

# Roger Teachout Visits Ruins Of Pioneer Edgerton House

Gaunt pointed stone gables rising from a pasture, thick stone walls pierced by portholes, a few charred logs lying about and remnants of rusty iron fittings comprised the picture, as if out of a family album, that Roger N. Teachout, 68, of Gunnison, Colo., saw last week when he gazed for the first time on the ruins of Edgerton House, about eight miles northeast of Colorado Springs.

In the 1860's it was the first station north of Colorado City (now part of Colorado Springs) on the Colorado City-Denver City stage line. Indians raided it in 1868 and stole 150 head of horses owned by Harlow Teachout, an uncle of Roger Teachout. The Indians were pursued by four Teachout brothers and other pioneer ranchers to Bijou Basin, 30 miles northeast of Colorado Springs, but the pursuers were there surrounded by the Redskins, who were in far greater number. Wild Bill (no other name for this hero has ever been learned) broke thru the contracting circle under cover of darkness and rode for aid. An avenging posse arrived and the Indians fled. But the horses were never recovered.

Edgerton House had been built for a hotel, which was conducted by Harlow Teachout and his mother, Mrs. Leafy Teachout. Allen, Ed and Henry Teachout, the other brothers, settled on ranches near the present town of Monument. The hotel on the stage road consisted of a two-story frame building, with a large living room on the first floor and eight bedrooms, just large enough for a bed and wash stand, on the second floor. This building connected with the old log homestead cabin, in which the kitchen was located. And near it was a stone ice house.

Just north of these buildings stood the famous Teachout stable, an immense structure for the day, with stone walls nearly three feet thick. In it Teachout locked his horses up at night to protect them from the Indians. He dealt in horses with the pioneer settlers of the Pikes Peak Region and his station was the nearest one north of Colorado City at which the stage drivers exchanged their tired horses for fresh ones. It was a widely known stop on this Camp Creek stage line. Later, probably in 1870, Gen. William J. Palmer, founder of the city of Colorado Springs, boarded at the Teachout hotel while surveying part of the route for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, which he built. The track when it came to be laid passed the hotel a short distance to the east and, of course, spelled the doom of the hotel, as it changed the mode of travel between Colorado City and Colorado Springs, the latter founded in 1871, and Denver.

Edgerton House became just another ranch house. In 1910 the property was bought from Harlow Teachout by William D. Tudor, who now resides at 309 Bonfoy Ave. He farmed the place for two years, planting beans, corn and other crops, but they did not do well so he closed up the buildings and leased the area for pasture land.

It was in 1941 that the buildings were destroyed by fire, probably resulting Tudor said, from boys breaking into the buildings and building a fire in the big fireplace. But so tragic an aspect do the ruins present now that to the beholder it takes little imagination to picture Indians riding away in the distance the embers still hot.

The year 1868 was a year of Indian raids that terrified the front range settlers. The two Robbins boys were killed on pasture land where Colorado Springs now stands. A man who was herding cattle was attacked. There was great fear of a raid in force and for a while women and children of Colorado City were kept within a fort nights.

Roger Teachout is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Teachout, who settled on a ranch near Monument but moved to Gunnison before he was born. Thruout his life he said he had heard of Edgerton House, operated by his uncle Harlow and his grandmother Leafy Teachout. He had often intended to come to Colorado Springs for a look at the old place. Then it burned down. While in the city last week he

called at the Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum to tell Miss Dorothy Smith, the curator that he possessed an old picture of the place with his uncle and grandmother in it which he would send her upon his return home. Miss Smith communicated with Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Englert, who have recently done much research work on the history of the old Colorado City-Denver City road, and also notified Tudor.

Miss Smith, Tudor and Mr. and Mrs. Englert took Teachout to see the famous ruins which bear his family name. Permission was had to go thru pastures and part of the ride—and walk—was made over sections of the original Camp Creek Road, marked only by the ruts that hoofs of the horses and iron tires of the stagecoaches had worn almost 100 years ago.

