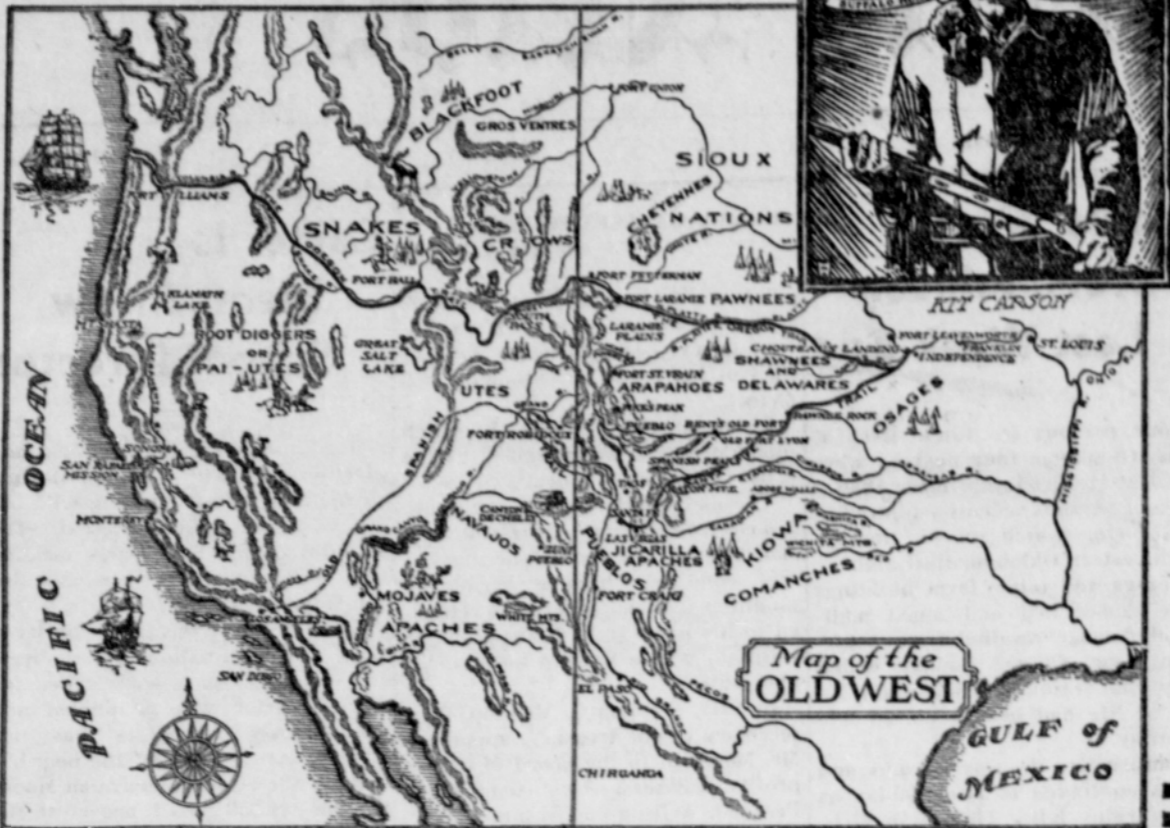


A Happy Warrior of the Old West



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
On Christmas day in the morning, 1899, an under-sized, tow-headed, bandy-legged, blue-eyed boy sped into the world squalling lustily with an uncontrolled excitement which no later adventure could arouse in him. Small, bandy-legged, blue-eyed, and sandy-haired he remained to the end of his days, and to this unimpressive appearance the sun added freckles. Yet this boy, typically backward as he was, and apparently no different from other lads of his family and community, was to exhibit such character, display such competence, and achieve such fame as distinguish few other lone adventurers in history.

Thus begins the saga of a great American frontiersman, as recorded in a book, "Kit Carson—The Happy Warrior of the Old West," recently published by Houghton Mifflin company. The author is Stanley Vestal, otherwise Walter Vestal, Campbell, a professor of English at the University of Oklahoma and a man who has had an unusual opportunity to write the final word in a Kit Carson biography. For, as he says in the preface, "I am familiar with much of the country Kit ranged over, and with that Southwest which he made his life-long headquarters. I grew up among the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, the tribes with which he was most intimately associated and from which he took his two Indian wives. And I think I have seldom missed an opportunity to talk with an old-timer who could tell me about the days and ways of America's heroic age."

