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TREASURE SEEKER LOST

Searching for the “lost” gold mine, another man is lost.

The mysterious and legendary “Lost Dutchman Mine” seems to have claimed another victim this week when a man known only as “Hombre” disappeared.

Although some experts believe that the Lost Dutchman Mine is actually none other than the wealthy Peralta Cache of these mountains, others vehemently believe the mine still remains a hidden mine that has eluded treasure hunters for decades.

The area of the Superstition Mountains Wilderness contains many miles of rough terrain which makes finding the mine a very difficult task. The aptly named mountains have posed many dangers to treasure hunters, from the long-ago Apaches who massacred many in region, to the relentless heat and dangers of the landscape.

Many besides the Hombre have searched for the mine to no avail. It is still out there somewhere in the rugged hills, just waiting for someone to return and claim its prize.

Hombre was a well-known character in the area of Apache Junction. He was famous for the tasty tortillas he fried up at his campfires and his colorful stories about life in Mexico. He was also rumored to be a cousin of Julia Elena Thomas, the old widow that befriended Jacob Walz (the “Dutchman”) eight years ago.

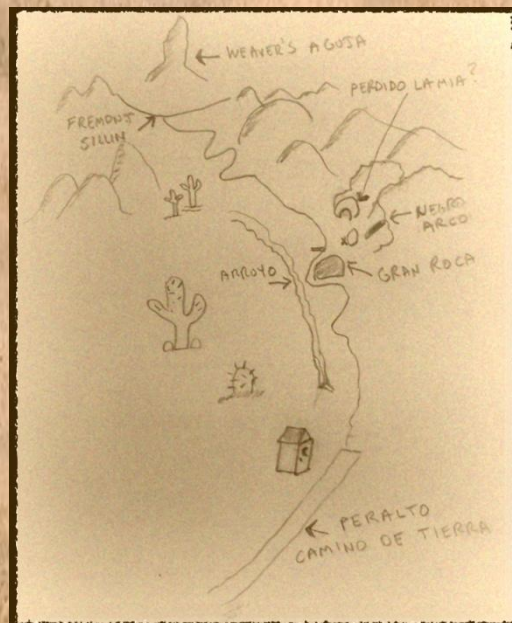
Walz had promised to take Julia to his secret mine someday, but before he could, he died with a sack of rich gold ore beneath his deathbed.

Immediately after word reached town about Walz’s death, a number of men who had heard the Dutchman speak of the mine over the years rode out to the mountains in search of the mystery. The Hombre recently decided to try his luck.

He had drawn a map based on Julia’s recollection of Walz’s ramblings. Contrary to many who believe the mine is north of Weaver’s Needle, the Hombre was convinced it would be found to the south on the “Peralta Trail”, which stays near the bed of Peralta Canyon.



The old Hombre last August



Hombre's map

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TREASURE SEEKER (Continued from Page 1)

In the proud tradition of our newspaper, we present several illustrations that will enhance your understanding of the events that unfolded.



This is the overhanging rock on the trail very near the location of the Hombre's disappearance. We believe this corresponds to the "Gran Roca" on his map. Imagine his excitement as he neared what he believed to be the grandest treasure trove of all time.

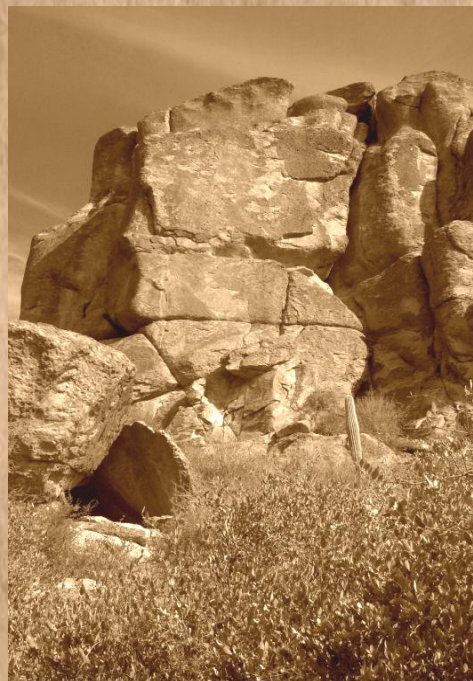
Before moving on, he refilled his canteen with water from the nearby stream. This is where he met Sims Ely and Jim Bark who reported this tragic tale to our local correspondents.

He then rounded the corner in the hopes of discovering that his map did indeed correspond to the mountain terrain.

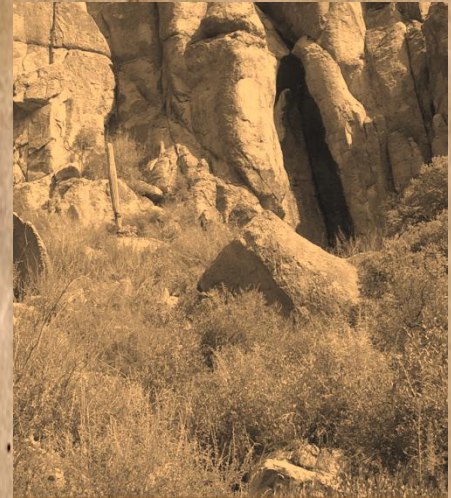


This sketch, which appeared in our newspaper in April 1896 inspired many fortune hunters to search for the location of the mine.

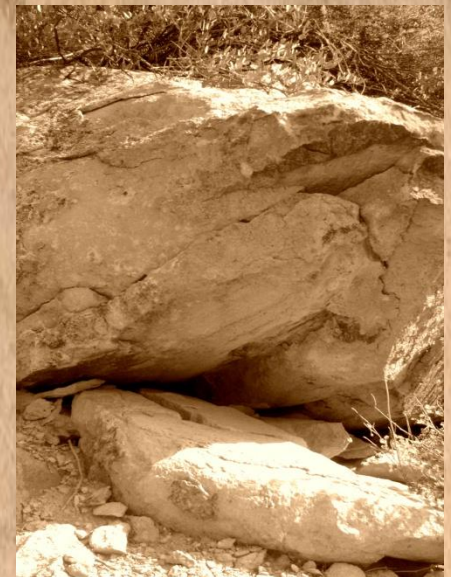
When the Hombre looked up to see this opening in the hillside, he hoped it was the famous mine entrance and that he soon would be a very rich man.



He climbed to the last wooden step after the overhanging rock, and then spotted a side trail.



The side trail headed toward an ominous black arch. Perhaps this was the portent of something evil, because after approximately 25 steps, the old Hombre reached a boulder and then mysteriously disappeared.



He was so close to discovering whether his dreams had come true, yet alas, it was not to be his fate.

If you discover the Hombre, please report his whereabouts & condition to the editor of this paper.