

How Williams Got the Custer Wolf



By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN.

THE Custer wolf is dead. So announces the Bureau of biological survey, Department of Agriculture. Nor is Uncle Sam content with a mere "death notice." He considers the Custer wolf worth an "obituary writup" of several columns in the Weekly News Letter, published by the Agricultural department. For the Custer wolf was the "bad man" of the predatory animals of southwestern South Dakota. And he "died with his boots on." For years he had been an outlaw with a price on his head. And it took the better part of a year for H. P. Williams, one of Uncle Sam's best professional hunters, to get his scalp.

Incidentally, the American gray wolf is a marvel of animal intelligence. John Burroughs, who leads the "instinct school" of American naturalists as opposed to the "reason school," will have it that animals do not reason and are actuated entirely by instinct. Consider the presence in our midst of the gray wolf and figure out for yourself where John Burroughs gets off.

In the days of the red man the wolf had only to keep outside of the range of the arrow. Then came the pale face with firearms. The wolf had to learn in succession the death-dealing possibilities of the explorer's smooth-bore, the pioneer's muzzle-loading rifle, the breech-loading buffalo gun, and the modern high-power magazine gun.

In the days of the red man the wolf had to cope with the hand-made snare. With the white man came the steel trap, the cunning poison capsule and the bounty on wolf scalps. And wherever civilization has got a foothold every hand has been against the wolf summer and winter, rain and shine, night and day.

Yet the wolf persists. Every year the federal government appropriates thousands of dollars for the specific purpose of his taking off. Every year, professional hunters and national park and national forest rangers wage relentless war. Yet the wolf persists. Every year, cattlemen and sheepmen combine to fight the despoiler of herds and flocks. Yet the wolf persists.

Now, if you still have faith in John Burroughs' "instinct" theory after these facts, listen to the story of the Custer wolf.

The Custer wolf's early history is a blank. His public career begins with his appearance nine years ago in Custer county, South Dakota. This county is in the southwestern corner of the state, adjoining the Wyoming line, and one county removed from the Nebraska line. It is Black Hills country, but by no means a wilderness. It has towns, railroads and automobile highways. Why, last summer, Wind Cave national park had 23,312 visitors and 8,240 private automobiles—and all went through the Custer wolf's hunting ground.

The territory terrorized by the Custer wolf is about 60 miles long by 40 wide. Trace an irregular north and south oval in about the center of Custer county, with Custer in the upper and Pringle in the lower part of it, and the Pelgar mountains extending along its western line. Anywhere in this territory—here tonight, and the next night at the other end of it—the Custer wolf was at home.

During these nine years the stockmen paid tribute of about \$25,000 in live stock. When he killed for food he picked out the choicest. At times he killed wantonly, for the sake of killing. Often he mutilated for sport, breaking legs, biting off tails and inflicting unspeakable injuries on animals. Says the Letter:

"He leaped through every kind of danger and spurned them all. He sniffed at the subtlest poison and snuffed it by. The most adroitly concealed trap was as clear to him as a mirror in the sunshine. Old hunters, unerring shots, drew the bead on him and saw him glide away unharmed. The price on his head was \$500. Bounty hunters sought him for profit. Sportsmen put forth every device to slay him for reputation's sake. And still the old wolf went unscathed about his work of destruction.

"Credulous people said he was a charmed thing. Others attributed his immunity to a wisdom greater than beast ever before possessed. Still others said he escaped by plain luck—the mysterious thing that adheres to some animals as to some men.

"All kinds of stories got abroad. This thing, they said, was not a wolf—not merely a wolf. They believed that nature had perpetrated a monstrosity, half wolf and half mountain lion, possessing the craftiness of both and the cruelty of both. In public opinion he had all the qualities of the werewolf of the Old World legends."

This may be a bit exaggerated, especially in the matter of traps, but the fact remains that he was an efficient bad wolf, so efficient that he escaped all perils, even a great resort up which was tried as a last resort. Here are two instances of his efficient methods—the "instinct school," please note.

