

SILVERTON SUB-STANDARD GAZETTE

SATURDAY, MARCH 1949

15 CENTS

DISASTER STRIKES TRAIN!

By the ace reporter "Scoop".



The railroad had a terrible derailment today when a reefer full of "Durango Wheat Beer" jumped the tracks & slid down into the Animas River. Word spread quickly & townsfolk soon arrived in numbers to see & taste for themselves. Quick to be onto a "free beer" many risked their lives to rescue the bottles before they perished.

Down stream the fishing was the best ever, reported the fishermen. They said trout were "jumping intoxicated" into their nets, the flow of the beer having traveled way downstream it is a concern for Durango residents who have been warned not to drink the water. (Some chance!)



The photos taken by "Snappy" show the extent of the disaster & the cases of DW's strewn around the rocks where "quick recovery" is being undertaken by the brave inebriates of Silverton. The delivery will mean a dry old time in town until replenishments can be organised, said Barkeep from the Silverton Hotel. Lucky he keeps a 3 month supply!

The “Singing Hobo’s” pulled up & quickly got into tune to play “Swannie River how I love you” but substituted “Animas for Swannie” in the tune led by the Silverton pianist “Scratchy” with his trusty piano on the truck with the gang of musicians. Oh it was a delight to hear them plucking away as the bottles were consumed.

The amount of beer was estimated to be about two solid days drinking time as a relief train won’t be able to come until mid next week to recover the reefer. Townsfolk are ecstatic & have organised tents to be set up nearby for “sleeping it off” periods between drinking sessions!

“Get it while it last boys” was the cry.



The brewer wasn’t concerned as the shipment was insured but he did say everyone was welcome to come for dinner tonight at his place as trout was being served by his good lady.

The “Inspector” arrived & declared “all is well” with the contamination reduced by the quick acting Silverton folk. He told the mayor the water quality was expected to be rather good down Durango way & had informed his counterpart there who immediately closed shop & went fishing!

The Sherriff warned Sparky not to broadcast the event as it is a matter the townsfolk will consume & to not let others know.

The Red Mountain gang get the telegraph messages from the railroad & they too closed the depot & rode the handcar down hill without using the brakes once. Bad news sure travels fast!

The Professor, Chief Suntraxx & Toyman were dressed in their finest clothes & organised payment to some hobos to gather the unbroken cases & to be taken back to Madam Lash’s where another celebration was to be had.

There’s always something happening around Silverton!