

Dinner



MOUNT OF THE HOLY CROSS

DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD



Special Train

New England, New York,
and
Michigan Delegations

to

American Farm Bureau
Federation Convention
Pasadena, California

Enroute

Denver, Colorado To
Salt Lake City, Utah

DECEMBER 4-5, 1936



DINNER



QUEEN OLIVES

RADISHES

POTAGE ALEXANDRINA

COLORADO MOUNTAIN TROUT—RIO GRANDE

BREADED VEAL CUTLET—MILANAISE

ROAST COLORADO TURKEY—CRANBERRY SAUCE

POTATOES, AU GRATIN

JUNE PEAS

HOT TEA BISCUIT

LETTUCE AND TOMATO—MAYONNAISE

DELMONICO ICE CREAM

TAPIOCA PUDDING

COFFEE

A TRUE STORY OF THE WEST

The Child Led Them

STARVING, shivering in their rags, their worn-out shoes patched with mule hide and wrapped with pieces of blankets to keep their feet from freezing, seventy-five men and one woman faced death. In the desolate winter heights of the Rocky Mountains they were lost.

Miguel Alona, the Mexican boy, saw the helplessness of the old mountaineers.

"Captain, please," he said, "I will lead you to Cochetopa Pass."

Captain R. B. Marcy, Fifth U. S. Infantry, noting the emaciated body of the lad whose youth had almost lost him the chance of joining the expedition, hesitated. Then, as it was the only hope of finding the crossing over and out of "the white hell," he promised:

"I will hang you if you lead us in the wrong direction."

"I will risk my neck."

Faces blacked with powder and charcoal to avert snow blindness, bodies racked with violent cramps, the march began. Four men, leading, upon hands and knees, one after the other, packed the five-feet deep snow. The rest followed and this path sustained the weak impoverished mules. It took ten days to crawl to the top of Cochetopa Pass.

With the three good mules remaining, Miguel was sent for help to Fort Massachusetts, 100 miles distant in San Luis Valley. He was accompanied by Mariano, a half breed French fur trapper who had helped prolong strength by finding substitutes for tea in the wild mint and for tobacco in the inner bark of the red willow.

For eleven days Miguel's trail was followed. The two came back on fresh horses, guiding three wagons of supplies. Marcy's tears flowed with those of his men.

Captain Marcy left Fort Bridger, November 24, 1857, with 40 soldiers, 25 mountain men and packers and guides for Taos, N. M., to procure supplies for the army in Utah. Ordered to cross the mountains by the most direct route, he came through a trackless wilderness, including Middle Park, along the Colorado River, which he reached December 8 and where today are the rails of the Denver & Rio Grande Western.

The guides' estimate of 25 days to Fort Massachusetts was short by 26 days! All food gave out, the animals died rapidly, all baggage except one blanket and arms and ammunition was thrown away. Tim Goodale's stoic Indian wife wept when her pet colt was killed for meat. As the 66 mules fell, one by one, they were eaten, gunpowder being sprinkled on the meat to make it palatable.

From Taos, Marcy returned by another route to Fort Bridger, reaching there June 9, 1858, with the required supplies. He gave full credit to the boy Miguel for saving all their lives.

Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad

Scenic Line of the World