Four years ago his mate was killed. He did not take another, and the credulous declared he had devoted himself to revenge her death. The gray wolf, however, is one of the animals that usually mates for life. He evidently missed her services, for he soon broke in two coyotes to help him. They ate after him from his kills, and never came near him. He used them as bodyguards, pickets and scouts. In traveling they ran on his flanks at from 100 to 200 yards' distance.

He developed this strategy when trailed. He would back trail to a point where he could watch the trailer from cover. A bear will do this, also some other animals, but old hunters say they never knew another wolf to do it.

The Bells of the Bout. Ellnor Glyn, the novelist, was talking tea on the Mauretania with a diplomat when a marvelously pretty



HUNTER WILLIAMS AND THE CUSTER WOLF

Well, after the failure of the big roundup, the biological survey sent out Williams. His instructions were: "Get the Custer wolf and stay till you do." That was in March, 1920.

Williams first went into the hills west of Pringle and found that the wolf was staying around some old dens in the Pelgar mountains. So Williams started operations by laying a string of traps.

Williams started out by playing a mean trick on the Custer wolf. Instead of relying on the usual tricks to hide his tracks and obliterate his man smell, he scented up the soles of his shoes. The wolf followed his trail that night, clear around the line of traps. And then the savage old killer was so fussed up over that scent that he went straight to the Pelgars, cleaned out two old dens and dug a new one that ran back into a hill about 50 feet. One guess as to the scent Williams used.

The old wolf, however, soon got over being rattled and proceeded to play hide-and-seek with Williams. The hunter tried to get a shot at him, but was balked by the coyotes. Then he shot the coyotes. Thereafter the wolf took few chances. He back-trailed Williams, or took to fallen timber to hide his trail. But twice during May the wolf stepped on the jaws of traps, and in July he actually rolled into one or lay down on it. It sprung and pulled out a lot of hair. This scared him so that he disappeared for a whole month—apparently he left the territory. He came back in August and announced his return by killing and mutilating right and left. In September and again in October he stepped on the pan of a trap. In each case he was caught by the side of a paw and was able to pull loose.

The wolf that steps too often in the trap gets caught at last. And the Custer wolf stepped once too often. Here's what happened as Williams himself very modestly tells it:

"He stepped into a trap in the morning and it got a good grip on him. He ran with it about 150 yards when the hook caught on a tree, but that did not seem to stop him at all. He broke the swivel of the trap and ran on with it on his front foot. I trailed him three miles and got a shot at him and got him. He had been so lucky that I expected the gun would fall to shoot, but it worked O. K.

"He is smaller than the average male wolf, weighed 98 pounds and measured just 6 feet from tip to tip; 11 inches from toe to hook, and had a tail 14 inches long. His teeth would be good for 15 years longer. He broke some of them off on the trap, but aside from that they were in good condition. He is an old wolf, with a fur that is almost white."

girl passed amid a group of adoring young men.

The diplomat nodded towards the pretty girl and said dryly: "I'm afraid she's got a swelled head. She doesn't believe in hiding her light under a bushel."

At this point the young girl threw herself into her deck chair, crossing her knees in such a manner as to display a very considerable expanse of silk stocking.

"Nor her ankles under her skirt," said Mrs. Glyn.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By REV. F. D. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, and (C) 1911 Western Newspaper Union

LESSON FOR MARCH 27 THE LIVING CHRIST.

LESSON TEXT—Matt. 28:1-2. GOLDEN TEXT—I am with you always, even unto the end of the world—Matt. 28:20. REFERENCE MATERIAL—Matt. 27:45-54; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-46; John 19:30; Phil. 2:5-11. PRIMARY TOPIC—The Easter Story. JUNIOR TOPIC—Our Ever-Present Friend. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Christ Our Living Leader. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Christ in the Life of Today.