Among those original sources of material he lists such persons as George Bent, son of Col. William Bent and Owl Woman, and grandson of the Keeper of the Cheyenne Medicine Arrows; Left Hand, Washoe, Watan and Watonga of the Arapaho Indians and Wolf Chief, Burnt All Over, Roman Nose Thunder, Edmond Guerrier of the Cheyennes. In addition to these and his stepfather, James Robert Campbell, who served on the staff of Bancroft, the historian, and spent much of his time in making investigations in the Southwest, the author of this book has made use of the researches of such historians as George Bird Grinnell, Edwin L. Sabin, H. M. Chittenden, R. L. Thwaites and Blanche C. Grant, who last year published for the first time Carson's own memoirs.

As one of the "Big Four of the American Frontier"—the other three are Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett and Sam Houston—Kit Carson has been much-written about. But as Mr. Vestal points out "Kit's first biographers made him out a striking but unaccountable hero. They placed him in a spotlight which threw all the background of his age in shadow, representing him as at once blameless and colorless. The effect was to make the man incredible, and to leave the reader with a hunch that the evidence had been doctored. To make matters worse, the Western Hero became commercialized, and the country was flooded with showmen, who—for a consideration—posed and postured and made of the Old West a cheap burlesque. This sickening spectacle made us all more skeptical than ever, and Kit Carson seemed about to go the way of the 'noble Red man' in popular favor. For there was no readable 'life' to relate the man to the character of the times he lived in, no cred-

ible account of the typical product of that heroic age when trick cowboys and professional humans were as yet unknown. . . . As research mops up the corners and corrects the errors of the earlier accounts of his career, it is more and more clear that the legend needs rechecking. . . . It is time to retell the adventures of this great little man."

And that is what Mr. Vestal has done—retold Kit Carson's adventures and projected the action of the epic story against an authentic background of the Old West in which Kit Carson lived. In the first chapter he offers an interpretation of Kit Carson, the man and the frontiersman, which sums him up as follows:

Dispassionate comparison will demonstrate how worthy he is of a rank even with the best of legendary heroes. Kit Carson's endless journeys through the wilderness make the fabled Mediterranean wanderings of Odysseus seem week-end excursions of a stay-at-home; his humanity rivals Robin Hood's, in readiness to fight and in chivalry to women he rates a siege at the Round Table; his courage and coolness against hopeless odds may be matched but not surpassed by the old Norse heroes; while his prowess in innumerable battles—all quite without the aid of invulnerable armor or the encouragement of indulgent goddesses—makes Achilles look like a wash-out. This is no idle boast; any candid reader will admit it.

Yet Kit was no seeker after renown. Shy and matter-of-fact, he went about the business of his life with no notion that he was to be the archetype of the American pioneer. Before Horace Greeley thought of his celebrated advice, Kit had already gone West and grown up with the country. And because he did grow up with it, he left all the other mountain men behind him—pathetic survivors of a dead epoch. It was this adaptability, this superior competence, which made him the figure he remains in the history of the frontier.

When fame came, it abashed him, and he never betrayed any of the showmanship which has so cheapened the western adventures of a later day. Kit was no boaster, no outlaws, no charlatan, no gunman. Only the willfulness of youth flung him into that endless series of scraps, expeditions, sprees, battles, adventures of every sort, making him chief actor on the largest stage whereon a heroic age ever went its swift and roaring way to law and civilization. He looked his part so little that on one occasion some emigrants on the Oregon Trail, having paused to stare at the famous scout, went back to their wagons, hooting and laughing, too smart to be hoaxed by those who had pointed out that insignificant-looking little man.

When fame could no longer be denied, the myth-makers went to work. They piled their legends about Kit until the man himself is hardly seen. They concealed and ignored the wild deeds of his youth, though he killed more men than Billy the Kid; they said nothing of his adventures with women, though he is known to have married three times, and twice without the blessing of the church. Not knowing how to present such a man, they manufactured a monster. On the one hand they failed to exhibit the winning humanity of their victim; on the other they magnified his exploits, "laying it on a little too thick," to use Kit's own sly comment on the authorized "Life."

