



This was Nevada Series

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The Saga of Stray Dog Bob

Among the many memorable dogs which have played a part in Nevada's history is Stray Dog Bob, once a resident of the mining camp of Manhattan. When Bob showed up on Manhattan's streets in the summer of 1905, he created no more excitement than any other cur which happened through town. A mixed breed of some sort, his origins were something of a mystery. It was said that he had once belonged to an old man that had been turned out to die by his tribe.

Bob had remained with his master until death claimed the man and had then taken up with a group of prospectors who had found the body and given it a decent burial.

Within weeks of his arrival in Manhattan, Bob stakes his claim to fame. He was with Clark Davis when the richest discoveries were made on the April Fool Lease in August 1905. Bob was a visitor when the Annie Laurie Lease operators pierced jewelry ore in September. The dog was at the Bronco Lease later in the fall when white quartz seamed with gold was struck. When the Nellie Gray Claim on the continuation of the Briggs Lease was discovered, Bob was there. The Iron King Claim and Iron Queen, both rich placer digs were into good direct a few days after Bob's visit.

The leasers, men who always trusted to luck and were strong believers in omens and signs, soon made the connection between Bob and good fortune of their fellows. When any new discovery was made, the question was always asked "Was the dog around?" Often, this had been the case. The rich leases on Litigation Hill were opened shortly after Bob visited and Frank Mershon located his Yellow Horse Claim south of town in January 1906, when Bob was staying with him.

As word of Stray Dog Bob spread, many leasers adopted "Stray Dog" as a part of the title of their properties. Some miners and leasers living in boarding houses would cut the hearts out of their tenderloin steaks to attract him out to their claims and others offered him boxed candy. Beds of soft cotton batting were set up in every tent and shanty in town in hopes that he would pay a visit, but he could not be tempted and seemed to come and go at random. He seldom stayed anywhere more than three days and was not of a friendly nature. Once he left a certain host, he would never return, nor would he greet the men in dog-like fashion when they ran into him in town.

In February 1906, Stray Dog Bob disappeared from Manhattan, never to be seen again. Many residents of the camp thought that he had perhaps rejoined an Indian band, but word came in March that he had been located at Miller's, a camp near Tonopah some forty miles south of Manhattan. With a week of his arrival, it was reported that several leasers hit pay dirt for the first time. Bob did not remain long, however, and was last seen heading south town Goldfield. At this point, the mists of history enfold the dog and he was neither seen nor heard of ever again.