



# Colorado Biographies



## Albert E. Carlton

1866 - 1931

- Albert Carlton was born in Warren, Illinois, in 1866.
- In 1889, "Bert" Carlton developed tuberculosis and moved to Colorado Springs with his parents. Married Eva Stanton back in Illinois in 1890 but the marriage was kept secret.
- In 1892, Carlton went to Cripple Creek (still hoping to get well) where Bert and his brother Leslie first opened a small firewood and coal business. Then the brothers started the Colorado Trading and Transfer Co. which hauled freight from the Colorado Midland depot at Divide to Cripple Creek. Later, Carlton insisted that Cripple Creek needed to connect to the Midland railroad; soon a connection was built to Cripple Creek, known as the Midland Terminal.
- By 1900, deeper mining became dangerous because water flooded the tunnels. After early drainage tunnels had failed, Carlton managed to build the 3-mile Roosevelt drainage tunnel that opened millions of dollars of ore once the water was drained.
- After divorcing Eva, Carlton married Ethel Frizzell in 1901.
- By 1930, Carlton owned almost every mine in Cripple Creek, bringing them under one management. He had so many business interests in Cripple Creek (he bought the Midland and eventually formed the Holly Sugar Corp.) that he became known as the "King Bert of Cripple Creek".
- In 1931, Albert Carlton died after a short illness in Colorado Springs.

### Great Resources on Albert E. Carlton

Bueler, Gladys R. *Colorado's Colorful Characters*. Boulder, CO: Pruett, c1981, pp. 85-6.

McFarland, Edward M. *Midland Route: a Colorado Midland Guide and Data Book*. Boulder, CO: Pruett, c1980, pp. 90-106.

Sprague, Marshall. *Money Mountain: the Story of Cripple Creek Gold*. Boston: Little, Brown, c1953, pp. 235-42; 267-77; 285-95.

Photo courtesy Cripple Creek District Museum