

STORY OF A TRIP DOWN THE SALMON

Perilous Journey Successfully Made by Three Men Who Started From Salmon—Vivid Description of the Scenery of the Black Canyon.

The Lewiston Tribune publishes the following interesting narrative of a perilous journey:

An odd shaped flat bottomed scow, only 12 feet in length and four feet wide, with a sweep at each end, the blades being 10 feet long, manned by three men, reached the O. R. & N. wharf yesterday afternoon, having just completed a water journey never before taken—a trip down Salmon river from Salmon City to the mouth of the stream and thence by Snake river to Lewiston. The crew of the little boat was composed of R. F. Dwyer, a mining engineer; J. V. Dwyer, a younger brother who has just graduated from Creighton university, Omaha, and Captain Harry Guleke, who is a fresh water navigator of rare experience and extraordinary hardihood. This was the end of the contemplated journey, and the odd shaped craft that had carried them so far and so safely was here abandoned.

The arrival of the party here was the end of a hunting trip for Rocky Mountain big horn sheep, which was undertaken by the Dwyer brothers, and which resulted in their killing five of the big horns, including one old ram whose horns looked like narwhal tusks in maturity. The gentlemen have saved the heads and skulls which will be put in the hands of taxidermists and the animals mounted. Then they

will probably be disposed of to museums and private collectors. The gentlemen on their journey took a number of fine photographs, which J. V. Dwyer expects to use in illustrating a magazine article he is preparing. Some of these photographs give an idea of the dangers and difficulties that surrounded the trip, while others give a faint impression of the magnificence of the scenery lying along the Salmon river.

Mr. J. V. Dwyer, in talking of the trip, stated that he hoped to take another hunting trip into the same region next year, but hardly expected to use the same methods of egress again. He said: "My brother and myself left Salmon City on the 8th of November on a hunt for big horn sheep and descending Salmon river about 25 miles to the mouth of Indian creek, outfitted at the store of the Kettle Burton Gold Mining company which is located about five miles up Indian creek from the mouth. We then bought a flat boat, 30x10 feet in size, and loading our possessions on this boat, started down the stream for Big Creek, where we camped a number of days, hunting the mountain sheep and deer in the high mountains. We had arranged for Capt. Guleke to join us at Big Creek before the winter ice had formed, but on Thanksgiving day the storm began in an unmistakable way, and we then

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knew that if we were to make the river trip it would have to be made at once. November 29 we started down the stream without waiting for Captain Guleke, and reaching Poverty Flat about the middle of the afternoon, 25 miles below Salmon City, found that the river for a quarter of a mile was blocked with slush ice. It was right then that trouble began, and we surely had enough of it within the next week. Going to the foot of the slush ice gorge we started to clear out a channel through which the boat could be floated, and by the time night had come on we had cleared the channel with the exception of the last 300 feet. This we expected to finish within half an hour the next morning, but were disappointed in this, as the next morning we found that the ice flow of the previous

night had again checked the channel worse than ever before. Three days we struggled with this ice box, when we were joined by Captain Guleke, and another day was spent in a last effort to remove the obstruction. The captain then advised that a smaller boat be made, which could be portaged over the gorge on a toboggan. The building of this boat occupied two days, the tools in use being a dull saw and hand ax, and the materials planks from one larger boat and from the remains of a smaller boat we found stranded at Poverty Flat. A large portion of the supplies were left in the large boat.

"Once started down the river in the smaller craft, our troubles may be said to have been over, as there was never the least doubt about reaching the mouth of the river, although on several occasions there seemed to be considerable doubt about our making the trip alive. The first day after leaving Poverty Flat and before we reached the mouth of the middle fork of the Salmon river, we struck another ice gorge, over which we portaged with little difficulty. The next day from this we entered the Black canyon, which has a length of something over 10 miles, and which took three days to traverse. During these days the hours were filled with excitement and risk. Seven ice gorges were met and surmounted. In no case was the ice solid, the solid ice reaching out from shore on each side and leaving in the middle of the stream a channel, which was filled up with slush, ice and snow sometimes reaching below the surface to a depth of 10 to 15 feet. In this stretch of river there would be a quiet reach of water, its surface mirroring the enfolding hills, while below this would come a rapid or fall, where the water, sea green in color, would rush down a rocky gorge on a 20 per cent grade, or perhaps fall almost perpendicularly for 10 or 15 feet. The channel in these swift places would be plentifully besprinkled with huge red and green

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granite and sandstone boulders and the waters would be lashed into foam. At the foot of each of these falls would be a combing wave, apparently rushing back up stream, and on several occasions these waves almost swamped the boat. But it was not the rushing waters, alternating with pools of quiet depth, that formed the greatest charm in the scenery.

"The name Black canyon was no misnomer. It was and is a black canyon in very truth. Floating on the quiet stretches of the river and looking toward the heavens, it seemed as though the scene told its own history of the great mountains of granite which had been reft by the giant hand of the Almighty, raised in anger at an unworthy world, leaving here a gash in many places 5,000 feet in depth, and which in many places even the erosion of the ages has not more than gently scarred, while in others the evidence of the great convulsion which had split the rocks asunder were apparently as fresh as on the day when the cleft was formed. On either side there would be nothing to be seen but the bare rock walls, red and green and blue and brown, with never a blade of grass or shrub, while far above, forming a fringe for the clear blue of

the sky, which showed in a thin slit like a silver thread, was the dark blue of the forest, intensified by the dazzling whiteness of the snow that sparkled with all the shades of light that would be given out by a cluster of diamonds. The memory of the three days spent in traversing this Black canyon will be with me through the years to come.

"After we had traversed the Black canyon, no other dangers that the river might have in store for us, could produce more than a pleasurable excitement, and each rapid and fall was met and conquered without the quickening of a single pulse beat. Beautiful scenery, sublime in its loftiness, did not end with the Black canyon, and in many ways the stretch of river between White Bird and the junction of the Salmon river with the Snake furnished as beautiful scenery as can be found anywhere on the American continent. After leaving White Bird, the river, although wild in its flow, gave evidence along its banks that man had come here and made this his home. There were a number of little homes, with vine-clad porches and orchards back of the house. Occasionally there were long stretches where the river ran in deep gorges and where the sun does not strike the water during eight months of the year. The walls of the canyon here are a chocolate colored basalt, and in many places the columnar basalt stretches from the water's edge for a thousand feet or more into the air, the columns rising like cathedral spires. In other places these cliffs of columnar basalt have been faulted, and the columns, in place of soaring skyward, are placed at almost every imaginable angle.

"We reached the mouth of the Salmon river Dec. 17, and two days were occupied in reaching Lewiston. After leaving White Bird we had been constantly warned to beware of the Wild Goose rapids, and so much had been told us of the dangers of the pas-

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sage there that we had almost decided to line over the rapids, something we had not done in our whole trip. All during the forenoon we had been keeping a careful watch for the Wild Goose, and finally about noon, unable to stand the suspense any longer, the boat was pulled ashore near a house, and the farmer was asked how far it was to the Wild Goose. We were much surprised when told that we had passed the rapids about six miles. Our party expected to remain in Lewiston a few days, and will then go on to Seattle, and after a short stay there, will probably return to our home in Omaha.

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