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A. R. CYRUS.

HOW I KILLED MY FIRST INDIAN

BY BUFFALO BILL
FROM "TRUE TALES OF THE PLAINS"
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I pulled the trigger. The stillness of the river was split by a roar as the report echoed from bank to bank. Down tumbled the chief over the edge, rolling over and over like a shot rabbit till he landed plump in the water.

A yell from the band he had led, and a score of Indians swarmed up to the bank. But our men drove them back, and they gave up the attack as a bad job. At dawn we limped worn out into Fort Kearny. The soldiers there started on a wild goose chase for the Indians. They were never caught. The slashed, scalped bodies of our dead were found beside the wrecked, looted wagons.

When I was thirteen my mother was building a hotel for the use of passing gold hunters, for this was late in 1859, when the gold fever swept America and all roads led to Pike's peak. Our Salt Creek valley home lay on one of the most traveled routes.

Hotel building and furnishing are not on the free list. So I wanted to help raise money for our Valley Grove House. With an older boy named Dave Phillips I planned a trapping trip. Winter was setting in when we started.

We bought an ox team and wagon to transport the traps, camp outfit and provisions and took a large supply of ammunition, besides extra rifles. Our destination was the Republican river. It courses more than 150 miles from Leavenworth, but the country about it was reputed rich in beaver. I acted as scout on the journey, going ahead to pick out trails, locate camping grounds and look out for breakers. The information concerning the beaver proved correct. The game was indeed so plentiful that we concluded to pitch a permanent camp and see the winter out.

We chose a hollow in a side hill and enlarged it to the dimensions of a decent sized room.

We had seen no Indians on our trip out and were not concerned in that quarter, though we were too good plainmen to relax our vigilance. There were other foes, as we discovered the first night in our new quarters.

We were aroused by a commotion in the corral where the oxen were confined, and, hurrying out with our rifles, we found a huge bear intent upon a feast of beef. The oxen were bellowing in terror, one of them dashing crazily about the inclosure and the other so badly hurt that it could not get up.

Phillips, who was in the lead, fired first, but succeeded only in wounding the bear. Pain was now added to the savagery of hunger, and the infuriated monster rushed upon Phillips. Dave leaped back, but his foot slipped on a bit of ice, and he went down with a thud, his rifle flying from his hand as he struck.

A bullet from my rifle entered the distended mouth of the onrushing bear and pierced the brain, and the huge mass fell lifeless almost across Dave's body. The ox had to be killed.

Dave's chance to square his account with me came a fortnight later. We were chasing a bunch of elk when I fell and discovered that I could not rise.

"I'm afraid I have broken my leg," I said as Dave ran to me.

Phillips had once been a medical student, and he examined the leg with a professional eye. "You're right, Billy; the leg's broken," he reported.

Then he went to work to improvise splints and bind up my leg, and, this done, he took me on his back and bore me to the dugout. Here the leg was stripped and set in carefully prepared splints and the whole bound up securely. He made a pair of crutches for me.

"Tell you what I think I'd better do," said he. "The nearest settlement is some eighty miles away, and I can get there and back in twenty days. Suppose I make the trip, get a team for our wagon and come back for you?"

The idea of being left alone and well-nigh helpless struck dismay to my heart, but there was no help for it, and I assented. Dave put matters into shape, piled wood in our dugout, cooked a quantity of food and put it where I could reach it without rising and fetched several days' supply of water. Mother, ever mindful of my education, had put some school-books in the wagon, and Dave placed these beside the food and water. When Phillips finally set out, driving the surviving ox before him, he left behind a very lonely and homesick boy.

During the first day of my confinement I felt too desolate to eat, much less to read. But as I grew accustomed to solitude I derived real pleasure from the companionship of books. Perhaps in all my life I never extracted so much benefit from study as during that brief period of enforced idleness, when it was my sole means of making the dragging hours endurable.

A fortnight passed. And one day, weary with my studies, I fell asleep over my books. Some one touched my shoulder, and, looking up, I saw an Indian in war paint and feathers.

"How?" said I, with a show of friendliness, though I knew the brave was on the warpath.

Half a score of bucks followed at the heels of the first, squeezing into the little dugout until there was barely room for them to sit down.

With sinking heart I saw them enter, but I plucked up spirit again when the last, a chief, pushed in, for in this warrior I recognized an Indian that I had once done a good turn.

