

HOW ELUSIVE SCOUTS KEPT OUT OF WAY OF
INDIANS IS TOLD BY VETERAN CAMPAIGNER

(Editor's note: This is the last of a series of articles on Indian fighting in this section in 1874.)

By Lemuel T. Wilson.

The next Friday, Lieut. Baldwin went on to Ft. Leavenworth, leaving instructions with the commanding officer at Camp Supply that Wing and I were to remain there until his return. When Lieut. Baldwin returned to Camp Supply late in September with an escort, we went with them to join Gen. Miles at the head of Washita, where he established his winter quarters. Sometimes two of us were sent out to carry dispatches or as spies to investigate and report to him.

In October, I think it was, Gen. Miles with a part of his command went north to the Canadian river, followed along the Canadian to Adobe Walls, crossed the Canadian southwest from Adobe Walls out on the staked plains, there we made camp. On one occasion Gen. Miles sent for me and asked me if I would carry a dispatch to Maj. Baird at the head of the Washita. I said, "I'll try." He wanted the dispatch delivered as quickly as possible. He told me to eat my dinner and report to him for orders. I reported at 12 o'clock. He gave me my orders and wished me good luck.

I started at 12 noon and at 8 p. m. of the same day delivered the dispatch, after riding 65 miles alone with Indians almost constantly in sight. When Maj. Baird read the dispatch he said, "When did you leave Gen. Miles?" I said, "At noon." He said, "Yesterday?" I said, "No, today." He could hardly believe it.