

two fell wounded before the "far-sweeping musketry" of the Indians.

The fight on Lodge Grass Creek was the last the Bozeman Party had. Proceeding west it came into the old Bozeman Trail. When the expedition had reached the site of Fort C. F. Smith and had crossed the Bighorn River, it discontinued the practise of fortifying its camps. The expedition straggled into Bozeman throughout the first week of May.

Soon after the expedition disbanded at Bozeman, several accounts of its adventures, written by members of the party, were published in Bozeman's newspaper, the Avant-Courier. An excellent narrative by member A. M. Quivey, "The Yellowstone Expedition of 1874," appeared in CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HIST. SOCIETY OF MONTANA, Vol. I (Helena, 1876). E. S. Topping's account of the expedition occupies several chapters of his THE CHRONICLES OF THE YELLOWSTONE (St. Paul, 1888). Lt. Bradley wrote down the story in his journal, intending it for publication, and his account finally appeared in CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HIST. SOCIETY OF MONTANA, Vol. VIII (Helena, 1917).

In more recent times, there has been mention of the expedition in Ernest S. Osgood, THE DAY OF THE CATTLEMAN (Minneapolis, 1929), and in Merrill G. Burlingame, THE MONTANA FRONTIER (Helena, 1942). These authors were concerned with whole eras, however, and did not go into detail regarding the Bozeman Party's activities.

So it has been almost seventy years since the whole story of this expedition has been told and in those days it seems to have been customary to present the white frontiersman as ever a bold and heroic figure, while the Indian was presented as the "dastardly foe," scarcely worthy of consideration as a human being. In the first place, when this expedition got back to Bozeman, it certainly had failed to achieve any of the objects for which it had been equipped and sent out, all of that pretty much at the expense of the people of the Bozeman area. It had done nothing toward establishing an outpost, looking to the hoped-for wagon-road, and it had failed to discover gold, which had been the main idea of the men who went out as members. Therefore, it was to the interest of these men to describe themselves as having been assailed by hordes of bloodthirsty Indians intent on wiping them from the face of the earth. Certainly this expedition had its fights and I do not doubt that they were hard fights. But as Governor Potts stated in a letter to Secretary of Interior Delano, dated May 2, 1874, "The Indians undoubtedly annoyed and harassed the expedition but they have had no serious trouble but every man connected with it is trying to make himself a hero." (The underlining is Potts!.)

It troubles me a great deal that I don't have the Indians' side of this business and that is my purpose in writing this long letter. I sincerely hope that I have not taken up too much of your valuable time in reading this long epistle. It seemed to me that, coming to you as an unknown, I could hardly expect you to dig into the sources for so many details and therefore I have tried to set them down in brief(?) for you.

*Shuch*

I would like very, very much to know whether or not, in the course of your many interviews with oldtime Indians who were at one time classed as "hostile," you have ever caught any echoes of their encounters with this expedition? It should be most enlightening to have the Indian view of these happenings. For one thing it would hardly surprise me to learn that the Indians' statements of their casualties would be somewhat, perhaps considerably, less than the estimates furnished by members of the expedition. You see, I am trying to keep in mind your very good advice