern Colorado Growers Association to promote the pot industry.

The consortium said in a statement that businesses are banding together to make the Pueblo area a power in the burgeoning industry.

BLOTTER COMPILED BY SENTINEL STAFF

Road rage ends in arrest

Chandler R. Frith, 49, was arrested Friday in the 100 block of Riverside Drive in Palisade on suspicion of felony menacing and illegal firearm possession by a felon, according to the Grand Junction Police Department.

Following an alleged near collision Friday morning on Interstate 70-Business Loop, Frith followed a pickup driver home to Pinyon Avenue, according to an arrest affidavit. When the pickup driver exited his vehicle, Frith allegedly told the driver "I'm going to kill you." The other driver told Frith he has a 12 gauge shotgun inside the home, to which Frith replied "Go get it an I'll shoot you in the head," according to the police department. A passenger in the truck believed Frith had a pistol but Frith told police he had a knife, according to the affidavit.

Frith was arrested later in the day after he refused to come to the police station, according to the affidavit. Officers were dispatched to Palisade and arrested Frith after searching his car and finding a box of approximately 30 handguns and rifles that an unidentified person was transporting to a storage unit.

The driver of the pickup, 23-year-old Jak Randall Pollock, was issued a summons on suspicion of harassment and driving while his license was canceled for an unpaid ticket, according to the police department.

Man wields knife at officer

Raymond Pete Allen, 49, was arrested Saturday at 22nd Street and Elm Avenue on suspicion of menacing a police officer with a weapon, according to the Grand Junction Police Department.

An officer was dispatched to an alley in the 1900 block of Kennedy Avenue about 5:30 Saturday evening on a report of a suspicious man wearing a hockey mask, according to an arrest affidavit. The officer found Allen in the alleyway trying to hide behind trash cans as he walked toward the officer. Allen waved at the officer with his left hand but kept his right hand behind his back until the officer told him to show both hands. Allen put his right hand out in front of him and the officer saw he was holding an open knife in that hand, according to the affidavit.

Allen continued walking toward the officer and the officer pulled his handgun and told Allen to drop the knife. Allen threw the knife to the ground and was booked into the Mesa County Jail.

Pot arrest outside bar

Erik J. McDermott, 34, of Golden, was issued a summons Saturday at 436 Main St. on suspicion of public consumption of marijuana and obstructing a police officer, according to the Grand Junction Police De-

partment. According to the summons, an officer saw McDermott throw a marijuana cigarette on the ground. The officer asked McDermott what the cigarette was and McDermott replied, "marijuana is legal," according to the summons. McDermott tried to pull away and said, "you're not going to arrest me" while being placed under arrest. After he was released on a summons, McDermott allegedly told officers "he was going to smoke more as he walked home."

According to the Grand Junction Police Department:

■ Brandi Erb, 39, was arrested Wednesday in the area of Riverside Parkway and High Country Court and booked into the Mesa County Jail on suspicion of possession of controlled substances and drug paraphernalia.

■ Michelle Eddy, 43, who was in a vehicle with Erb when police contacted her, was issued a summons on suspicion of driving while retrained from driving as a habitual traffic offender.

■ Caleb Carey, 34, and Jackie Stults, 22, were arrested Thursday in the 2000 block of College Place on suspicion of vandalizing property.

■ Paul Luther, 40, was issued a summons in the 100 block of Hill Avenue on suspicion of possession of drug paraphernalia.

■ Someone damaged a vehicle and stole items from inside the vehicle Jan. 8 in the 1200 block of North Avenue.

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