Roman Punishments

The following punishments were meted out to the offender in ancient Rome: The mulct, or fine; vincula, imprisonment or fetters; verbera, or stripes; talio, or infliction of punishment similar to injury, i. e., limb for a limb; infamia, public disgrace, by which the delinquent, besides being scandalized, was rendered incapable of holding public office and deprived of other privileges of Roman citizen-

ship; exilium, banishment; death, either civil or natural. Natural death was brought about by beheading, scourging, strangling, or throwing the criminal headlong from the Tiberian rock, or from a place in a prison, from the Robur.

To Be Trusted

Silence was one of the greatest reasons for the continued political success of the late Senator Lodge of Massachusetts. On one occasion, after the Washington correspondents had

N. M., with the wagon train of Bent, St. Vrain and company, Indian and Mexican traders, which was to launch him upon his amazing career as a mountain man, scout, guide for General Fremont, Indian fighter, Civil war leader on the New Mexican frontier, guardian of the Santa Fe trail and "Father Kit" in the government's dealings with the Indians.

Such a career, of course, with its multitude of thrilling incidents gave the "Wild West" type of writer a chance to do his best (or worst) and few of them failed to make the most of the opportunity in writing of Kit Carson. The result has been a jumble of truth and absurdity which fully justifies this latest Carson biography's criticisms of his predecessors. But he has exploded many of the old legends and in their place substituted either the facts, or theories which can be accepted as logical and reasonable.

For instance, Carson has been painted as a man with a vision of the vast empire of the West which he was to help open up. This new picture of Carson shows him as an empire builder, all right, not because he intended to be one but because he liked the life which these "unconscious empire-builders" lived—the scouting, fighting of bad Indians and making treaties with good ones, trapping, hunting, dancing, drinking and loving. For instance Carson did not go with Fremont to "carry the Stars and Stripes" to the summits of the Rockies and win this vast territory for his country," as the sentimental-historians would have it. "Kit went with Fremont," says Mr. Vestal, "because he loved Josepha (his third and last wife) and wanted to better himself. Like most people who do things in the world of affairs, he was moved by no grand schemes or highfalutin, sense of service or honor, but simply set his heart on a woman and a little money." And that is sound common sense.

His manner of dying was as simple as the manner of his living. The end came May 23, 1868, at Fort Lyon, Colo., where he was under the care of an army surgeon. He was tired of the food that had been given him. "Cook me some fast rate doins," said the old scout, "A buffalo steak and a bowl of coffee and a pipe are what I need."

The surgeon warned him that the meal would probably be fatal. But Kit insisted and the surgeon, knowing that he was going soon, did not long oppose him. . . . The expected hemorrhage followed. Kit called out "I'm gone! Doctor, comrade, adios!" The end was swift.

So died Kit Carson, brave, unaffected, self-sufficient to the last puff of his old dudbeen, a valiant trencherman with the bull meat under his belt, and the old gleam in his tired eyes, blowing smoke into the jaws of death, whom he had flouted so often. This is the happy warrior; this is he that every man in arms should wish to be.

Protecting Investors

Though differing slightly in some of the states, the blue-sky laws are much alike in their essential features. They are designed to regulate the sale of stocks, bonds and other securities, but in practice their application has been extended to a wide range of investment enterprises. The law usually contains a penal clause prescribing penalty for fraud in the sale or negotiation of securities, and vests in a certain officer or body the power to investigate all transactions of this kind.

In these days," replied the senator, "the man who can remain resolutely silent, demonstrates that he holds a rather important position in public affairs."

An alligator's nest contains about 60 eggs.

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

MARY GRAHAM BONNER
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FLY-HIGH

Stories were going to be told in Witty Witch's cave that afternoon by old Mr. Giant, and all the fairyland people were invited.

The elves asked Fly-High, their special bird, to carry them to the party.

So they were all taken by Fly-High to the hut which was made out of shingles—it was one of Witty Witch's summer homes. It was covered with flowering vines.

She greeted all her guests and smiled, while old Mr. Giant roared to his deep voice:

"Hello to all of you!"

Soon every one had arrived and old Mr. Giant began his stories.

He told of the wonderful adventures he had had in earlier days.

He told of escapes from dangers and of great and good deeds which he and his band of giants had been able to do.

And last of all he told the story he loved best of all—of a little girl who said she was not afraid of giants, in fact she would love to see a giant so she could tell him so!

Witty Witch soon saw that the fire needed poking for the weather was



She Greeted All Her Guests

still chilly, and soon the sun was going down to his bed behind the hill, to be gone all night.

So she poked the fire and as it blazed and crackled she told for the hundredth time how badly she felt when children were told that witches were bad old creatures.

