

## TALES OF THE OLD FRONTIER

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

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### THAT TERRIBLE "LONG KNIFE SQUAW"

AMONG the pioneers who crossed the Appalachians to seek new homes in the West at the close of the Revolution was a man named John Merrill, who settled in what is now Nelson county, Kentucky. That country was still as much a "Dark and Bloody Ground" as it had been when Daniel Boone first visited it and the fear of an Indian attack ever hovered over the isolated cabins of the settlers and their stockaded forts. But Nelson was the type of man not easily daunted and he was fortunate in having for his mate a woman of remarkable strength and courage.

One evening in 1787 Merrill was aroused by the barking of his dog and when he opened the door to see what was the trouble he fell with his arm and leg broken by the bullets of a band of seven Indians. As he dropped to the floor he cried to his wife to close the door.

Then the savages attacked the planks with their tomahawks and soon made a hole large enough for one of their number to crawl through. Mrs. Merrill immediately seized an ax and with this weapon she killed the first intruder. He had scarcely rolled to one side when another entered to meet the same fate, as did a third. A fourth, unwarned by the fate of his fellows, was the next victim and by this time the Indians realized the futility of further attempts.

The three survivors then climbed to the roof of the cabin with the intention of gaining entrance by dropping down through the huge chimney. But Mrs. Merrill was as resourceful as she was brave. She seized a featherbed, ripped it open and threw it upon the smoldering coals in the fireplace. Instantly a cloud of smoke surged up the chimney and two of the Indians, blinded and choking, dropped to the hearth nearly insensible. As they lay there gasping for breath the pioneer woman sprang upon them with her ax and they joined their brothers on the journey to the Happy Hunting Grounds.

The sole survivor of the war party should have been convinced by now that this cabin was "bad medicine." But he evidently wasn't. He crawled through the broken door and sprang at the white woman. There was no time to swing the ax for a deadly blow. As the savage seized her, she drew the keen edge of the ax across his face, laying the flesh open to the bone.

This was too much for the warrior. With a howl of pain he ran from the cabin and bounded into the woods. And when he returned to the Indian town of Chillicothe he told his people—not without admiration—how the terrible "long-knife squaw" had defeated his war party with nothing but an ax.

### A RESCUE AND A ROMANCE

ONE spring evening in 1774 a young girl named Rebecca Martin was paddling a birchbark canoe along the Ohio river. She was returning to her home at the mouth of Grove creek after visiting a sister 50 miles up the river. Her relatives had tried to persuade her not to attempt the trip alone, but she laughed at their fears.

Shortly after sundown she approached a clearing where she expected to spend the night in the cabin of a friend. But as she drew near she saw a war party of Indians dancing and yelling around the blazing cabin. The river was brightly illuminated by the flames and at any moment she might be discovered if she attempted either to advance or retreat. So she silently paddled close to the bank and hiding as best she could beneath the overhanging brush, breathlessly waited.

Finally the fire died down and the Indians departed, some of them going upstream in their canoes. By this time the moon had risen and made traveling dangerous, but she knew she must try to escape. She did not try to paddle but trusted to the current to carry her out of danger. After traveling several miles thus she felt safe to begin paddling again.

Suddenly like a drifting shadow another canoe emerged from the opposite shore, followed immediately by three others. Seeing that she was discovered, Rebecca began to paddle desperately.

Bullets began to sing over her head and to whip the water around her. Finally one of them struck her paddle and shattered it. The girl tried desperately to guide her bark toward the shore, but its progress was agonizingly slow. The savages had almost surrounded her when there was a blinding lightning flash and a roar as of thunder. One of the Indian canoes was torn to pieces and its occupants thrown struggling into the river.

A big canoe swept out into the stream and from the swivel gun mounted on its prow a raking fire was poured into the other Indian boats. As the survivors frantically paddled out of range the big boat drew up alongside Rebecca's canoe and a brawny arm swept her from where she crouched, half-unconscious, in the bottom of the bark.

Her savior was Capt. Isaac Williams, the noted hunter and scout. And as an appropriate aftermath to this rescue, a few weeks later a wandering minister performed a wedding ceremony at which Rebecca Martin became Rebecca Williams.

## LEXINGTON ECHOES

(Continued from first page.)

Davis at Salem, informs friends here, that her daughter Nellie, had fell and broke her arm. The Davis family have certainly had their share of sickness as they are just recovering from diphtheria and flu.

Harry Dinges returned Saturday from Portland, where he spent several days visiting with his mother.

Rev. Wallace Jones and family made a trip to Newberg last week on a visit with relatives. Mr. Jones returned home Saturday, Mrs. Jones and babies remaining for a longer visit.

Ernest Fredrickson is quite ill with stomach trouble at his home in Salem, he has been confined to his bed for three weeks the doctors informed him it would be two months yet before he would be able to be up again. Mr. Fredrickson has many friends in Lexington and vicinity who are very sorry to hear of his illness.

Mr. Fred Lucas was on a business trip to The Dalles last week.