I. The Empty Sepulcher (vv. 1-7). 1. The earthquake (vv. 1-4). This occurred when the glorious angel descended from heaven to roll the stone away from the tomb. This work of the angel was not to allow Jesus to escape, but to show that the tomb was empty. Christ needed not even the help of a glorious angel, for He was raised up by His own power as the seal upon His atoning work on the cross. The open tomb and the angel sitting upon the stone with calm dignity is a picture of God's triumph over the devil, and the terror of the keepers is a sample of what all of Christ's enemies shall one day experience when He returns in glory to reign as King.

2. The angel's message to the women (vv. 5-7). (1) "Fear not" (v. 5). While the enemies had occasion to fear, these women who loved the Lord received good news from the empty tomb. The Lord will not long leave those who follow Him in love in suspense and dread. The empty tomb puts an end to all doubts and fears. It is the evidence that the question of sin is dealt with, and that God is satisfied and eternal victory is secured. (2) "Come, see" (v. 6). The angel told the women that the Lord had risen and invited them to come and see the place where He lay. The reason He invites them to come in is that He desires them to make sure about the facts. The Lord made special effort to convince the disciples of the reality of His resurrection. He remained with them for 40 days, giving them many infallible proofs. (3) "Go quickly" (v. 7). Having seen for themselves, their responsibility was to go tell the message. While it is important to be convinced of facts, one should not stay too long because there is work to do. Experience is necessary before testimony. They were to go quickly to the disciples with the message, assured that the Lord would go before and meet them.

II. The Risen King Meets the Women (vv. 8-10). The women quickly obeyed the command of the angel and were running to bring the disciples word. Jesus met them on the way. Those who have an experimental knowledge of Christ should go speedily to tell others of it. All who go quickly with His message, the Lord will meet on the way. When they saw Jesus, that He was really the Lord, they worshiped Him. They knew that He was the Son of God, therefore entitled to be worshipped.

III. Paying Money to Circulate a Lie (vv. 11-15). That Jesus arose from the dead could not even be denied by the Sadducees. They could see but one way out of the difficulty, that was to bribe the keepers to tell a lie. They had paid money for His betrayal; now they pay much more to circulate a lie about His resurrection. What a wonderful power money has over the lives and consciences of men! It will not only induce people to lie, but it even muzzles the mouths of preachers.

IV. The King's Great Commission (vv. 16-20). By virtue of His royal authority He issued this great command to the disciples. In order to prepare them to receive this command, He declared unto them that all power in heaven and earth was given unto Him. This is most fundamental. Only as the disciples realize the Lord's power are they likely to go about with the message.

1. "Go, teach all nations." This is the first and primary business of the disciples. The risen and mighty Lord issues this command to all (v. 19). 2. Baptize them in the name of the Triune God. Those who have become disciples of the Lord should receive that rite which signifies that relationship to Him (v. 19). 3. Teach them to observe all Christ's commandments (v. 20). Those who become Christ's disciples should be taught obedience to all His commandments. All who thus obey Him shall enjoy His abiding presence. Christ's abiding presence guarantees the success of the enterprise.

Prayer. In the morning when you awake, accustom yourself to think first upon God or something in order to His service; and at night also, let Him close thine eyes.—Jeremy Taylor.

Unhesitating Advance Wins. "It is not the spirit at the start, but the continued, unresisting, unshaking advance that wins the day."

Owed All to Mother. All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.—Lincoln.

Gastonia.—Work upon the erection of the new plant of the big Gaston county fair will begin within the next few days.