As this old road extended north from Edgerton it crossed Monument Creek. A few timbers of the bridge there were still to be found. From there on to Denver City, as Denver was called, the route was on the east side of Monument Creek, as the present highway lies.

The Teachout horse raid and the rescue of the pursuers is one of the most exciting stories of pioneer history in the Pikes Peak Region, and the ruins of Edgerton House are among the most spectacular of Pikes Peak Region relics.

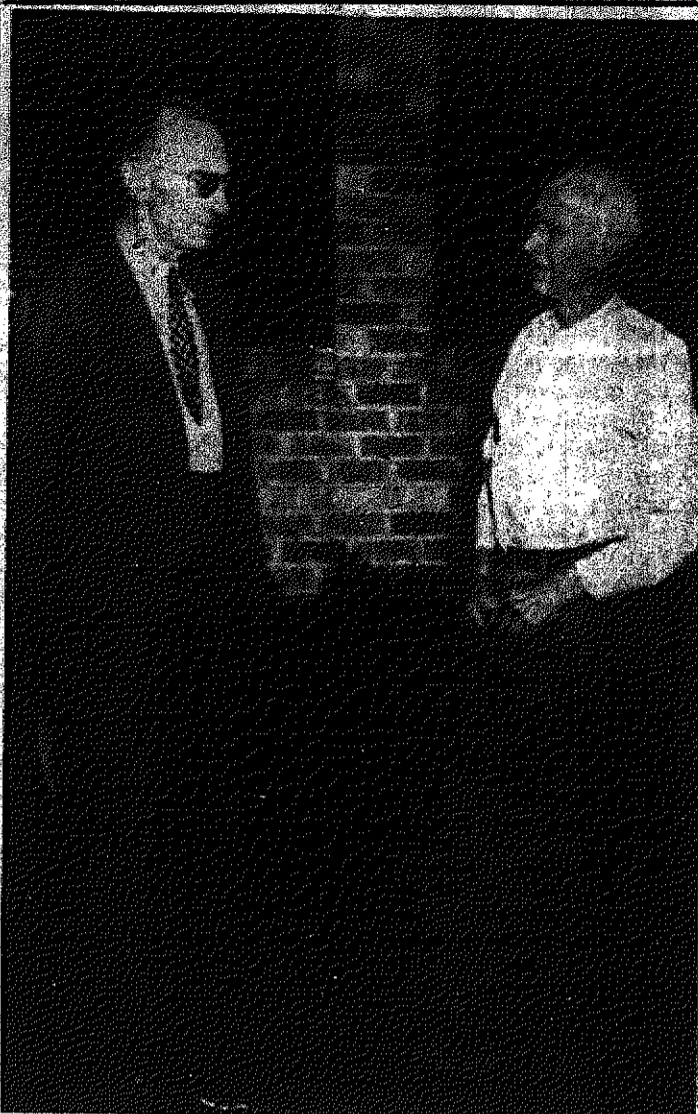
## Million-Dollar Heir Hoax Is Discovered

QUONSET POINT, R. I. (AP) — Gary Leith Stone III, 22, is back on duty as a \$145-a-month Navy aviation ordnance-man third class today.

Yesterday for a few brief hours he was the well-publicized heir to an 18-million-dollar fortune—until a hoax was discovered.

The Pasadena, Calif., sailor received a shipboard telegram, supposedly from a California attorney, telling him he was the sole heir to the fortune left by a great aunt.

When he came ashore from his ship, the carrier Antietam, he went with newsmen to the Providence telegraph office to verify the telegram.



OLD STORY IS RETOLD — Roger N. Teachout, left, of Gunnison, Colo., who, tho 68, last week for the first time saw the ruins of Edgerton House, a station on the Colorado City-Denver stage road operated by an uncle and grandmother in pioneer days. The Indians stole 140 head of horses at this place. At the right is William D. Tudor of Colorado Springs, present owner of the property. (Gazette Telegraph Photo)

Panama's plywood plant is to reopen. London is testing plastic fire hoses.

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