

# Weekly Chemawa American

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## Chemawa Bears

Four bears are kept at the Chemawa Indian training school near this city and are a source of much amusement to the numerous children attending that school as well as to the visitors who go there. They are kept in a regular bear pit, with a forked tree trunk set in the center, surmounted by a broad board, upon which they climb and amuse themselves. They are of good temper and whenever they have heretofore escaped by any means from their den, have been easily coaxed or driven back.

On Wednesday night, however, three succeeded in getting out and raised more consternation around that neighborhood than a band of Tracy's, Merrills and Snails all combined. The bears were in no way blamable for their escape, as the temptation could not have been resisted by any imprisoned specimen of the animal creation. The boy who had cleaned out the bear pit that evening forgot to pull up his ladder when he finished the job. But that is only an incident of the fun.

The contractor who is constructing the new building at Chemawa has several men employed who are housed in tents on the grounds, and along toward midnight their watchdog crawled into

one of the tents and into the bed with the men, uttering piteous frightened yelps, while outside as the men awakened could be heard the peculiar noise which bruin makes, which so resembles the human in distress. The dog howled and the "groan" became more audible, so that the suddenly awakened workmen thought sure some terrible crime had been committed or some poor human had been mangled by a passing train. They hastily emerged from their tents half clothed and routed out the boss with tales of horror. They armed themselves with pistols and started with lanterns to investigate. The bear, seeing the havoc he had created in camp, ambled off down the railroad track and when his pursuers reached a next telegraph pole they found his bearship proudly ensconced on top of it, almost as badly scared as the howling dog and the excited humans.

One of the men repaired to the quarters of Superintendent Chalcraft and Assistant Campbell, woke them from peaceful slumbers and demanded that men and ropes be brought to secure the wild beasts of the forest that were making night hideous with their unwelcome presence. The officers laughed and ac-