# The mailn Astorim. 

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the oldest frontiersman Cocle Jim Baker, who lives on
snake rivef, Wyoming territory Snake river, W yoming territory,
hns a history not equaled by any hns a history not equaled by any
living man. Since the sear 1838
hie has roamed the far west, always
he has roamed the far west, always
on the frontier. He is widely and justly celebrated, and his experience and exploits on the plains and
in the mountains will be vividly recollected by the "oldest inhabi-
tants" who were tenderfeet in the tants" who were tenderfeet in the
country when he was an apparent. country when he was an apparent.
Iy old man. He is hetween 60 and pearance the typical western man
although showing the weight although showing the weight
years. His long curly yair whic was once dark brown, isnow streaktache and goatee are almost white
Six feet tall, he is straight as a arrow and steps with the sprigh
liness of a young man. liness of a young man.
When a small boy, away from home, and indentured can Fur company. He served his
time out with them, and then went to trapping beaver for himself. He
frequently made 810 a day. He followed this avocation for eight
yenrs, and then took part in the About this time Jim relates ho the forty men in his company got
snowed in, in what is now the
Gunnison county, and over half the number died of starvation. but Jim says they were so poor
that there was not flesh enough on

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one of them to make a meal for
one man. The remnants of the band finaliy got out of the coun-
try into Utah. After the war he spent a number of years in trapping. He
tien identified himself with the
Shoshones, and after Shoshones, and atter a few years
became their chief, leading them
in many battles aginst in many battles against the Black-
feet, who were mortal enemies of the Shoshowes. For three years
he never saw a white man. One day he became angry while in
council with the sub chiefs, and killed three of them outright. He
then found it too warm for him, and he attempted to make his
escape out of the country. It is ssaid by Jim's friends that the tribe miles, and in the fight he killed several times himself. Since that time he has never foun
able "Did go back to them.
"Das anked. ine tribe?"
"Yes, I always nad a squaw; "Yes, 1 always had a squaw;
sometimes two or three," he said
notechalantly. Jim is badly used up, owing the number of times he has be
shot and accidents that have curred to him. A portion right hand is entirely gone. He
lost it while shooting at a with the late Captain Jack of the Utes, in 1867. Jim was then interpreter at the White river agency, while Maj. Oakes, now of Denver was agent. When Jime fired the carbine exploded tearing off a piece of the hand, breaking a jaw, and neariy killing him. He was takeu up for dead but after many months of suffering Utes for several years anterwards. In Jim's time the Indian tribe little acquainted with firearms. In fact some tribes never saw a gun The older bucks of the Shoshones remember well when they first
leid eyes upon them. Jim relates the story as told him by one of the Shoshone chiefs. One day a young buck was prowling about the country, when he heard the unusual erawling through arearm
bushes, and gazing into the space remark: The unfortunate bar
beyond he beheld a party of the mouth of the Columbia was
white raen shooting at a target. responsible for not a few of tho




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