

In the fall of 1857 the tower closed, and at that time it was supposed to be a final suspension; but it opened again the following spring. Henry P. George was the agent for the company during these later years, in that capacity buying the lead, paying the men, and acting for the firm generally.

In May, 1861, the tower was finally closed. During this spring it was, without other assistance, run by Lockman and his son Andrew. The breaking out of the War of Secession, which drew Washburn away from Mineral Point, and the scarcity of gold, with which alone lead could be purchased, combined to render it impossible longer to continue operations. Lockman purchased the buildings and machinery, except the buckshot machine, which John Bradford took with him to Chicago in 1867 and sold to the Shot-Tower Company of that city.<sup>1</sup>

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one day last week at the Helena shot-tower. A horse, some twelve years old, jumped from the bank over a perpendicular precipice of one hundred and eighty feet into the river below, and came out safe and sound, after swimming nearly half a mile to a suitable landing-place. The water at the point where the leap was made was from twenty to twenty-five feet deep, and the noble animal must have struck it in a favorable position, otherwise he could not have come out uninjured. We have the above particulars from reliable authority."

It does not detract from the interest of the item to know that the actual space through which the horse dropped was not over 70 ft.; and that the "noble animal" was almost useless, being so balky that its owner, Peter Lloyd, declared it "wouldn't pull an empty wagon down hill." The horse was grazing on the hill above Mill Creek, and being completely blind, lost its footing on the steep slope. John L. Jones, of Hill-side, assisted it to reach the shore, as, bewildered by its unexpected plunge, it did not know in which direction to swim.

<sup>1</sup> From Chicago *Illustrated Century*, Aug. 20, 1887: "*The Big Shot-Tower*.—High above all the surrounding factories and dwellings, even above the tallest chimneys, standing like a sentinel over the fork of Chicago's river, may be seen what is popularly known as 'Blatchford's Shot-Tower.' This structure was erected in 1867, being of the usual rigid simplicity of its kind, \* \* \* over 200 feet high. \* \* \* The original builder, E. W. Blatchford, has transformed that branch of his manufacture into what is known as the 'Chicago Shot-Tower Co.,' the Blatchfords still continuing to be members of the same."