Whatever Lo's faults, he never forgets a kindness any more than he forgets an injury. The chief, who went by the name of Rain-in-the-Face, at once recognized me and asked me why I was in that place. This chief was the father of the Rain-in-the-Face who in a later year killed General Custer at the memorable battle of the Little Big Horn. I displayed my bandages and related the mishap that had made them necessary and refreshed the chief's memory of a certain occasion when a blanket and provisions had drifted his way. Rain-in-the-Face replied, with proper gravity, that he and his chums were out after scalps and confessed to designs upon mine, but in consideration of said lang syne he would spare the paleface boy.

Auld lang syne, however, did not spare the blankets and provisions, and the bedizened crew stripped the dugout almost bare of supplies, but I was thankful enough to see the back of the last of them.

Two days later a blizzard set in. I took an inventory and found that, economy considered, I had food for a week, but as the storm would surely delay Dave I put myself on half rations.

Three weeks were now gone, and I looked for Dave momentarily, but as night followed day and day grew into night again I was given over to keen anxiety. Had Phillips lost his way? Had he failed to locate the snow-covered dugout? Had he perished in the storm? Had he fallen victim to the Indians?

The twenty-ninth day dawned. Starvation stalked into the dugout. The wood, too, was well-nigh gone. But great as was my physical suffering my mental distress was greater. I sat before a handful of fire, shivering and hungry, wretched and despondent.

Hark! Was that my name? Choking with emotion, unable to articulate, I listened intently. Yes, it was my name and Dave's familiar voice, and with all my remaining energy I made an answering call.

My voice enabled Phillips to locate the dugout, and a passage was cleared through the snow. And when I saw the door open the tension on my nerves let go, and I wept "like a girl."

"God bless you, Dave!" I cried as I clasped my friend around the neck.



"A bullet from my rifle entered the mouth of the bear."

A Few Suggestions For Xmas

- Ladies' and Gents' Watches,
- Fancy Bathroom Fixtures,
- Fancy Lamps,
- Xmas Candles,
- Banquet Candles,
- Thermometers,
- Revolvers and Air Rifles,
- Fishing Tackle,
- Carpet Sweepers,
- Bread Makers,
- Meat Choppers,
- Cake Mixers,
- Boys' Wagons,
- 5 o'Clock Tea Kettles,
- Tea Sets,
- Alcohol Stoves,
- Fancy Baskets, of all kinds
- Thermo Bottles,
- Flash Lights,
- Corn Razors,
- Watch Charms,
- Pocket Knives,
- Table Knives,
- Carrying Knives,
- Plated Ware,
- Table Cutlery,
- Nut Picks and Cracks,
- Chafing Dishes,
- Coffee Percolators,
- Razors and Razor Sets,
- Scissors and Shears,
- Scissors in Cases,
- Manicure Sets,
- Serving Trays,
- Crumb Sets,
- Fancy Table Cutlery,
- Berry Spoons,
- Gravy Ladles,
- Pocket Travelling Flasks,
- Shaving Mugs,
- Shaving Brushes,
- Watch Chains,

A large assortment of the above will be found at
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Starrett's Tools

Hardware, Groceries, Ship Chandlery

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John Fox, Pres. F. L. Bishop, Sec. Astoria Savings Bank, Treas.
Nelson Troyer, Vice-Pres. and Supt.

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EXAMPLE—
32 C.P. Ordinary electric lamp consumes 110 watts per hour
32 C.P. "Tungsten" electric lamp consumes 40 watts per hour

Saving 70 watts per hour
By using "Tungsten" lamps you can get 275 per cent increase in light for the same cost or in other words can have the same quantity of illumination for 35 per cent of the cost of lighting with ordinary electric lamps.

The Astoria Electric Co.