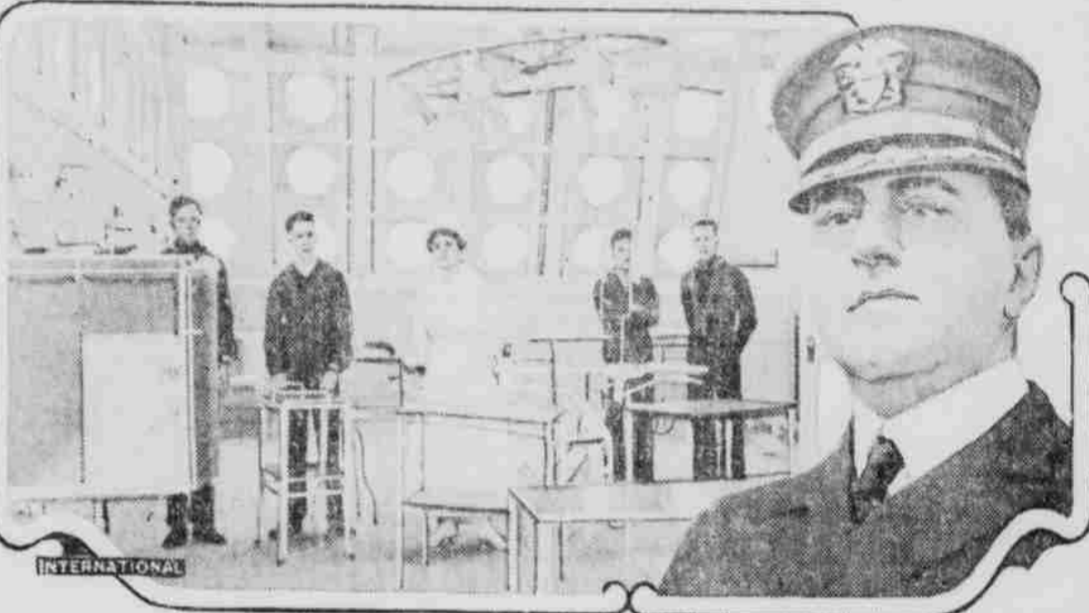
Wilmington.—The Carolina Steel Shipyard launched its eighth vessel, the San Leon, an oil tanker, for a British firm, of 9,200 tons, making the second of this class of ship which the yard has launched since the Emergency Fleet Corporation finished with its six steel freight carriers, which were 9,500 tons each.

Inaugural "Parade," March 4, 1921



The first car en route from White House to Capitol. President Wilson and President-elect Harding are on the back seat and "Uncle Joe" Cannon on the front seat. Insert—close-up of Wilson, Harding, Cannon and Senator Knox.

Our New Hospital Ship and Its Commander



A view of the operating room on the U. S. S. Relief, Uncle Sam's new hospital ship which was recently commissioned at the Philadelphia navy yard. The Relief is for use of the officers and enlisted men of the Atlantic fleet. Inset is a portrait of her commander, R. C. Holscomb of the navy medical corps.

SKATING TO HIS WORK



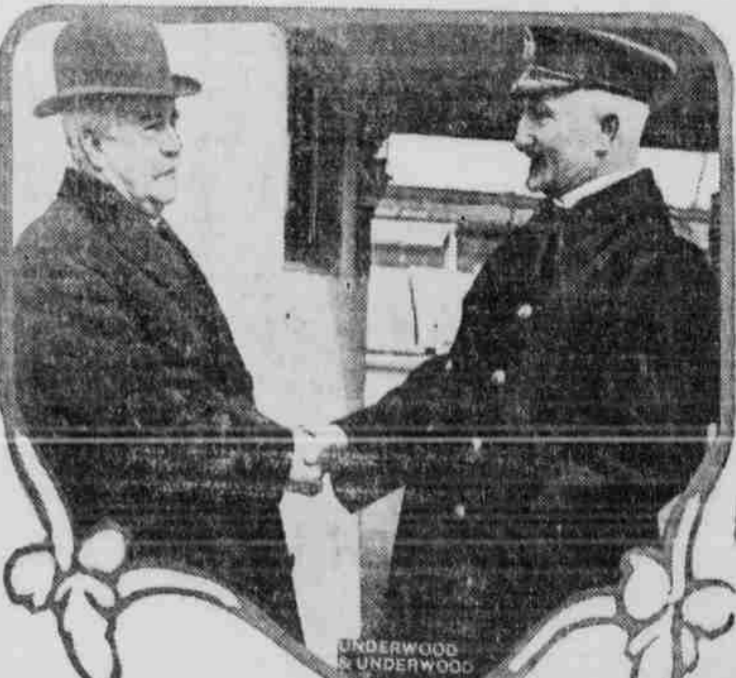
The severe winter which has gripped Germany, has frozen streams solid, and for weeks ice skates have been found useful by many in getting about in the suburban districts. Here we see a chimney sweep going about his business on skates. The top hat shown in the picture is the badge of his calling in Germany.

