

# Adventures of Black Sam, Oregon "Bull Puncher"

This Story of Historical Interest to Eastern Oregon, An Installment to Be Printed Weekly by The Evening Observer, Is Told by Sam Ayotte to Jack Hunter of The Park.

## BURNED AT THE STAKE

—ALMOST  
(Final Installment)  
(By JACK HUNTER)

"Well, sir, when the real heat began to sear my skin, you wouldn't believe it, but I didn't feel it at all. I was as if numbed all over. So after all it is not so hard to be once your mind is made up, especially when you're innocent."

"They were frantically dancing around me. I could hear the tom-toms beating and their yellings. I opened my eyes and they appeared to me as so many demons celebrating awaiting for my death. I smiled and closed my eyes again."

"All at once I woke up from this stupor-like trance and I realized that they were removing the rocks piled around my body. And the chief called me off this fire bed."

Susie Confesses.

"Susie had repented and made a full confession."

"The chief told me that Alee Spencer was the guilty man. The girl loved me so that she thought I would marry her at the last moment."

"Then for a few minutes, all that I had gone through, I blamed it on that scoundrel. And I really wished that I had not interfered with the Vigilantes and let him hang."

"But I had not long to wait and see him pay for it all. The old chief was a wise one. He had also named the capture of Alee Spencer, for he knew that Susie was deceiving. I am sure, Spencer was brought out of a wireman. There he was made to face me. Glancing around he spied the funeral pyre and he turned as white as a ghost. Then he fell on his knees imploring me to plead to the chief for his mercy. I told him, 'Spencer, I have plead for you before. Now I can't do a thing for you. These people here won't be cajoled like the white men are. So you will have to take your medicine. And I believe you might as well be done with sooner or later, for it is only a matter of time someone will have to put you out of commission. The world will be a lot better off without you. I am sorry that you are a white man and perhaps demented. But, when you're loose you are dangerous.'"

"He was taken, and placed on the fire bed and rocks piled around him. I couldn't stand his moanings

and pitiful pleadings, so I ask the chief to take me out. When I was out with the chief, I could hear the dancing and tom-toms beating, mingled with the yellings of the mad Indians and now and then the lamenting of the dying man."

"Then they all came out of the large tepee and went dancing three times around it. Then all was quiet. Alee Spencer had paid dear for his mistakes and sins."

"Well, sir, they surrounded me and I never saw such sorry Indians in all my life. Besides treating me with all the honors given by the chief, and his attendants, he gave \$100 in gold, one of his finest horses which he called 'Buffalo,' a well saddle blanket and the best of all, a tridle. This tridle is made of elk hide, Indian tanned and all decorated. I used that tridle during the Civil war and during the Nez Perce war of 1877. And I have it still as a great souvenir of the greatest three episodes of my life—my pioneer days on the Old Oregon Trail, the Civil war, and the Indian war of '77."

"I have been asked many times why I don't hate the Indians. Well, sir, Indians are Indians. They have their customs like any other people. And in my case I can't see but that they acted fair and square according to their principles. Therefore I can't blame them to punish anyone who commits a crime against their morality and their laws. Whether we are white people our cause is just and right towards the Indians, and that is a question yet to be determined. For I have no doubt in my mind that the Indians as a race have been greatly wronged. They were really on the defensive side always. But this we don't have to worry, for the Indians are fast disappearing. We have forced upon them a civilization which they cannot follow up. And soon, one of God's noble races of children will be no more."

"Yet, I have fought against the Indians in 1877. This is because I recognize the welfare of my country is to be looked after first of all. No matter what my personal views are on any thing my duties lie in being a good citizen of the country to which I belong. And if I was enthusiastic as a Lincoln man, it was for the high reason that I could see the falling of our government as a United States. There was surely going to be a

separation. And like Lincoln I believed in a Union of all the states on a common principle."

"Well, sir, I had good luck on my collecting trip. I was about \$2000 richer when I returned. I had learned that the war was on and I had found a purchaser for my entire outfit at a good price, but I had to deliver it at Oregon City. However, things changed all around and I started for war much sooner than I expected."

## Returns to La Grande.

"When I returned to La Grande I found Bill Powers, Lizzie's brother, with a fellow named Eben Frye. This Frye has been a kind of rival in my younger days trying to win the girl that I eventually got on my side. Anyway they had come they said, after me. They intended to make a stay of about a year trying to earn their passage money. I gave them a bargain."

"I took them to a spot I had picked out not far from Union Is. and told them, 'Now boys, each of you take a squatter right here and as I must go to war, I will give you my entire outfit. You Bill, you go back home, sell father's and your property for whatever you can get and move the two families here.'"

"When I come back from the war, I'll marry Lizzie and we'll all make our home here in this beautiful valley. I will leave you all my money and I am sure that you will take good care of it. Use whatever you want of it for the improvement of the home."

