

# TALENT NEWS.

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## WAR STORIES.

BY S. SHERMAN—continued.

### FETCHING IN STRAW FOR BEDDING(?)

Being captain of a "mess" of 18 men it would not do for me to forage, especially as we had an abundance furnished by the government, but I see now that I was equally guilty. The boys had been out on posses to town and elsewhere frequently and one evening they consulted with me as to the advisability of going out that evening for straw(?) for bedding. I consented as I didn't wish to be arbitrary. The secret of it was, they knew of some fine turkeys about a mile out west of camp and moreover they wished me to volunteer to go on the "2nd relief" at the farther end of the bridge in place of Jo Copley—a tell-tale—so as to let them through the line safely. This, too I consented to do. The sequel was we feasted on as fine a lot of turkeys as any Thanksgiving party ever did. The turkeys were inside of the blankets of straw.

### LIVELY TIMES IN '55.

During the summer and fall of 1855 the Indians of Rogue River country committed many depredations on the whites of the valley and vicinity by waylaying and killing the white settlers and killing their cattle. They said the cattle ate their grass and they were going to eat the cattle. They got so bad that we petitioned the government for help, but got none.

The Indians were preparing for war all the time. We laid our case before Indian agent Ambrose, who promised to settle with the Indians and stop all the trouble, but the Indians got worse all the time.

After the war broke out, he said he knew all summer that they were bound to break out and "all h—I couldn't prevent it." The citizens held a meeting at Phoenix in October and resolved to organize a company of volunteers. Many speeches were made by leading citizens, to the effect that something should be done before the Indians destroyed everything, for it was not safe for the settlers anywhere. We organized a company of 47 men at Phoenix with Asa Fordyce as Capt., and set out for the mouth of Little Butte creek at three o'clock the next morning. The women baked bread for us. We had all kinds of guns—muzzle

loaders, of course. When we reached Butte the citizens were greatly alarmed, for the Red-skins had been very bold in their depredations in that vicinity. The Indians were camped on the north side of Rogue river, above Table rock. They said they were ready for us. The Indians on the reservation said those depredations were not committed by them, but by some "bad Indians." The citizens wanted us to wait until they could get their families fortified up for safety and they would help us. So we camped two days, in the mean time sending reconnoitering parties out to see what the Indians were doing. At this time a company of government soldiers came down Rogue river and volunteered to go with us, but said the Indians were too many for us.

They marched to Ft. Lane, sent a message to the Indians advising them to go on the reservation, that the volunteers were coming and would kill the last one of them. The Indians didn't go, but defiantly informed the messenger that they were ready for us. At this the people became more excited, and still more so as they saw that the Indians were getting ready for war. Several citizens came from Jacksonville to join us, increasing our number to about sixty. We then reorganized with Hays, of Phoenix, Capt., and Williams, first lieutenant. We advanced on the Indians in the night. At daylight the battle commenced. The Indians fought bravely with bows and arrows and guns. The volunteers determined to kill as many of the Indians as possible. We had thirteen wounded.

Major Lupton, shot in the breast with an arrow, died the same evening. Geo. Shepherd, shot in the hips, died the next day. M. Williams was also shot in the hip. R. Gates received a wound in the shoulder. My memory fails to recall the names of the others that were wounded.

Thirty-nine Indians were killed though Capt. Smith of Ft. Lane placed the number at eighty.

A. Volunteer  
Talent Oregon.

The Oregon Agricultural Station bulletin for October informs us that during the Mesozoic period Rogue River Valley was under water and "not less than 3000 feet of sediment was deposited.

The World's Fair is to be opened on Sunday, so say the commissioners. Three cheers for their good sense!