

## NEVADA DESERT TAKES TOLL OF LIFE ANNUALLY

Traveler's Bleached Bones Testify to Killing Heat and Mud.

*By Times Special*  
BARBARA WORTH, Nev., Aug. 10.—Year after year and month after month the great Black Rock Desert of Nevada takes its toll in human and animal life.

In winter it is a gigantic lake of treacherous mud—eighty-four miles long and forty wide—in the summer it is a parched flat of baked alkali land that has neither animal nor plant life. Over this desert scores of hardy pioneers have perished in their quest for gold and the haven of the purple hills that seem never to be further than a mile or two distant. Heat mirages that engender cool, luscious lakes and oases that dance tauntingly over far-away sands are the ever-present signs of the terrible summer heat that reaches an average of 130 degrees daily.

### Whirlwinds Kill

Minature whirlwinds and dancing goblins of sand and alkali are outlined by the hundreds against the fringes of desolate, lifeless mountains that rise more than a mile high on all sides. High velocity winds and small cyclones that daily pick up thousands of tons of sand and hurl it crashing against the mountain sides are among the existing natural life.

It isn't always the heat that destroys on the desert. A typical desert "rat" laughs at a temperature less than 150 degrees. The things he fears are the sudden cloudbursts that let solid masses of water down without a second's notice.

There is but a small chance to escape death when one is caught in the middle of the Black Rock Desert during a cloudburst. The desert surface—cracked and made porous by the terrific heat bearing down upon it—lets in the water below the top and within a few minutes it is a lake of mud that is capable of swallowing whatever of weight that may rest upon it.

### Sticks Marb Graves

On the desert there are dozens of sticks marking the graves where intrepid explorers or ranchers met their deaths journeying to or from their homes in the hills. Even horses have been known to sink beyond sight after one of the violent rain storms that strike here about twice a year.

From late September until late March the desert is a lake of half-frozen mud, over which there are several inches of ice and snow. To attempt to traverse this bleak expanse during the winter is to invite certain death. Many unfamiliar with its terrors cross it, however, and when the winter is done their whitened bones, half-buried in the

*Oh! Henry! That's Her Name*



That's her name—Henry Ree, whom Vienna calls its prettiest model. This pose shows her back, pronounced the most perfect in that city of beautiful women.

sands, glare balefully and warningly at those who pass.

The Black Rock Desert is destined to be a menace to life forever—noting green can live upon its surface, and even the small, weazened desert gophers, common to other barren spots, shun it.

### WOMEN DRAW LIGHTNING

Girls Are Dangerous Companions During Thunder Shower.

*By United Press*

VIENNA, Aug. 20.—Women are especially dangerous companions during an electric storm, a woman contributor wrote to the Vienna newspaper "Neues Wiener Journal."

As her authority for this statement she cited an unnamed Swiss priest.

"After mass had been said one Sunday," she wrote, "I tarried some minutes in the church and got into conversation with the priest, an old friend of mine. I asked him why he insisted on separating the men from the women during service. He replied: 'It is better so. When lightning strikes a church it always strikes that part in which the greatest number of women are congregated. Women have a magnetism for lightning as well as for light-minded men."

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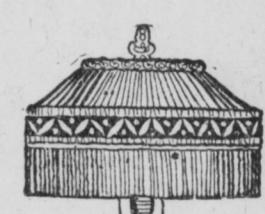
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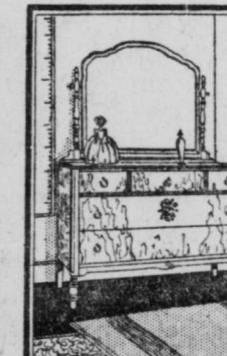
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