Winter in Our National Parks



Tourists are discovering that the national parks are fine resorts in winter as well as in summer. The Yosemite valley park was opened this winter for the first time, and visitors were astounded to find it was warm and sunny. Its stupendous rock walls protect it from winds and reflect the sunshine.

E. F. Wright "Sails" His Last Ship



Edward F. Wright, general marine superintendent of the International Mercantile Marine company, "sailed" his last ship the other day, and formally retired from the service, ending 54 years of active work in the shipping industry. The photograph shows Mr. Wright shaking hands with Commander R. O. Jones of the Celtic on the liner's bridge just before it left New York for Liverpool.

PHYSICAL PERFECTION



In John J. Walkins of Dorchester, Mass., the civil service examiners believe they have found a perfect man, physically. This former heavyweight boxing champion of the U. S. S. M. Vernon romped from machine to machine, making a strength test record of 100 per cent.

TRAITOR IN JAPANESE NAVY

Lieutenant Said to Have Offered to Sell Nation's Secrets to American Attaché. Tokyo.—Naval Lieutenant Tsuru Hamaguchi was arrested and handed over to a court-martial in connection with an alleged attempt to sell Japanese naval secrets to Capt. Edward Howe Watson, naval attaché at the United States embassy.

Captain Watson, It is said by the Nichi Nichi Shimbun, received two letters signed "Goto Yopada," asking for an appointment, as the writer desired to sell for 1,000,000 yen [about \$500,000] Japan's mobilization plans against "a certain country." Secret maps of Formosa and documents showing the depths of various parts of Tokyo bay were to be included.

Capt. Watson, it is said, turned the letters over to the naval authorities, and an investigation resulted in the arrest of Lieutenant Hamaguchi.

Japan's position relative to the question raised by the United States regarding the mandate for the island of Yap is secure, in the belief of Viscount Uchida, minister of foreign affairs.

Questioned regarding the merits of battle ships and cruisers, M. Kato, minister of marine, said Japan favored giving importance to both types of war craft. He declared that whether major ships, submarines or airplanes would be given a superior place would depend upon the policy pursued by other nations.

Petrified Forest in Arizona

The petrified forest is in the midst of the great desert of Apache. These trees are of a coniferous, extinct species, with the exception of a single cottonwood trunk. They lie prone upon the ground as they drifted in a prehistoric sea. Water-logged and heavy, they sank to the bottom, and were there covered with sand and changed into chaledony. The sand hardened and cemented into stone and

So Thoughtful of Him.

"Oh, ma!" ventured Hercules, the youngster. "Don't you want the backyard swept out?" "No, that can wait until this evening." "Hahn! I better stay at home and do some work in the garden?" "No, it looks like rain today." "Don't you want me to clean out the paper cupboard?" "No, you can do that on Saturday."

"SENTENCE HYMNS."

The term "sentence hymn" came from the practice of earlier days, when hymn books were scarce. In order that all the congregation might be able to join in the singing the pastor would read aloud the first two lines, which were then sung and the reading and singing would continue alternately to the end of the hymn. This practice is still continued in some of the rural churches of the South.

Small Things Cause Discord.

It isn't the long journey on foot that makes you footsore but it is the grain of wheat in your shoe or the wrinkle in your sock. It isn't the thousand miles your auto runs that wears it out but the grain of sand in the bearings. Little things make discord. Little things disturb our happiness.

But, mother, isn't there anything that I can do today?

"Yes, you can go to school, and be quick about it, too."