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GRAVE IN A CABIN.

An Episode in the Early History of Old Fort Warner—"Shorty" Was Scalped by Indians.

(Paul De Lancy in Portland Journal.)

Up in a narrow gulch a mile or more from the site of Old Fort Warner in Lake County, is an old decaying cabin. The roof is gradually falling in and the logs are giving way to the exposure of time. In the center of the floor, which was always composed of earth, there is a mound. It bears the shape that tells the old story. It is about six feet long and three feet wide, and the sunken earth around the edges show the unmistakable evidences of a grave.

MANY LEGENDS.

There have been many theories passed by the stockmen and trappers, who chance that way, and there have been legends and stories about the grave far wide of the mark. One theory is that the occupant of the grave was a hermit; that he had committed some crime in the East and drifted to the place, where he lived alone until over taken by death, and was later found and buried in his cabin by members of the Hudson Bay Company. Another is that he and a companion lived there together; that they had a misunderstanding, and his companion slew him, buried him and left, and was never heard from again. Then there is the theory that he attacked a grizzly bear, was killed by the animal and his remains were later found by companions who buried him in the cabin. Then it is claimed he was the discoverer of the famous Bluebucket mines, and while here gathering up buckets of nuggets of gold somewhere in the immediate vicinity of the country, he lost his health, died and his body was afterwards found and buried by trappers. This theory is doubted most of all, for every nook and corner of the county has been searched for gold and not a semblance of the precious metal has been found.

TRUTH IS LEARNED.

But the real truth was brought out recently from an old discharged soldier who made his way back to Lake County after many years' absence. "Shorty," he said in speaking of the grave, "was a hanger-on to our company. It was somewhere along in the early '70s when we came over from old Fort Boise with General Crook to take up station at old Fort Warner. Shorty had always been ambitious to be a soldier, but his physique was not up to the requirements and his age when I knew him, for he was at least 50 years old.

"But he hung around the Boise City post until we started on the famous trip to Oregon, and he fell in as a sort of matter of course. The officers all knew him, as well as the men; in fact, he was a sort of mascot. He had been a small, red-headed fellow, with freckled face in earlier days, but now his hair was almost white and his face was a solid red, while his body was round and plump. His general name among the boys was Shorty, but many of them called him Red. It didn't make any difference with him what the boys called him, however. He was always good natured, apparently laboring under the belief that he had to be good in order to stay in the army, as he called it.

BECAME USEFUL.

"After we reach old Fort Warner, General Crook established a small saw mill up in the mountains where the lumber was cut to build the fort. A donkey engine and a small circular saw had been brought along for the purpose. When the mill began Shorty took great interest in it. He practically became the fireman of the little donkey and didn't like to leave it. He kept the engine clean as a watch, and after the day's run would wipe the engine off and examine the rods and bolts with as much care as does a most up-to-date locomotive engineer. And the little fellow was just as proud of that donkey, too.

BUILT A CABIN.

"He became so infatuated with his work that he did not like to leave the engine at night. It was the first real 'service' he had ever rendered to the government, and since he had failed to get enlisted as a soldier he seemed to look upon the matter of having worked his way in as a 'government engineer' with considerable vanity. At odd times Shorty began to cut down small trees. Then he dragged them to a level spot near the donkey. While the soldiers were resting at noon Shorty would take advantage of the time and use one of the mules to drag the logs to this point. He usually cut the small trees down late in the afternoons after work was over.

Anyway, he finally got the logs together and the boys gave him a sort of 'house raising.' Then he split the shakes and covered the cabin and began housekeeping. He only had a dirt floor, but he built his bed on the ground and soon had fairly comfortable quarters. He took some skillets and other cooking utensils from the fort and when he ran low in provisions the boys would bring him fresh supplies. He was literally a happy man. He had reached the ambition of his life. Working for the government, living to himself, in sole charge of the donkey—for no one touched the old rattletrap of a concern now except Shorty—he felt his importance and showed it in every movement.

INDIAN SIGN.

"Late one afternoon one of the men doing logging 'service' in the outskirts of the camp saw an Indian watching the work from a distant peak. He reported the matter and a scouting party was sent out, but no discovery was made. In spite of this fact the loggers reported Indian 'sign' every day or two. It got to be a 'chestnut' after awhile and but little attention was paid to the reports. In fact, they quit sending out searching parties. The country was continuously being scoured in every direction by scouting parties and it was thought to be impossible for Indians to approach the fort without being detected. Still the boys begged Shorty to spend his nights in the fort as a prowling war party might come that way unexpected. The little fellow would not think of leaving his donkey. 'Why, they might steal my pet,' he would say.

PAID THE PENALTY.

"But the lack of vigilance was paid for, and that, too, unexpectedly. One morning when we reached the mill the donkey was not fired up as usual. The first discovery was that the belt was all cut.

"What's the matter with Shorty?" was the natural inquiry.

"It's all up with the poor fellow!" exclaimed one of the men as he entered the cabin.



SLEIGHING IN THE SUBURBS OF ST. PETERSBURG.

While the Russian peasant may be a poor, sadly abused creature whose life is filled with gloom and hardships, his rich neighbor is a jolly, active, mirth loving individual who finds his sport in the open in spite of the severity of Russian winters. The wealthy citizens of St. Petersburg think nothing of a twenty or thirty mile sleigh ride into the country with the thermometer far below zero. Of course they wear an abundance of fur clothing, and the driving of three spirited horses harnessed abreast is in itself a blood warming sport. About this season of the year the great, wide highways leading from the heart of St. Petersburg out into the suburbs are constantly the scenes of such spirited pictures as the one here presented.

