

Reno Evening Gazette Tuesday 19 Nov 1918
Influenza Hits Isolated Camp

"Tonopah, Nov 19 - That the germ of influenza is carried in every breeze that wafts across the state seems to be demonstrated in the latest reported death in Nye County. "Checko" Guisti, a wood cutter, died Saturday at the lonely camp of Baxter Springs with all the evidence of influenza. Death came suddenly and without any premonitory sickness. The man appeared to collapse without warning.

"I'm going to Tonopah, I hear the car coming," he said and the next moment he was a corpse.

Joe Francisco, for whom Guisti had been working, brought the news to Tonopah and had scarcely delivered the message when he too was seized with symptoms of the disease and was removed to the county hospital.

Coroner Dunseath and Frank J. Cavanaugh motored out to the isolated wood camp Sunday afternoon and brought the body in for an inquest. Baxter Springs is a rarely visited place forty-two miles from Tonopah, off all lines of travel, and it is a place that has no communication with the outer world except when the occupants drive to the nearest town to renew their stock of supplies. Nobody has been in or out of the camp since the appearance of influenza in the state. The men were as completely isolated as though they were at the North Pole. They were not in a position to know anything of the epidemic so the only explanation of how they contracted the disease is through the atmosphere.

Five men constituted the crew at the camp and all were rugged and healthy spending their entire time outdoors engaged in a healthy occupation. The medical fraternity cite this as another argument for wearing masks whenever a person ventures out of his own home."