

The La Honda Voice



Friday, February 25, 2005

No News this Week

For possibly the first time in La Honda history, there has been no news over the past week. All local events have been previously announced, and although the La Honda message board had over a hundred new posts, they were primarily the continuing saga about the winery issue and whether people like to drink the local water.

I interviewed several “old-timers” who said that once back in the mid-fifties they recalled there being a week without any new news, but they weren’t positive or sure exactly when it occurred.

The Voice will continue to follow this story for any late-breaking developments.

The Final Segment of the History of La Honda

Last week I said that I had met Bud Foss, who wrote the “History of La Honda” just prior to his service in World War II.

Last week we also started the story of the La Honda Bandits. They were the four Younger brothers, Cole, Jim, Bob, and John from Forsyth, Mo. Cole, the oldest son, joined the Confederate

Army. In November 1861 he sought revenge for the people who had killed his father and sister. He is said to have killed 100 men that had something to do with his father's and sister's death. When the war was over he had to flee to the Ray Ranch in **La Honda**. Because Cole's younger brother, John, was a Younger, he got in trouble with the law in Austin, Texas and was killed trying to escape the law.

The Younger Brothers – the Conclusion

“Cole, Jim, Bob and their sister Mollie and John Jarret, left for California...the three brothers and John Jarret went to work on the store...John Jarret married Cole's sister, Mollie, thereby becoming his brother-in-law as well as cousin.

The James brothers were planning to rob the Northfield Bank in Minnesota, as their next big job...They could not accomplish this by themselves and [said] if the Younger Brothers refused to come, they would have them exposed to the law...The brothers and Giles went by way of Oregon to the James Gang hideout.

The James brothers told the Youngers their plan and how they could rob the bank and make a clean getaway...The stage was set, Jesse [James] and Cole

entered the bank first, with Frank right behind, Jim and Bob were to stage a fight to attract a crowd, while the three were robbing the bank...[but] the sheriff's posse was right on their heels...a lucky shot hit Jim Younger in the lower jaw. This slowed up the gang and left a trail of blood. Jesse James told Cole. 'We had better kill Jim or they will surely trail us.' Coles answer was cold; 'Here's where we break up. I didn't think much of you James brothers anyway.' Jesse and Frank James...made a clean getaway. Cole, Jim and Bob gave themselves up so they could save Jim from bleeding to death.

Dick Bartley, La Honda rancher and teamster, visited the Younger brothers at Stillwater Penitentiary in Minnesota.

...Bob had died in prison from the wounds he received...

...an old sweetheart of Jim Younger visited him regularly. She promised Jim that when he got out of prison she would marry him...However, the girl, for some reason turned him down. This broke Jim's heart...he rented a cheap room...took a gun out of his pocket and shot himself through the head, dying instantly...

Cole Younger was paroled on July 14, 1901, just one day after his brother Jim, on the condition that he would leave the state...He died on March 21, 1916, after years of illness from dyspepsia and heart disease. He had seventeen bullets embedded in his body when he died, he had been wounded 26 times...his body rest beside those of his brothers James and Robert and that of his mother."



A photograph is from a postcard showing La Honda Park Lake (Reflection Lake?) – year unknown

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