

add to bear scene:

as Jick circles uphill, desc. bear sniffing and listening to him--details
of nose and ears.

Riley and Mariah refer to the grizzly as "him."

Jick refers to "it."

PINE BUTTE NATURE PRESERVE

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

← 00 miles

The Teton country is quite the geography. (desc. Pine Butte, gravel plain, the Rockies) I was a toddler here, when my father's first job with the Forest Service was as ranger at the Indian Head station.

We were almost to Pine Butte ^{before} when the Montanian two enlightened me about what we were on our way to ^{encounter} ~~see~~.

ranchers regard grizzlies as vermin who happen to weigh several hundred pounds and carry 00-inch claws.

--is this an evolutionary fusion of economics etc. which comes to be called history? Or is it biocide...? . eradication of ...

Tom Howe & Lil Howe interview, 8 July '82

T: '24, filed on homestead, side y side c his father (homesteads were farther into mtns than the eventl ranch)

L: also homestead family

Not Ed Miller: 850 a. / 150 cattle in '39
wind
- let up

→ - wd hear wind roar over top of mtns

→ - long streaky wind clouds

- 2'-3' winter snow at a time

→ - wind blo off snow, + wd come

T: biggest snow storm ^{he can remember} came about Easter; covered fence posts

- wild hay cut in coulees; alfalfa wd grow, if planted

- T: never belved in plowing ground, for fear of wind blowing it away

Tom Howe 1/2

- ^{daughter} ~~att~~ to Fish Lake school

- ranch ^{ran} from sch hse to real, except for 1 fld.

- ^{serv} m'bers: enuf to have own precinct, vote at sch hse
maybe 100 people in area

- did-1 get to town for a mo. at a time

- 500 club (cards)

- m'bers wd bring mail when they came from town

- " " exchange mags, n' papers: Life, Sat Eve Post

- T & L wd get Denver Post at Sabins rvc station when they came to town

- cut own fire wood; 1 day ^{chop} ~~cut~~ next day cut up, 3d day haul \$10/cord

- wintered on \$100: canned goods, medcn, flour
were only purchased goods

- teachage at Fish L.

price of fire
for sch hse

Tom Howe / 3

\$75/mo for teacher; furnished

- mothers had to clean & paint school house

- 'breeds in area

- kids boarded out for hi school; Howe daughter went to Connad

- calving ^{begun} last of Jan.

✓
Lil - March: calves scour'g, windy, cold; promise to sell place (worst month)

- celotex partition bet'ns: thin as cardboard (in homestead cabin)

- 1st of May - spring wd be arriving

15 June cattle into mtns; cal relax

Shoot, Shovel & Shut Up: current rancher policy against bears

T: killed 22 bear in 2 yrs, mostly by trapping them.

Home/4

- L in cabin & daughter, lamb, dog & cat while T hunting grizzly
- border: bear in brush, shot;
 - bear "dynamite in sleep", clawing back of any they can reach
 - bear paw marks in cream & chicken soup milk
 - bear drag 700# yalping into brush away from traps; Tom & trapper ed. - move - yalping back
- T: .300 Savage rifle he used on bears
- trapped + 7. bears: can of bacon grease hanging in tree over trap
- build "pen" and trap to keep cattle & people out; put up signs
 - lv clamps whn you can reach them from trap (in case y're caught)
 - real killer was grizzly, 700-800#, killed by Rappold.
 - L: T wd be trap'g bear in morn, haying, fighting beaver at night
 - get up at 4:30, bed about midnight

Howe/5

- T: bear caught by toe climbed tree drag'g bull pine log up with him; toe limbed on way; eventually tore toe off; got away.
- beaver wd dam in gull ditches; T wd hunt c shotgun
 - goat trapper tried c bld hands against bears
 - bear patchily mean when they come out in spring
 - logs & rocks turned over; wd bears have licked up ants
 - wd bear mtn lion, but never saw
 - cattle wd hav started back dn from under reef of ship's timel
 - Leech had sheep 1 summer; but no arble range for more sheep up there
 - mud & horse manure chinking ("for fiber") betm logs of homestead cabin
 - mtns not used for grazing before homesteaders; 7 Block had prairie grass
 - wd shed belt on end of hnt's house; L's bro had rollaway bed, in & out
 - tiger lilies, shooting stars were spring flowers
 - granary
 - housefuls of hunters o Sun.