"And, sure enough, the poor fellow was found dead in his bed with his scalp taken. It was not until then that the little man's real worth in life was appreciated. The men were all indignant and anxious to avenge his death. The report was sent to the fort and a detachment immediately put on the trail of the Indians. They were followed several days, but they were not overtaken and poor Shorty's murder was not avenged until we caught the Indians at Dunder and Blixen.

"Shorty was buried in his cabin. He had often said that he had found the spot where he wanted to be buried and that if he should die while in the 'service' at Fort Warner, he wanted to be buried under his own roof up in the gulch among the tall pines."

Big Sheep Corporation.

Phil Metschan, A. H. Devers and John Lamont of Portland have filed incorporation papers at the County Clerk's office, creating the Oregon Sheep & Land Company, with a capital stock of \$2,000,000 says the Journal. It is the purpose of the corporation to buy extensive lands, build irrigating ditches, where found necessary, and by other means establish large stock raising industries. Two hundred thousand shares of stock are offered for sale at \$10 per share.

A pupil in a country school who had been requested to write an essay on the human body handed in the following: "The human body consists of the head, thorax, abdomen and legs. The head contains the brains in case there are any. The thorax contains the heart and lungs, also the liver and lights. The abdomen contains the bowels, of which there are five—a, e, l, o, u, and sometimes w and y. The legs extend from the abdomen to the floor and have hinges at the top and middle to enable a fellow to sit when standing or to stand when sitting.

Lyons Hung.

Edward Elliot Lyons, slayer of Sheriff Withers, was hanged at Eugene at 9:31 last Friday. He was not nervous, and walked bravely to the scaffold. He mounted the steps without assistance, took his place on the trap and but for a slight trembling, let no movement indicate that he was afraid to meet his doom. Sheriff Fisk asked if he had anything to say, any Lyons answered: "No, only this, I thank everyone who has been kind to me; may God forgive you people, for you know not what you do. That's all." Sheriff Fisk sprung the trap and the murderer shot down to the end of the rope, breaking his neck. Drs. Paine and Day pronounced him dead in fourteen minutes.

Binger May Raise It.

Thomas H. Tongue had somewhere near 7000 majority in this district the last time he was voted for, but there were a whole lot of Democratic votes to swell that Republican majority as well as all the regular Republicans who voted for him. It will be different this time.—Ashland Tribune.

Yes, Binger may raise it another thousand, who can tell.

Tuesday evening while some boys were playing "catch" with a baseball in front of Baldwin's hardware store, a commercial man standing on the sidewalk opposite made a wild throw to Fred Houston. The ball went high and wild and Fred being unable to get in front of it, it struck the big plate glass window in the hardware store, breaking it.—Klamath Express.

Posters are out announcing the spring meeting of races by the Klamath County Agricultural Association to be held at Klamath Falls on June 4th and 5th. \$525 is to be given in purses.

O. R. & N. WILL BUILD SOUTH

Harriman Has Definitely Decided to Build a Branch Railroad to South Eastern Oregon.

NEW YORK, April 15.—(Special to the Oregonian)—The Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company will extend its system into Central Oregon, guaranteeing to Portland merchants control of the trade of this rich section and making its rapid development certain. This decision of the officers of the company has just been announced. The proposal to extend has been under consideration by the company for some time, but until today nothing definite has been given out that would reassure Portland jobbers and wholesale men. The absolute promise of an extension has now been made.

To T. B. Wilcox, who came to New York as the representative of the Chamber of Commerce, belongs the credit for securing this early announcement of the company's plans, if not the entire credit for putting through the deal. Mr. Wilcox has been in consultation with E. H. Harriman, of the Union Pacific and chairman of the board of directors of the O. R. & N., relative to the extension for some time, and has now departed for his home with the assurance that the company will do as Portland has desired.

The details of the extension have not yet been worked out, but these will be decided upon immediately. Construction work will be commenced soon.

"Am promised the road into Central Oregon promptly and the details and plans are under consideration. I can do no more at present, and am leaving for home today."—Telegram of T. B. Wilcox, who represented the Chamber of Commerce in a conference with E. H. Harriman.

It is evident from the reading of both the special dispatch from New York and Mr. Wilcox's telegram that the O. R. & N. has determined to do whatever railroad building is attempted in Central and Southern Oregon. This determination means to Portland that no outside system will be permitted to interfere with a trade that naturally belongs to this city and indicates the complete success of the plans of the Chamber of Commerce.

Central Oregon is one of the richest sections of country in the West, though at present it is more of a sheep and cattle raising district than agricultural territory. With the coming of railroad facilities, however, it is believed the country will be developed rapidly and the influx of settlers, now scarcely felt in that district, will be a potent factor in its growth.

The details of the extension, it is apparent, are to be settled at once. Within a comparatively short time it will be definitely known whether the O. R. & N. intends to build a line of its own or whether it will extend the Columbia Southern. But one thing is certain and that is that Central and Southern Oregon are to be opened up just as quickly as railroad constructors can lay the rails.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hickerson came over from Ft. Bidwell last Friday on a visit to their daughter Mrs. Peter Post. They returned home Monday.