For witches, and goblins, too, have merry ways unless they happen to be bad ones and there are creatures who aren't nice of every variety.

The supper table was of moss with a centerpiece of early summer flowers and ferns, and on the leaves of the ferns there were tiny daisies.

The guests drank from acorn cups and had plates cut out of new leaves. They had woodland soup, moss salad and fern ice cream with the most delicious brook lemonade to drink.

But what made them happiest of all was to hear that another story would be told to children of how much, now very much, they all loved boys and girls.

And how much the elves thanked their bird Fly-High for bringing them to so lovely a party.

Separating Each Other

Arthur and James are cousins, and inclined to fight with each other, despite grandmother's repeated warnings.

The other morning, hearing a commotion, she hurried to the door, to find the two youngsters clutching each other and rolling about on the porch.

"Boys," she scolded, "how can you fight like this after what you promised me?"

"We wasn't fightin'," answered James as, they both hastily straightened up; "we wuz jest tryin' to separate each other."

Hard to Teach

Five-year-old Orland goes to country school, and insists on calling his teacher by his first name. The first day in school he was in class with a youngster who did not take readily to learning. The teacher labored patiently to make him learn his letters, but without avail.

Bright-eyed little Orland listened intently to this tiresome process for a while, but at last he grew weary. "I don't believe he ever will learn anything, do you, Dwight?" he asked confidentially.

A Difference of Opinion

Mother (lecturing Willie after the company had gone)—Don't you know the difference between "sufficient" and "enough"?

"Sure, mother," answered the boy. "Sufficient" is when a fellow's mother thinks it's time for him to stop eating dessert. 'Enough' is when he thinks it is."

His Occupation

"Good gracious alive!" warmly ejaculated Mrs. Johnson. "What under the sun do you reckon the baby is crying for now?"

"Aw, prob'ly he's looking on the dark side of life, as usual," responded the infant's sire, Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge.

Hard to Tire

Molly (weary of sermon, in very audible whisper)—Mummy, if the church caught fire, would he stop then?—Punch.

LIVE STOCK

BLOAT MAY KILL CATTLE OR SHEEP

Cattle and sheep sometimes die from bloating if they eat green, immature crops while they are wet with dew or rain. Bloating is caused by the accumulation of gas on the stomach or paunch, say dairymen at the State College of Agriculture at Ithaca, N. Y., who also state that losses can be avoided by simple precautions.

It is safest to not turn sheep or cattle into a rank growth of clover, alfalfa or sweet clover. If this cannot be avoided, however, the college's dairymen recommend feeding the stock some dry fodder to partially satisfy their hunger before they are turned into the heavy pasture. Changes from scant to rich pasture should be made carefully and the animals never should be allowed to gorge themselves.

When trouble occurs it is indicated by excessive swelling on the left side. If not too far advanced, relief may be obtained by the formaline treatment. With cattle, a quart of a 1 1/2 per cent solution of formaline should be given as a drench. One-half ounce of formaline in a quart of water once of the right strength. A round stick should be tied in the animal's mouth to keep its jaws open.

In severe cases, the animal must be tapped immediately at a point equally distant from the last rib, the hip bone and the backbone. The operation should be made with a trocar and canula, but a pocketknife may be used in an emergency. The tube of the trocar should be left in the opening so the gas can escape readily. The wound will heal better if it is washed with an antiseptic solution after the canula has been removed.

Animals that have bloated have been dangerously sick and they should be handled accordingly. As soon as the pain is relieved, it is advisable to give a dose of one to one and one-half pounds of epsom salts. They should be fed lightly and should have good care.

Sheep are more susceptible to bloat than cattle, and for this reason they need closer attention. A pint of fresh cow's milk is an excellent drench or formaline, prepared as for cattle, may be used except that smaller doses must be given. Sheep should be tapped only as a last resort for they recover slowly from such operations or injuries.

Dehorning Calves With Caustic Potash Is Easy

One of the best methods of dehorning cattle is the use of either caustic soda or caustic potash. These are in sticks about lead pencil size and may be obtained at any drug store. The best results are obtained if the operation is performed when the calf is from four to ten days old. The undeveloped horns or buttons are only loosely attached to the skull and look almost like parts of skin at this age, writes George W. Westcott in the Iowa Homestead.

