

between Baker City and Olds' ferry, on Snake river; the murder, for money, of Moulton and another musician between Centerville and Placerville, and of various other crimes. Nolan had several times been arrested, but always succeeded in proving an alibi by his associates. The number of robberies that were committed between 1862 and 1870 would fill a large volume, and in this they are merely mentioned so that the reader will understand that robberies and assassinations were of frequent occurrence. We will also mention the fact that Nolan became noted throughout Southern Idaho as a desperado, feared even by the authorities of the law; was several times under arrest charged with robberies, but always released for lack of evidence against him.

In the early history of every country, when it is wrested from a savage and untutored race, many strange traditions and stories gain circulation, which are of course myths originating from some natural phenomenon. In 1865 stories of the "Wild man of Camas" were rehearsed, but the general impression was that they were circulated to frighten the timid prospectors. Whether they were circulated with that view or not, the effect was the same.

One evening in August, while a party of thirty or forty prospectors were camped at the upper crossing of the Malad, on the east side of Camas prairie, one of the men, an old French trapper named George Parody, declared that he had actually seen the "Wild Man of Camas" two or three miles below camp, and begged of his comrades to go and help him capture the "beast." Now, George had well earned the reputation of being the best story teller in the party; and it was generally recognized, too, that a man could not relate as many adventures as he had and at all times

confine himself strictly to the truth. His position was like that of the boy who hallowed "wolf!" and, plead as earnestly as he might, and pledge his "honest Injin," no one would accompany him, and as it was useless to undertake the capture alone, he was obliged to abandon the idea. He ever afterward maintained, however, that he saw the "Wild Man of Camas," and was within only a few feet of him when he jumped up out of a crevice in the lava rock and climbed up a steep cliff in front of him. When questioned as to the appearance of the man, Parody invariably gave the same description, which was near as the writer of this, who was with the party, can quote:

"The beast wasn't as big as I am, I don't think, but he might be. I got so excited it is hard to tell just exactly how he did look. But I tell you the truth, gentlemen, when I say that his hair hung down to the ground and his beard came down to his knees. His finger nails were that long (measuring the whole length of his hand, which was an unusually large one), and he had on a coat which looked just as if it were made out of a deer skin. He was the wildest looking creature you ever saw, and it was a caution the way he climbed that cliff of lava rock to get away from me. I do believe he was scared worse than I was. I wished I'd a shot him; he would have been such a fine specimen to send to Barnum."

The party remained on the Malad about a week, during which time two human skeletons were found. They were supposed to be those of white men who had been killed by Indians and the flesh eaten from the bones by coyotes or wild animals, which were abundant in that section of the country. Some galena ore was found in the neighborhood, but as it was considered worthless no locations were made on the veins, and