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An Indian Story

(By Albert Garry)

Once upon a time there was a fish trap or salmon trap built by the doves where Wenatchee now is. At that time it has been said all animals and birds were like a people and could talk to each other, as we do, and this story has been told.

The people above Wenatchee could not get salmon because of this trap, so the Coyote tried some scheme to get to this trap, and to destroyed it at once and let the fish up the Columbia River. So he did.

He made himself into a baby, wandering about near the traps where the doves got their water and their fish. They found this baby, so they did. Every day the doves would go off and leave their little brother at home, and all this time this brother, (or Coyote) was working hard, digging it through.

Before they came back the Coyote would go back to the house and crawl around as a baby.

He kept on digging for five days. On the last day, just before noon, the doves heard some noise and they noticed something was going wrong, so they hurried back, there they saw a man more

than digging and he had a hole already, and the water was beginning to rush through, but the doves were too late. They went and tried to club him, but they could not hurt him because the Coyote was wise enough to put a wooden bowl on his head to protect himself.

Thus he destroy the traps and became a great leader of the fish.

He then did as he wanted with the salmon by going up the river and stopping whenever he wanted to eat them. He stopped them and all the salmon would not go any further.

Then he cooked his dinner, supper or breakfast.

Several rapids were made by the Coyote where he stopped for several days. In stopping and making rapids he would go to some tribe and ask for the prettiest girl of the tribe for his wife and if refused them he would tear up his work and go right on. So there are many rapids from the Wenatchee up the Columbia River to Kettle Falls now.

The reason why there are no salmon going up beyond Spokane Falls is this, that the Coyote went and asked for the prettiest girl of the Coeur d'Alene tribe. They refused him, so he said there will be no salmon up the Coeur d'Alene county, and then he went and built the Kettle falls and got married there, so the salmon were plenty for the Kettle Falls people.