"Well, sir, counting all, I left Billy Powers with about \$12,000, up of property and money. And now I was on my way to join the Lincoln band. I never stopped until I shook hands with the great man."

"But I never dreamed that it would be sixteen years before I would see Grande Ronde again. I was positive that I would not be killed during the war and that I would come back to my home—the home I had dreamed of so many times. I found out that the old French saying of my father, 'L'homme propose et Dieu dispose,' (man proposes and God disposes), was a grand truth. For I never returned to Grande Ronde till the Nez Perce war in 1877. And then I only passed through with a very lonesome mood."

"When I came back from the Civil war I came by the way of New York state to visit with old friends. There at the hotel I found out that Bill Powers and Eben Frye had played me false. Instead of doing what they had agreed to do, they had sold out all my property and came back home. They told Lizzie that I was killed by the Indians and had my money and papers to prove it. And Mr. Frye had married Lizzie. They already had two kids. I never visited my friends at all. I started at once for the west again, landing in Silver Bow, Montana, dead broke. I went to work in the placer diggings—a work which I always detested, but I stay-

ed with it until I got on my feet again."

## Didn't Blame Her.

"As far as Lizzie was concerned, I never could blame her. I had been too long in making that home I promised to make before we would marry. So my advice is if you have a good girl, never mind the home. Get married and then both of you make the home. Anyway you take it, it is a very poor home when it's made single handed. It takes two to make the home from the very first. But, coming back to Lizzie, she got a pretty good man after all. They kept a store in a little village in Maine. They went broke twice and I each time went there money to start up again."

"My old father died a good many years ago. I had sent him money right along and he had the old home freed from debt when he died. When my share came due, I turned it over to the brother who stayed on the place ever since."

"Bill Powers, Lizzie's brother with my money didn't amount to much. I heard that five years after, he was broke. He had spent it foolishly, drinking the most of it. I heard that he had come west, but I never saw nor heard of him out here."

"Now dear readers, I have endeavored to write down this Old Oregon trail pioneer's exploits while on the trail, as near as I can remember the way he told them to me nearly thirty years ago. It was quite a task for me working out these old notes I collected at that time. But, if you have enjoyed reading it I feel amply repaid."

## Sam Finally Married.

"In conclusion I want to say that Black Sam did marry, though it was in 1896 when he was 82. I was returning from a trip east then I called on him at his fine home in Rutte City, Montana. There I received the surprise of my life when he introduced me to his wife. She was in appearance a trifle older than he, but she looked the picture of joy and happiness. Sam explained thus:

"Well, sir, you see, Eben Frye died last year, and I thought how nice it would be to have Lizzie as a good companion here, and I tell you she surely is all that too."

## London Police Finds Trouble in Recruiting.

LONDON (AP)—The after effects of wartime privations on the nation's physique are shown very strongly in the number of police recruits rejected on medical examination, says Sir Leonard Dornford, reporting on the County and City of Borough Police Forces in England and Wales for 1924.

"Perhaps," Sir Leonard continues, "30 per cent of the applicants for appointments never get so far as the doctor because they are manifestly unsuitable, while the single educational test knocks out as many more that the chief constable is lucky if he finds five suitable men among 100 applicants."

# SPRING SIGNS ARE ABUNDANT

THE PARK (Special)—Miss Ida Hunter, Sunday, took a hike up the mountain returning in the evening with a large bouquet of wild flowers which were a surprise to all, for this time of year is exceptionally early for the flowers to bloom. In her collection she had added tulips, spring beauties, yellow bells, buttercups and Oregon grapes.

The chickens are out in and around the Park. That is sure sign of the coming of real spring. Henry Miller, the old pioneer who visited with his niece Mrs. Lydia Vandevanter, has gone to Big creek for a visit with another niece Mrs. George Lowley.

Mrs. Dora Miller of Pleasant valley place to farm this year in addition to her already large acreage.

Boys Van has the George Lossley place to farm this year in addition to his already large acreage.

Dogs Poisoned. Reports from La Grande stating that Ishuman dog poisoning has been going on there. We have the same thing here in the country where our dogs and cats are a real help to every farmer. Clarence Vandevanter had a fine cattle dog and two cats poisoned last week. It may be that some rank who believe in the extermination of dogs and cats are sometimes read about in doing the country a "benefaction." But, whoever it may be they better keep under cover. For a dog and a cat is absolutely essential around the farm, useful in the extreme.

Albert J. Vandevanter boasts of eleven fine new calves. And the cream checks are "coming in quite handsomely."

Joseph Lay is preparing to butcher soon. It will be one or two pigs for their own table use. The weather and the rush of the working season is the cause that the Park quota did not attend the P. G. I. G. club meetings at Big Creek last Friday.

