

Old Big Foot.

History in Relation to the Mighty Siwash Chief.

By Gen. L. Woods, in Sunday Oregonian.

Many an old-timer in Eastern Oregon and Idaho has seen Big Foot, the savage Snake chief, or has seen his footprints in the mud. He was a whopper. Ex-Governor Geo. L. Woods, in the Sunday Oregonian, says:

"When the Warm Springs agency was reached by our party all was excitement and confusion among government employes and Indians. Mr. Knight, who was agent at that time, informed us that a war party of Shoshones, numbering about 100 men, had made a raid on the agency only three days before our arrival, and had killed several agency Indians, and had driven off a herd of stock belonging to the agency. Upon informing him of our destination, he warned us against going further, pronouncing it hazardous in the extreme for so small a party as ours to penetrate into that country, and emphasized his advice by telling us that this war party, with their scalps and booty, had gone in the very direction which we were proposing to go. I knew that his advice was honestly given and that he had taken an intelligent and prudent view of the situation, but after consultation our party was unanimous in their purpose to go on and take our chances. Accordingly, we moved on. It was a perilous undertaking, and almost criminally reckless. I did not regard it so then, but I do now.

These hostiles, as treacherous a band of thieves, freebooters and murderers as ever tramped the plains, from time immemorial had been warring upon the whites and adjacent Indians, and this particular party was commanded by a notorious chief known in all that region as 'Big Foot,' a man of gigantic frame, being six feet six inches in height, and weighing 250 pounds or more, judging from his appearance.

Our line of travel led across a high plateau, extending from the eastern slope of the Cascade mountains to the Deschutes river, through a heavy pine forest, with but little undergrowth.

We pursued our journey southward through a scattering forest of pine trees. The weather was hot and noon came and no indication of river, rivulet or spring, was anywhere apparent; men and animals were thirsty and tired; in front of us seemed an endless, unbroken plain; it is a region of basaltic formation and hence of abrupt deep chasms, gorges cleaving the surface asunder as if by the hand of the Almighty, forming canyons of great depth which were not perceptible until upon their very brink, so that all at once we came upon an immense chasm, through which the

river flowed a rushing torrent, coming from Mt. Jefferson and making its way eastward to the Deschutes river. Under ordinary circumstances to thirsty mortals these rushing waters from mountain heights would have been a refreshing sight, making the heart glad, but not so with us—let me explain; on the side of the stream next to us was a narrow strip of land, with an occasional clump of pine trees, and grass in abundance, and under one of these clumps of trees not more than 300 yards away, within plain view, our much dreaded Indian war party was camped. We discovered each other simultaneously. As soon as they saw us they divided into three parties, one remaining in their camp, one going to the right of us and one to the left of us, rushing toward the bluff on which we stood, evidently with the intention of surrounding us, all yelling like demons from the infernal regions.

[CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.]

A Wise Reform.
The habit of administering opium in powerful doses, as an antidote to malarial miasmas, was once dangerously common. Happily this practice has undergone a wide reform. Not only the public, but professional men have adopted, not wholly, of course, but largely, Hooper's Stomach Bitters as a safe tonic substitute for the pernicious alkaloid. The consequences of this change are most important. Now fever and malarial affections are cured—formerly their complaints were only for the time relieved, or half-cured—the remedy eventually failing to produce any appreciable effect, except the doses were increased. A course of the Bitters, persistently followed, breaks up the malarial attack and prevents their return. The evidence in favor of this sterling specific and household medicine is of no ambiguous character, but positive and satisfactory, and the sources whence it proceeds are very numerous.

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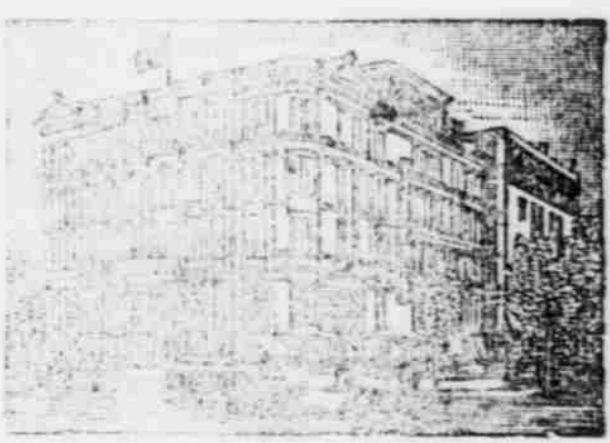
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