9 July '82

Further notes on talking with Tom and Lil Howe last night. I didn't use tape recorder for fear of making Tom any more taciturn and cryptic than he is; it turned out, though, that Lil is a good story teller, would be a good tape interviewee.

amplifications of my written notes:

--T said bear can be shot "just like you would a dog." i.e., he claims not to have aimed any particular place, just aimed to hit them.

--L has comical refrain about living up there with the bears; she'd head for the house, or the power wagon, or anywhere else inside, when T started fooling around trapping and shooting them.

--add to L's story of being in house with child~~ren~~ and all pets while T was after grizzly: she heard just one shot, couldn't see T as she peered out, wondered if griz got him; eventually she either heard a 2d shot or he showed up, to reassure her.

--at 1st, they didn't even have a radio

--add to T abt beaver: he contended with them in his hay coulees "because they didn't want you to have any water." He'd sit sentry near their lodges, shoot them with shotgun when they showed.

over

--Indians would have to be talked into sending their kids to Fish Lake school the start of each term. They'd make excuse they didn't have hay up yet, T would haul them load of hay, kids wd show up 1st week or so of school then drop out, but that was sufficient enrollment to keep school going.

--L: horse manure in log chinking was pretty pungent. T: it was used because his father needed some fiber to keep mud from falling out.

--Mtn community did have frequent social gatherings, such as '500' card club.

--Howes raised geese, chickens, hogs, garden; largely fed themselves from their ranch.

--T 20 yrs ago sold ranch for \$30/acre; recently Judisch sold Darryl Swanson the mtn range part--the rocks and trees, T says--for #137/a.

--chivarees: people would come down hill beating on wash tubs, bearing booze, ready to dance. T and L were chiv'd twice, once in Dupuyer and once on their place.

shoot, shovel and shut up--rancher's policy for dealing with grizzlies

shoot pub pics of me atop Pine Butte, with Rocky Mountain Front in background

They took my "No" to the court of appeal and got from their mother

"You are not going and that's that" for their efforts.

changed in March '89 revise

The bear movers stood and waited, never taking their eyes off
the bear. After a minute the big college kid asked, "Ready for batting
practice?"

"Don't you just wish you had your degree so you could do this
good stuff?" the biologist replied. He reached in the back of one

✓
my
name?
OVER

of the pickups for a long-handled shovel. Going over beside the bear
with a careful but steady stride while the college kid trailed him,
shotgun at the ready, the biologist took a stance and whapped the grizzly
on the near shoulder with the flat of the shovelhead, not real hard
but plenty smartly enough to start a fight.

change?
prodded
him in
side
↓
saw
don't
move

find out how long the pawprints of sizable old grizzly would be, and change

"nine-inch pawprints" accordingly.

check how many times "but huh uh, no such luck" or variation of it is used, as Jickx uses it at Pine Butte in "Great day for the race" gambit. He also uses it in book's opening graf, and a chime between then and here is OK; any other uses, it'd better be varied or changed.

changed in March '89 revise

✓ Okay, so Mariah was uneasy about that memory. What the hell, I ✓
was uneasy about it, even though I yet believed with everything in me
that that particular bear had to be gotten rid of. I mean, nine-inch

Lexa could make mock shooting sounds, kchew kchew, in bear scene?

Jick jacks a shell into chamber of .30-06; wd he actually put one in the
breach, to keep the magazine full?

Jick, mentioning Pine Butte-Breed-Butte etc. as lighthouses, could add:

Say it another way, I wonder if people living within sight of the Statue of Liberty feel the same ~~way~~ about...

possible bumpersticker

Grizzly Bear Tastes Like Filet Mignon

didn't use, in summer '89 revise, because of earlier roadkills references.

bear bait, from Germaine Stivers card in Pine Butte:

rotten beaver that's been burned.

bear scene: culvert trap made of steel? (rather than aluminum?)

changed in summer '89 revise

The next morning belonged to the road again. Their rented car,
to call it that, had to be turned in at Great Falls, and so Mariah and
I in the Bago trailed Riley and the Yugo down to the rental place on
Tenth Avenue South. Then it was retrace most of the morning's route,
back north toward Choteau, as the Montanian pair informed me that their
piece of work
next ~~story~~ awaited there in the Teton River country.

jicks: ... my belt buckle --
(or our belt buckles...)

Germaine Stivers: "You'll find my (eye) glasses in a (grizzly) turd."
(cows & calves passed Tom on dead run.)
- bear bait: rotten beaver that's been burned

new Horner dinosaur find at Egg Mtn, GFT Aug. 14, '89: on back of weather column
of that day, in Weather & Crops '89 file folder.

Considerations of all kinds swarmed in behind that pawprint.