

San Francisco Chronicle

February 4th, 1894

Lighted up the Sky

The Meteor Observed at Keeler

Some of the Frightened Inhabitants Thought the End of the World Had Come

Special Dispatch to the Chronicle

Keeler(CA), February 3rd- P. T. Jenkins, observer at the station of the weather bureau here, gives the following in regard to the meteor which fell Thursday night: A very brilliant meteor, changing to various colors, lit up the heavens north of this place at 10:15 o'clock Thursday night. In a very beautiful mixture of lights all the colors of the rainbow were observed. The phenomenon was seen by persons out at that hour in Independence and also in Bishop Creek and Keeler, where the light was as brilliant almost as day. Reports from Belleville, Nevada and Candelaria, Nevada, state that the meteor lit up the sky just like day, and that the light lasted at least two minutes.

A great rumbling noise just previous to this display was heard, which ended in a terrific explosion, which scared every person in these two places, and it was really supposed by some of them that the end of the world had arrived, while others thought it was an earthquake, and others a big fire. The shock of the explosion seems to have the force and noise of at least a ton or more of powder exploding, and it was late at night before the frightened citizens of these two towns again retired to their slumbers.

The meteor looked as if it struck the earth about 10 or 20 miles south of Candelaria in the mountains, but up to the present time searching parties have failed to find any trace of it. They are inclined to think that it was attracted by the great quantities of mineral in a place called Gold Mountain, and have gone there to search.

The heavens north of this place have been the scene of many brilliant lights and small meteors, but this last eclipses them all. This was a remarkable one, as it was observed for over 300 miles. The like of it has never been observed in this valley before.