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Arkansas R Erected De

BY RAYMOND A. EATON

Automobile Editor The Rocky Mountain News)

Charles Bent, one of the brothers who founded Bent's fort on the Arkansas river, was speaking with five companions on their way to Taos in January, 1848.

"I am sure there is no danger," Bent said. "As civil governor of New Mexico I feel safe in visiting my family; as safe as in Santa Fe. The plot to recapture New Mexico failed last year."

Bent was speaking to Stephen Lee, sheriff of the county in which Taos was located; J. W. Neil, circuit attorney; Cornelio Vijil, prefect of the county; Narcissis Baubien, son of the judge, and Pablo Jarmillo, active in the county's affairs.

The same confidence was expressed more or less by the others, tho they knew the embers of the rebellion late in 1847 still smoldered. They reached the home of Bent in Taos in safety. They were in conference when a large band of Mexicans and Pueblo Indians attacked the residence. There was a valiant fight made by Bent and his five companions, but all were killed.

Bent Pioneer Builder In Rocky Mountains

The slaying of Bent removed one of the forceful men of the West and one of the real pioneers of the present state of Colorado.

Bent doubtless was confident that from his wide acquaintance in New Mexico and his known popularity that he was safe. He had operated wagon trains over the Santa Fe trail into Santa Fe and was known as one of the founders of Bent's fort. In 1846, when General Kearney conquered New Mexico, he had named Bent governor, knowing the qualifications of the man for the place. The Bents originally were from St. Louis.

Bent's fort will ever live in the history of Colorado and of the Rocky Mountain states. Coupled with it are other forts or posts of fur trappers that also will figure in Western history. The motor tourist interested in the beginning of settlements in the Rocky Mountain region can visit these sites today. There are ruins of some of them still standing. This history is not only of Colorado but of the onward march of civilization in the