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## CECIL NEWS ITEMS

R. E. Duncan of Busy Bee ranch has been busy during the week delivering a truck load of his famous honey from his Willow creek apiary to his customers in Heppner.

Misses Laura and Grace Chandler of Willow Creek ranch spent Sunday with Miss Katherine Farnsworth at Rhea Siding.

Miss C. Crowell from the Sullivan ranch near Morgan was visiting with Mrs. Pat Medlock at Rockcliffe near Cecil on Sunday.

Mr. Kolhose returned from Portland on Sunday to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Grover Curtiss near Rhea Siding.

Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Tyler, of Rhea Siding, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. W. Dufur of The Cot were visiting friends in Cecil on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hynd of Butterby Fiats accompanied by David Hynd of Sand Hollow, also Mrs. Roy Scott and daughter, Miss Cora, of Freezeout ranch, left Cecil on Sunday for Heppner.

Harold Ahalt, government trapper, has been busy the past few days around Cecil.

Zenneth Logan and wife, from their ranch near Lexington, were visiting at the home of Leon Logan in Four Mile on Monday.

W. Hirsch arrived in Cecil from Bend, on Thursday, and will work at Hillside for Walter Pope for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Lowe and son Bob, of Cecil, also W. Pope, of Hillside, were all callers on Mrs. George A. Miller at Highview on Sunday.

Ray Barnett and wife, of Lone, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Herman Haverrost, at Rhea Siding.

Ralph McCormick, ranch foreman at Windynook, during the absence of Wid Palmateer, was doing business in Cecil on Sunday.

Lawrence Fuuk, wife, and daughter, Miss Geraldine, of the Curtiss Cottage, also Mrs. Geo. Krebs of the Last Camp, were doing the sights of Arling-

ton last Saturday.

Levi May and wife of The Dalles, were visiting with Mrs. George Krebs at the Last Camp, on Monday.

Max Garfkle of the Army and Navy store at Pendleton, was calling on his friends on Willow creek last Tuesday.

Heavy rain storms visited Cecil lately and have soaked land up fine.

### Ancient Dispensary

About 4000 B. C., a public dispensary was established in Egypt, the medical attendant for which received the equivalent of \$500 a year for his services. This was at that time about five times the amount received by a skilled laborer.

### First Mirror Signaling

The first signaling by means of mirrors is said to have been originated by the great Greek military genius, Alexander the Great, about 333 B. C. Heliography has made great progress since the days of Alexander.

### The Compromise

Husband (to visitor)—When our little girl was born I wanted her called Pamela, but my wife wanted her called Elizabeth—so we compromised. Elizabeth, come and say, "How'd you do" to Mrs. Brown.—London Tit-Bits.

### Pussy, the Wise One

Apparently we owe the word cat to the Romans. They called the animal "catrus," which meant the "knowing one," and the word passed into the romance languages to "chat" and "gato." Other authorities will have it that the word "cat" is a corruption of an old word borrowed from the French, "catte," "acute."

### Mohair of Commerce

The mohair upholstery of the best enclosed cars is woven from the soft, silky fleece of the Angora goat. The word "mohair" is derived from the Arabic "muhayyar," which means choice or select, and which even in Biblical times was applied to fine goat's hair fabrics.

### Gospel Unheard by Many

An estimate given in the foreign missions conference was that not half the world has yet had the gospel of Jesus Christ preached to it.

### Careless Friend

Investigation into the theory that a friend might have lopped off the youth's limbs and head is being made.—From a News Item in the Washington Times.

### Seize Opportunity

Opportunity is in respect of time, in some sense, as time is in respect to eternity; it is the small moment, the exact point, the critical minute, on which every good work so much depends.

### To Tell Age of Deer

The Department of Agriculture says the most reliable way to determine the age of deer is by the teeth. They get their permanent teeth around the age of three and these gradually wear off with age. Some have been known to wear down to the gums. Another way is by the horns, but this is not always accurate, as they often grow more than one antler a year.

### Odd Present From Lover

Near one entrance of the great cathedral of Seville hangs a patched and painted crocodile, which once served as a princely love token that failed of its mission. In 1290 it was sent by the sultan of Egypt to a beautiful princess of Spain, who declined a suitor whose first present could scarcely be said to speak of affection.

### Too Obvious

Very Young Housewife—But surely this won't deceive the little things! It's so very plainly marked "Mouse Trap."—London Opinion.

### Credit Belongs to Mormons

The Mormons have the distinction of being the first people to use the present system of irrigation.

### Fish is Fast Traveler

The sultan, a gigantic fish that inhabits gulf waters, can travel at a rate of 60 miles an hour, and with the use of its great black fin that acts as a sail, can leap 40 feet through the air upon rising from the water. It is the fleetest fish known.

### Famous Seven Cities

The Seven Cities of Cibola, belonging to the Zuni tribe of Indians, which occupied the site of the present pueblo of Zuni, in western New Mexico, were held in renown by early Spanish explorers in Mexico.

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