TIDE TABLE FOR DECEMBER

DECEMBER, 1903.				DECEMBER, 1903.				
High Water.	A. M.	P. M.	Low Water.	A. M.	P. M.	Low Water.	A. M.	P. M.
Date.	h.m.	ft.	Date.	h.m.	ft.	Date.	h.m.	ft.
Tuesday	1 7:28	7.5	Tuesday	1 0:27	0.9	Tuesday	1 1:48	2.9
Wednesday	2 8:19	7.9	Wednesday	2 1:42	1.4	Wednesday	2 2:54	3.1
Thursday	3 9:11	8.2	Thursday	3 2:47	1.7	Thursday	3 3:58	3.3
Friday	4 9:58	8.7	Friday	4 3:53	2.0	Friday	4 4:56	3.5
Saturday	5 10:48	9.0	Saturday	5 4:48	2.3	Saturday	5 5:44	3.7
SUNDAY	6 11:35	9.3	SUNDAY	6 5:37	2.5	SUNDAY	6 6:26	3.9
Monday	7 0:44	9.5	Monday	7 6:22	2.7	Monday	7 7:12	4.1
Tuesday	8 1:28	9.7	Tuesday	8 7:04	2.9	Tuesday	8 7:53	4.3
Wednesday	9 2:12	10.0	Wednesday	9 7:46	3.1	Wednesday	9 8:31	4.5
Thursday	10 2:53	10.2	Thursday	10 8:27	3.3	Thursday	10 9:06	4.7
Friday	11 3:33	10.4	Friday	11 9:08	3.5	Friday	11 9:40	4.9
Saturday	12 4:12	10.6	Saturday	12 9:52	3.6	Saturday	12 10:12	5.1
SUNDAY	1 4:47	10.8	SUNDAY	1 10:41	3.8	SUNDAY	1 10:48	5.3
Monday	2 5:28	11.0	Monday	2 11:28	3.9	Monday	2 11:24	5.5
Tuesday	3 6:12	11.1	Tuesday	3 12:15	4.0	Tuesday	3 12:00	5.7
Wednesday	4 6:59	11.2	Wednesday	4 1:07	4.1	Wednesday	4 1:29	5.9
Thursday	5 7:40	11.3	Thursday	5 1:58	4.2	Thursday	5 2:08	6.1
Friday	6 8:25	11.4	Friday	6 2:50	4.3	Friday	6 2:52	6.3
Saturday	7 9:08	11.5	Saturday	7 3:42	4.4	Saturday	7 3:42	6.5
SUNDAY	8 9:52	11.6	SUNDAY	8 4:35	4.5	SUNDAY	8 4:35	6.7
Monday	9 10:37	11.7	Monday	9 5:28	4.6	Monday	9 5:28	6.9
Tuesday	10 11:15	11.8	Tuesday	10 6:22	4.7	Tuesday	10 6:22	7.1
Wednesday	11 1:00	11.9	Wednesday	11 7:15	4.8	Wednesday	11 7:15	7.3
Thursday	12 1:42	12.0	Thursday	12 8:08	4.9	Thursday	12 8:08	7.5
Friday	1 2:28	12.1	Friday	1 9:00	5.0	Friday	1 9:00	7.7
Saturday	2 3:18	12.2	Saturday	2 9:52	5.1	Saturday	2 9:52	7.9
SUNDAY	3 4:12	12.3	SUNDAY	3 10:44	5.2	SUNDAY	3 10:44	8.1
Monday	4 5:08	12.4	Monday	4 11:35	5.3	Monday	4 11:35	8.3
Tuesday	5 6:08	12.5	Tuesday	5 12:26	5.4	Tuesday	5 12:26	8.5
Wednesday	6 7:10	12.6	Wednesday	6 1:17	5.5	Wednesday	6 1:17	8.7
Thursday	7 8:15	12.7	Thursday	7 2:08	5.6	Thursday	7 2:08	8.9
Friday	8 9:22	12.8	Friday	8 3:00	5.7	Friday	8 3:00	9.1
Saturday	9 10:32	12.9	Saturday	9 3:52	5.8	Saturday	9 3:52	9.3
SUNDAY	10 11:44	13.0	SUNDAY	10 4:44	5.9	SUNDAY	10 4:44	9.5
Monday	11 13:00	13.1	Monday	11 5:36	6.0	Monday	11 5:36	9.7
Tuesday	12 14:18	13.2	Tuesday	12 6:28	6.1	Tuesday	12 6:28	9.9
Wednesday	1 15:38	13.3	Wednesday	1 7:20	6.2	Wednesday	1 7:20	10.1
Thursday	2 17:00	13.4	Thursday	2 8:12	6.3	Thursday	2 8:12	10.3
Friday	3 18:24	13.5	Friday	3 9:04	6.4	Friday	3 9:04	10.5
