

WEALTHY DENVER PIONEER DIES ALONE IN HOTEL ROOM

John J. Reithman, 89, Built Second House in City
And First Bakery—He Made Fortune in Real
Estate When Colorado Was Wilderness.

John J. Reithman, 89 years old, pioneer, who built the second house in Denver, established the first bakery in the Rocky Mountain region and created a fortune for himself by acquiring real estate as a city, was developed from the wilderness, died alone in his room at the Tours hotel during the early morning hours, Saturday.

Coming unexpectedly, the death cast a deep shadow over the marriage festivities of a beloved niece, Miss Graco Tucker, 660 Detroit street, set for high noon Saturday.

Mr. Reithmann, like millions of

other inhabitants of the United States of America and lands beyond the sea, had taken an active and keen interest in the Dempsey-Tunney fight. Breaking a fixed habit of going to bed at an early hour Thursday night, Mr.

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J. J. RIETHMANN, RICH PIONEER OF DENVER, IS DEAD

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Riethmann had sat in the lobby of the Tours hotel, listening to returns and discussing the merits of the contestants with Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Krause, proprietors of the hotel.

"I'll bet my last cent, if I had one, on Tunney," he had told Krause, and when Tunney was victor he had taken the elevator and gone chuckling to his room.

Friday he continued in a cheerful mood, and when in the evening he said "Good night" to his friends of more than twenty years they had expected to see him Saturday morning as usual.

MADE UP OWN BED DAILY.

Noting an increasing feebleness in Riethmann's carriage, Krause had ordered the chambermaid to knock at his door the first thing in the morning.

"He wouldn't allow any one but himself to make up his bed," Krause explained.

Saturday morning, receiving no answer to her repeated knocks, the maid informed Krause and the door was forced. Fully dressed as tho he had decided to rest before turning in for the night, Riethmann was found dead and his brother, George Riethmann of 3809 Sheridan boulevard, and a nephew, John Milheim, 1335 Pennsylvania street, were notified.

Born in Laussane, Switzerland, in 1834, Riethmann came to this country as a lad and with his parents, settled in Indiana. From there he struck out for himself in 1858 and traveling westward by covered wagon arrived on the site now known as Denver, Thanksgiving day, Nov. 30, 1858.

A few huts and tents dotted the wide open spaces on the west bank of Cherry creek; beyond was desert,



JOHN J. RIETHMANN.

Indians and the wild plains.

So impressed was he with what he saw that young Riethmann returned to Indiana almost immediately and disposed of his interests there and returned to Colorado.

BUILT HOME NEAR STOCKYARDS.

The second real house built in this region was erected by Riethmann for his home, 400 feet from what is now the entrance to the Union stockyards.

Population was picking up and since bread forms a greater part of man's food, Riethmann established a bakery, imported flour in wagon lots from the nearest trading station and began to save the dimes and quarters that later

were turned into dollars. As one of the founders of the German National bank, later defunct, Riethmann became a pioneer capitalist but lost a great part of his fortune when the institution failed.

One by one, members of his family passed away until at last he gathered together the most precious of his personal possessions and when the Tours hotel opened twenty years ago, Riethmann was its first patron.

A man of few words and quiet habits, he maintained his routine, refused to talk about himself or the part he had played in the winning of the west, cherished the friends of other days, grieved silently as one by one they passed over the great divide, leaving him more and more lonely, and at last came to the long sleep, as for the last twenty years he had lived, alone and untended.