## Back at School.

Mary Vanorder has resumed her studies and started to school after a shut in of four weeks on account of a broken collar bone. While she is not altogether as alert as usual she is not suffering from any pain whatever and uses her arm quite freely.

Mrs. S. Godzay was in Union on business recently.

Willard Miles was at the Goddard ranch Sunday.

A car going west passed through here Sunday. Evidently they could not make the summit as they returned shortly. It will be a good month at the best before much

traffic is expected on this road, although it is passable with teams at all times.

## Wheat in Good Shape.

Examinations of the fall wheat in the Park shows that very little of it has been damaged by frost if any at all. Good substantial roots are in evidence and in some places has remained green under the snow.

News came from Pleasant valley that Franklin Miller, Mrs. A. J. Vandevanter's father, had been ill for some time. It is hoped by his many friends here that the next reports will bring news of his recovery.

# CLOVER CREEK NEWS OF WEEK

CLOVER CREEK (Special)—There is every evidence of spring at Clover Creek. Farmers are starting their spring work.

Mr. Williams passed through with a bunch of horses that he wintered near North Powder recently. He was taking the horses to his home near Lone Pine to prepare them for spring farm work.

Norval C. Coulter of Baker, was a visitor to Clover Creek recently. Not finding his cousin, E. Talbot, at home, he expects to return in a few days.

Miss Bernice West, Clover Creek school teacher, spent the week-end at the home of her father.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dahlstrom and little daughter were over-night visitors at the B. C. Dahlstrom home. J. T. DeVore was a La Grande and Union visitor the first of the week.

Mrs. B. C. Dahlstrom visited at the home of her son at Island City recently.

Little Miss Lorene Carnes is visiting her grandparents at Union this week.

Elison McCance went to Union recently to look for seed grain and gather some data at the experiment station relative to planting grain. Mr. McCance has 755 acres of grain to seed and 315 acres at fall grain to reseed.

Miss Lydia Sailer visited at the DeVore home from La Grande recently.

Some of the Clover Creek farmers find that their alfalfa meadows are badly damaged as well as their grain. A long hard freeze before snow fell was very unusual for this part of the country and played havoc in general.

Mrs. J. A. McCance is slowly improving from her recent illness.

Mrs. J. P. DeVore visited her mother at Union recently.

A number of Clover Creek people attended the masquerade dance at Wolf Creek last Friday night.

## Brazil Finds Coffee Output Control Method

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—The present system of storing coffee in the state of Sao Paulo is the result of three previous experiments along this line, the first of which was in operation when the World War broke out. The second endeavored to meet conditions in 1917-18, and the third, started in 1922, is said to have brought an enormous profit to the federal government.

At the present time Sao Paulo coffee growers store this product in warehouses scattered throughout the coffee growing centers, and owned by the state. All marketing is done through the port of Santos. Farmers secure loans against storage receipts. Shipments from the various storehouses are under a central control scheme, and state exports are said always to be based on a daily shipment which will exhaust the entire harvest in a year's time, thereby holding the demand steadily at a high level and preventing speculation in stocks by foreign importers.

## VASSAR DISCARDS "BOBS"

CHICAGO (AP)—A Chicago girl, a student at Vassar college, has written to her parents requesting them to send her hair which she had saved when she joined the bobbed ranks. She said the girls at Vassar again were letting their hair grow long.



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# What Will \$8.04 A Month Buy In Insurance and Investment?

If you have \$8.04 a month to spend in buying life insurance protection and investments that will create an estate, what can you do with that amount at age 35?

First, \$8.04 a month will buy an endowment policy for \$1000 maturing in ten years, and at the end of ten years you will have—if still alive—\$1000 in cash and your insurance will cease. If you die within the ten-year period, you receive only the \$1000 face of the policy. Or if you pay \$8.60 a month on a participating policy, it will mature the \$1000 endowment in approximately 8½ years if you leave your dividends in.

Second, \$8.04 a month will buy \$1000 life insurance, pure protection, and ALSO \$1000 in a 7% investment maturing in 8 years and 8 months when divided as follows:

Eighty-seven cents a month will buy the \$1000 life insurance

policy, protection only, and if you die at any time your estate receives \$1000 in cash, the face of the policy. The balance of your \$8.04 a month is \$7.17, which will buy a 7% investment (with 17c a month surplus) for \$1000 and mature it in 8 years and 8 months.

In other words, at the end of this period, you have a cash investment of \$1000 paid up and your insurance of \$1000 continues in force by continuing the payment of 87c a month. If you die after the 104 months have passed, you have \$1000 in cash from your investment and also \$1000 insurance. If you die before the period is completed, you receive the \$1000 insurance and ALSO ALL THE MONEY YOU HAVE PAID ON THE INVESTMENT with interest at 7% compounded semi-annually.

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