Clip the hair over and around the horns. Apply grease around the edge of the hair to prevent the caustic from spreading and causing sores around the horn. Then slightly moisten the stick of caustic and rub it on each horn three or four times. Let each application dry before the next is applied.

The operator should wrap the caustic stick in paper with one end exposed to prevent burning his hands. Do not let any of the caustic run down the side of the calf's head. Keep the calf under shelter if there is any possibility of rain. Should the caustic become wet it might run into the calf's hair and eyes and cause severe burns and blindness.

Live Stock Hints

Alfalfa hay is the key to success with fall pigs.

One of the chief disadvantages with rye is that it is difficult to pasture during wet weather.

Alfalfa hay will do wonders for brood sows because it is a protein feed, contains plenty of mineral and is bulky.

A sound program of care combined with the right kind of feed will bring most of the pigs through in good shape and put them on the market at least expense.

Any normal boar which has stred one or more ruptured pigs should be discarded. Such a boar will transmit scrotal hernia to his offspring, and hence tend to carry it on in the herd.

In 1926, there were slaughtered in the United States, 14,971,000 cattle. In 1927 there were slaughtered only 14,000,000.

About one-third of the beef cattle marketed from the range are shipped to the feedlots of the Corn Belt as stockers and feeders.

Hogs, sheep or cattle often may be used at the busy season as harvesters. Hogging down corn is easier and often more profitable than husking and feeding in the lot.

Rune Stone a Fake

Concerning the authenticity of the Kensington Rune Stone, Dr. Walter Hough, head curator of anthropology of the Smithsonian Institution, makes the following statement: "This stone was established as a fake by the confession of the man who inscribed it. The work was cleverly done and deceived many, but a scholar found that a few runes not in use in 1362 were used and finally the faker made a clean breast of it."

Talking About Oneself

Speech of a man's self ought to be seldom and well chosen. I know one was wont to say in scorn, "He must needs be a wise man, he speaks so much of himself"; and there is but one case wherein a man may commend himself with good grace, and that is in commending virtue in another, especially if it be such a virtue whereunto himself pretendeth.—Bacon.

Cities of Glass

Buildings and whole cities of glass are predicted by a well-known architect. There would be two shells of glass to a high building, 18 inches or so apart, leaving space to be made into at least a partial vacuum. Glass buildings would probably be heated and cooled in the same way as a thermos flask is used to maintain heat and cold.

Haydn's Nationality

Haydn has always been considered a German, but Rahrnan, the village in which he was born, changed rulers when Germany annexed it. Before then it was Croatian. His music has more of the Slav character about it than Teutonic, but no doubt some of it is susceptible to German influence.

Formality

Little Jean was visiting her small cousin. They were playing and having a glorious time together when Jean's father came to take her home. After she had donned her coat and hat, she turned around and said: "Say, come back to me, somebody!"

Atomic Energy

According to the theory of Dr. Robert Millikan, the cosmic rays which physicists detect coming to the earth from interplanetary space are the form of energy freed by the breakdown of atoms in the process of creation of new atoms.

How Compass Works

The compass does not point exactly to the geographical North pole, but to the magnetic North pole, which is some distance away from it. Its approximate position being 70.8 degrees N. latitude and 93 degrees W. longitude.

How Blood Travels

Assuming the heart to beat 60 times a minute at ordinary heart pressure, the blood courses through the veins at the rate of 207 yards in a minute, or seven miles an hour, 168 miles a day, and 61,320 miles a year.

Have Hard Task

To develop the wisdom of serpents while they retain the guilelessness of doves is the task which faces the religious-moral forces if they would aid in the moral regeneration of society.—Rinhold Niehbuhr.

Keeping Up With Junior

On the whole, it's wiser not to start making a pal of the boy till after the boy finishes with periphrastric Latin conjugations and quadratic algebraic equations.—Arkansas Gazette.

Desire Never Fulfilled

Our desires always disappoint us; for though we meet with something that gives us satisfaction, yet it never thoroughly answers our expectation.—Rochefoucauld.

But They Get the Coconuts

It is said of native Sumatrans that they are too lazy to climb coconut trees so they train monkeys to go up the trees and get the fruit for them.

Probably Hot Music

Scientists have been able to set fire to wood by sound waves, produced probably by some jazz band. Instrument.—New York Herald Tribune.

Orchid Matures Slowly

Nearly five years are required for an orchid plant to mature under glass from a seed and only about one seed in a million produces blossoms.

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