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## 14. Art Works With Uncle George

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### *Mrs. Kennedy and Her Four Gallons of Whiskey Each Week!*

Uncle George had bought an interest in a saloon in Querida, called the *First Colorado*. He was getting hard to get along with, as he had eighteen head of big freight horses in the pasture and was anxious to get them working. The saloon business was not too good, but one of his best customers was a Mrs. Henrietta Kennedy who ran a small boarding house, and was good for about four gallons a week of *bar whiskey*. Mrs. Kennedy had been the widow of Lem Kyger, the man who had owned *The Snug Saloon* in Rosita.

Mrs. Kennedy was really quite a character. She had the blackest, most piercing eyes that I have ever seen. Grandma, and others, said that when Mrs. Kennedy first came to Rosita, she had been a beautiful woman. She had money, although no one seemed to know where she came from.

Kyger had built a large building that was a saloon and a gambling house. He married Henrietta Gloczin at the end of December, 1883. They made money, as those were the boom days of Rosita. After Kyger died<sup>1</sup> and the mines started shutting down, Mrs. Kyger sold the saloon. She had a large house that she maintained as a guest house, the only place that any traveler could stay in Rosita.

Mrs. Kyger married a man named Bill Kennedy in the 1890s. Kennedy was from Canada, and had a small ranch on a branch of Antelope Creek. He cut wood to sell to the mines that were still working, and Mrs. Kennedy kept some cows to supply milk for the small hotel.

After Bill Kennedy died, Grandpa, and later Uncle George, had told me to brand the calves and watch out for Mrs. Kennedy's interests with the few cattle she had. I was not too happy about this.

It seems that I have made a large circle to get to the *bunching grounds*. The *four gallons of whiskey a week* was one of the most discussed topics of conversation in Rosita, Colorado. Some said Mrs. Kennedy served it to her boarders with meals, ...and others said that she drank it herself!



*Wet Mountain Tribune  
June 21, 1902*

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1. *The Rustler*, on June 7, 1888, reported that Lem Kyger, who had been seriously ill, had died at his home in Rosita. And on June 21: "The funeral of Lem Kyger was conducted under the auspices of the GAR and attended by our citizens en masse."