

BARNETT, ARTHUR F.

?-December 20, 1948

The skeletal remains of Arthur F. Barnett, 73-year-old bachelor living alone on the shore of the Platte river near Wendover, and who had been missing since December 25, 1948, have been discovered and almost positively identified through County Coroner Ted Schrader and Platte county authorities.

Barnett, a welfare pensioner, was reported missing more than 20 months ago, and shortly thereafter, the boat he used to reach his cabin was found floating and containing some groceries.

No other clues as to his fate or identity were uncovered until the fall of 1949, when John Rebillet, rancher, found a skull at the mouth of Broom Creek (north of Hartville) 4 miles downstream from Barnett's cabin. County authorities took the skull to Dr. Angelo Lapi, Denver pathologist, who, through reconstruction, ascertained the man's height, complexion, teeth, etc., fit the description given of the missing man. The teeth were those said to be of a pipe smoker.

Almost conclusive proof of the man's identity was uncovered only last Saturday when a skeleton, partially buried in the sand, was turned up about 75 feet from where the skull was found last fall. With the remains were a billfold, coin purse, knife, and pipe which were identified by friends as belonging to Barnett.

So far as can be determined from the evidence, the death was from a natural cause, perhaps a heart condition, and probably occurred just as the man was preparing to enter his boat and after he had loaded his groceries.

Disposition of the remains awaits word from his only known surviving relative, a sister, Belle Garrett of Letts, Ia.