

# DR. JOHN A. STREET

Doctor John Archibald Street was the company physician for the Treadwell Yukon Mining Company, Ltd. in Bodie between December of 1930, and January of 1932. He was born in Missouri about 1885. His parents were Canadian of Scotch decent. Between 1891 and 1927, he lived in Toronto, Canada, and received his medical degree at McGill University in Montréal in June of 1919. By 1930, Dr. Street was renting a house in Hawthorne, Nevada. He was a 45 years, married to 38 year old Sophia M. Street, who was born in Canada, as were her parents. They had been married 3 years. The following are items from the *Bridgeport Chronicle-Union and Bodie Chronicle* during the Bodie years:



*Dr. Stree House*

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1930: Dr. Street, formerly of Hawthorne, now of Alameda, has accepted the work of physician for the Treadwell Yukon Company and is expected to arrive at Bodie to take up his duties sometime this week.

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1930: Dr. Street was called to Coleville during the past week to attend a party hurt in an automobile accident.

BORN: At Bodie, December 10, 1930, to the wife of James O'Conner a baby baoy. Dr. J. P. Street was the attending physician.

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1931: Dr. Street, one day this week, about made up his mind that he was short one perfectly fine police dog. The Doctor hunted all over town and when he could not find the animal, went down

to Hawthorne to take a look-see in that town, but still was unable to find his dog. Dr. Street came home having about made up his mind that his pal was gone for keeps. He went to bed and sometime during the night, his dog returned, weary and footsore to his master. Probably, the dog was stolen and taken quite a distance in a car and made his get-away for home the first opportunity he had.

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1931: Mrs. Street will be the hostess at a card party to be given on Saturday afternoon,

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1931: Dr. Street, our local physician, is sporting a new Studebaker Six automobile.

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1931: The Treadwell Yukon Company is building an addition to the office of its physician, Dr. Street, which is to be used as a recovery room for men injured at the mines.



*Dr. Street Examination Table*

1932 was not a good year for Bodie. The Treadwell Yukon Company abandoned Bodie. There was an extremely bitter winter with drifts of snow up to 20 feet. People were snowbound with a shortage of food. There was no bread, butter, milk or eggs left. On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, a fire broke out in an old laundry building, threatening the whole downtown, and foreshadowing the great fire that would occur later that summer. Frozen pipes prevented extinguishing the fire. Three buildings were burnt down and two people, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Griffith, were treated by the doctor for frozen feet as they had to jump out of the buildings in their night clothes. The town had already been isolated for 12 days. On January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1932, the *Reno Evening Gazette* reported:

The town of Bodie, twenty miles from Bridgeport, has been snowbound for several days, but it is expected that the road will be cleared this week unless there is a heavy fall of snow. A tractor and power shovel left Bodie yesterday for Bridgeport and cleared a mile and a half of road. The snow is four to five feet deep on the level with drifts twenty feet deep blocking the highway. Several people who went to Bodie to spend the Christmas holidays are still there. Two men came out on snowshoes this morning, arriving at Bridgeport. The town has plenty of food.

The *Oakland Tribune* reported several articles:

Bodie, Jan. 5.--The Treadwell Yukon Company, Ltd., has definitely abandoned the Bodie field. Superintendent R. J. Duncan has announced that the final cleanup of the mill will be made at once, and that the plant will be dismantled in the spring and the machinery shipped elsewhere. The company started work in the district three years ago.

Mountaineers today were reported going to the rescue of a dozen inhabitants of the old mining town of Bodie, near the Nevada border. Mr and Mrs. A. E. Dirrum fought their way out of Bodie yesterday on snowshoes, and said the residents, who have been snowbound, are running short of food.

The *Reno Evening Gazette* reported:

HAWTHORNE, Nev , Jan 5 --(AP)--

Skis and snowshoes were the only means by which persons could get in and out of Bodie, Cal , famed stronghold of bandits in early day history. The community, word received here indicated, was running short of supplies, particularly canned milk. Huge snowdrifts, in many places twenty feet deep, obstructed the roads.

The January 6th, 1932, *Oakland Tribune* reported:

At Bodie, famous old mining town, there is only sufficient food for four days, with 150 residents suffering severe hardships, it is reported. The dangers at Bodie were multiplied yesterday when fire swept through half the town's business block.

By the end of January, Dr. Street called it quits. From the January 29<sup>th</sup>, *Reno Evening Gazette*:

Dr. John A. Street of Bodie, has closed his office in that camp and will spend a few days here, then proceed to Los Angeles where he expects to engage in practice. Dr. Street was able to get out of Bodie by way of Bridgeport and Sweetwater and states that the road down Del Monte Canyon will not be opened for some time to come.

Instead of moving to Los Angeles, Dr. Street emigrated from the United States to Canada in March of 1932. His destination was his mother's home in Toronto,



*Dr. Street House Interior*