Saturday	4 19:50	13.6	Saturday	4 9:56	6.5	Saturday	4 9:56	10.7
SUNDAY	5 21:18	13.7	SUNDAY	5 10:48	6.6	SUNDAY	5 10:48	10.9
Monday	6 22:48	13.8	Monday	6 11:40	6.7	Monday	6 11:40	11.1
Tuesday	7 24:20	13.9	Tuesday	7 12:32	6.8	Tuesday	7 12:32	11.3
Wednesday	8 25:54	14.0	Wednesday	8 13:24	6.9	Wednesday	8 13:24	11.5
Thursday	9 27:30	14.1	Thursday	9 14:16	7.0	Thursday	9 14:16	11.7
Friday	10 29:08	14.2	Friday	10 15:08	7.1	Friday	10 15:08	11.9
Saturday	11 30:48	14.3	Saturday	11 16:00	7.2	Saturday	11 16:00	12.1
SUNDAY	12 32:30	14.4	SUNDAY	12 16:52	7.3	SUNDAY	12 16:52	12.3
Monday	1 34:14	14.5	Monday	1 17:44	7.4	Monday	1 17:44	12.5
Tuesday	2 36:00	14.6	Tuesday	2 18:36	7.5	Tuesday	2 18:36	12.7
Wednesday	3 37:48	14.7	Wednesday	3 19:28	7.6	Wednesday	3 19:28	12.9
Thursday	4 39:38	14.8	Thursday	4 20:20	7.7	Thursday	4 20:20	13.1
Friday	5 41:30	14.9	Friday	5 21:12	7.8	Friday	5 21:12	13.3
Saturday	6 43:24	15.0	Saturday	6 22:04	7.9	Saturday	6 22:04	13.5
SUNDAY	7 45:20	15.1	SUNDAY	7 22:56	8.0	SUNDAY	7 22:56	13.7
Monday	8 47:18	15.2	Monday	8 23:48	8.1	Monday	8 23:48	13.9
Tuesday	9 49:18	15.3	Tuesday	9 24:40	8.2	Tuesday	9 24:40	14.1
Wednesday	10 51:20	15.4	Wednesday	10 25:32	8.3	Wednesday	10 25:32	14.3
Thursday	11 53:24	15.5	Thursday	11 26:24	8.4	Thursday	11 26:24	14.5
Friday	12 55:30	15.6	Friday	12 27:16	8.5	Friday	12 27:16	14.7
Saturday	1 57:38	15.7	Saturday	1 28:08	8.6	Saturday	1 28:08	14.9
SUNDAY	2 59:48	15.8	SUNDAY	2 29:00	8.7	SUNDAY	2 29:00	15.1
Monday	3 62:00	15.9	Monday	3 29:52	8.8	Monday	3 29:52	15.3
Tuesday	4 64:14	16.0	Tuesday	4 30:44	8.9	Tuesday	4 30:44	15.5
Wednesday	5 66:30	16.1	Wednesday	5 31:36	9.0	Wednesday	5 31:36	15.7
Thursday	6 68:48	16.2	Thursday	6 32:28	9.1	Thursday	6 32:28	15.9
Friday	7 71:08	16.3	Friday	7 33:20	9.2	Friday	7 33:20	16.1
Saturday	8 73:30	16.4	Saturday	8 34:12	9.3	Saturday	8 34:12	16.3
SUNDAY	9 75:54	16.5	SUNDAY	9 35:04	9.4	SUNDAY	9 35:04	16.5
Monday	10 78:20	16.6	Monday	10 35:56	9.5	Monday	10 35:56	16.7
Tuesday	11 80:48	16.7	Tuesday	11 36:48	9.6	Tuesday	11 36:48	16.9
Wednesday	12 83:18	16.8	Wednesday	12 37:40	9.7	Wednesday	12 37:40	17.1
Thursday	1 85:50	16.9	Thursday	1 38:32	9.8	Thursday	1 38:32	17.3
Friday	2 88:24	17.0	Friday	2 39:24	9.9	Friday	2 39:24	17.5
Saturday	3 91:00	17.1	Saturday	3 40:16	10.0	Saturday	3 40:16	17.7
SUNDAY	4 93:78	17.2	SUNDAY	4 41:08	10.1	SUNDAY	4 41:08	17.9
Monday	5 96:58	17.3	Monday	5 42:00	10.2	Monday	5 42:00	18.1
Tuesday	6 100:20	17.4	Tuesday	6 42:52	10.3	Tuesday	6 42	