

While in camp the General came over amongst the scouts and tried to find out the different opinions held by them as to where the Indians were most likely to be found. The off-hand opinion amongst the scouts was that the Indians were camped on Tongue river or the Little Big Horn; but I knew better than that from my intimate knowledge of the Indians, but didn't care to express an opinion different from the majority, so I kept my mouth shut.

When we left Powder river the General asked me where I thought the Indians were, and I said on Powder river, and he asked me what made me think so, and I told him from my knowledge of the Indians and their mode of living in the winter time. I knew there they ranged during the winter months. They had a certain range where they went, just like animals. The next morning the General wanted us scouts to go ahead of the command and find whether there were any Indians camped on Tongue river. It was the same scouting party that started from Powder river--the same men with two additions.

183

* We crossed along the forks where the Big Red is at present, and went on to the head of Dutch creek, following it down to its mouth; from there down to the mouth of Prairie Dog, down to Tongue river. We found a spot there where the Indians had been camped about a month before. We waited there until the command came down and overtook us. It was to follow up our trail. It took the command two days to reach that point from Clear creek over to Upper Prairie Dog. From there all the scouts except Stagner (there were thirty-four of us started out) followed Tongue river down and scouted in the vicinity of Tongue river to its mouth on the Yellowstone, where we rested. The command was to go as far as Otter creek and wait there until our return. Gen. Crook asked me how he would know the creek when he got to it. I told him there were three pine trees in a row, tight in the forks, all by themselves, and were standing right on the bank of Tongue river just above where Otter creek empties in and I said "when you see those pine trees, you go into camp there." He asked me if I knew every rock and tree in the country and I told him I came pretty near it. He was surprised at my knowledge of the country. The other scouts could travel along the road, but after they got a little distance from the highway they didn't know a thing about the country.

184

We got back to the command two days afterwards. There is where we found another old camp ground of the Indians. We found where they had killed a Crow Indian, quartered him and hung him up. I was on * Tongue river just below the mouth of Hanging Woman. His arms, legs, head and everything were hung up in different places on the trees down where the village had been, and it had occurred before the command started. I heard the Indians had killed a man there in camp. He was stealing horses. It must have been done a month before. There is nothing left of a horse thief after the Indians catch him.

The General came over to the camp and called another council of the scouts. He asked their advice as to which way he would have to go to find the Indians. That is where I got the enmity of Reshaw. He claimed the Indians were on the Little Big Horn. I was positive that I knew where they were, and asked the General if he wanted to find the Indians. He told me it was either a fight with the Indians or starvation, and he says:

"We can't starve; we have too many mules, but only two or three days' rations left."

I said if that was the case and they did as I told them, I would take them to the Indian village inside of three days.