

Pioneers

General Milroy

General Robert Huston Milroy peacefully passed away at his home in Olympia on Sunday morning surrounded by his family. He had been declining for some months and a few days before his death the physicians in attendance informed the family that there was no hope.

General Milroy was 74 years of age, having been born in Washington county, Indiana, June 11, 1816.....

He was appointed superintendent of Indian affairs in Washington territory and held the office until 1874. In 18⁸²⁻⁸⁵~~75~~ he was appointed agent of the Yakima reservation and held the place until 1885 when he lost his position through a change in administrations. (Other relocations before)

General Milroy leaves a wife and three sons to mourn his loss. Two of these sons, Robert B. and Walter J. are residents of North Yakima and members of the bar. The third son is postmaster at Olympia.....

Flags at Yakima were at half mast on Sunday and Monday in honor of the dead soldier--Yakima Herald April 3, 1890.

board of regents controlled the institution. In choosing the property which came to the university through the early land grants, they had used remarkable judgment in picking some of the most valuable land in the state according to Milroy but failed to realize on a good deal of it by selling instead of waiting for it to reach its high values.

Milroy attended the university only a short time when he became involved in a controversy arising indirectly over the claims of two different men for the title of president and culminating directly over a change of textbooks.

George F. Whitworth had been president of the university and but just before Milroy entered the board of regents had called a Presbyterian minister named Nicholson from the east to become head of the institution. Before Nicholson arrived the board changed its mind and reelected Whitworth so that when Milroy entered he found affairs in a state of uproar. The latter was installed as president and standing pat while Nicholson was demanding that he be recognized.

Milroy became entangled when he went to live with Nicholson, who had taken the pastorate of the Presbyterian church in Seattle in the meantime. About this time Whitworth ordered a complete change in textbooks, expensive articles then. Nicholson wrote Milroy's father that it would not be necessary for him to buy new books but that he should withdraw from college and he (Nicholson) would instruct the boy with the old ones. The elder Milroy gave his consent to this proposition but Whitworth became angered and wrote the elder Milroy that this was a personal attack upon him. So Milroy was ordered to attend the University again. In those days with an enrollment of 30, one student more or less made considerable of a difference.

The controversy between Nicholson and Whitworth continued and

University life 50 years ago was nothing like the complicated and diverse mixture of social activities studies and athletic life of the present day according to the recollection of R.B. Milroy who attended the territorial university of "ashington in 1874 when Seattle was a sawdust town of shacks grouped around the Stefsan-Post mills at the foot of what is now James street and the University was a little white frame building on the hill where the present business section centers.

Though his career there was brief and stormy it gives a good idea of early days of the institution, valuable to recall on the third day of national education week.

Although it was 51 years ago this fall that Milroy entered the university his memory of conditions and events is remarkably clear. At that time his home was in Olympia the territorial capital and the largest town in the territory.

When Milroy entered the territorial university which was not as large as one of the departments today there were about 30 students and only three professors that he can recall. Seattle was a town of a few hundred population scattered around the wharves on the sound. The largest building was the Occidental hotel, a two story frame structure. Yesler hall at what is now Cherry and

First streets was the community building at which all the civic meetings and social functions of both the city and university were held. It was the last business building between the town and the university on the hill. A few houses and a church or two were scattered between the hall and the university which was off to itself surrounded by stumps and logs.

To facilitate reaching the university a crude walk was constructed consisting of planks laid where the ground was fairly level and steps cut where the hill was steep. A territorial

resulted in a law suit which involved scores of outsiders as well as those connected with the institution. At one time during the trial feeling became so intense that fists were brought into play and a preacher, who was an outsider, knocked a lawyer down.

Whitworth finally won the suit but at Thanksgiving time Milroy's father took him out of the university and the following year sent him to Hanover.

Actual university life then was much like attending the public schools of today. The classical course was the only branch offered and professional schools and special departments of today were unthought of. Greek, Latin, mathematics, geology and physics were the chief subjects taught.

Among Milroy's classmates during those brief period were a number of men whose names are well known in the state now. They include the Denny brothers, Ed Smithers, Ed and Charles Terry and Prof. E.S. Meany--The Yakima Republic, November 17, 1925.

When R.B. Milroy , court commissioner came to Washington as a boy in 1872, greenbacks were common in the midwest but were not in circulation on the Pacific coast where gold and silver were the medium of exchange.

Milroy, his mother and sons left Indiana for the west her money was in greenbacks as the paper ^Nmoney was called. These were discounted when exchanged for silver or gold. She had kept posted on the rate of discount as published from day to day in New York, knowing that somewhere along the trip she must exchange the greenbacks for gold and silver.

On the train was a slicker who went through the cars and offered to take the paper money and give silver and gold in exchange but she knew that the discount he wanted was greater than the New York quotation and retained possession of the greenbacks until well toward the end of the journey to San Francisco.

By that time the money changer had reduced the discount considerably. When reaching San Francisco she learned that the man had much the best of the deal. Not only was paper money down to one dollar bills in circulation but smaller denominations were in use and these were called shin plasters.

The rail journey was long and tedious for there were no Pullman cars and the roadbed was rough, Milroy said. On that account we were on the road a whole week traveling from Chicago to San Francisco.

Eating stations were along the railroad but they were not good so most of the passengers ate out of lunchbaskets. In Omaha baskets were offered and one could pick out the one wanted or have one made up as desired.

The plains were uninhabited and few towns were along the railroad. Buffalo were on the plains but we did not see any although clouds of dust were pointed out to us as being raised by herds on the run.

However, we saw many bunches of antelope.

On the train I found a 50 cent piece back of the stove and as the date on it was the same as the year of my birth I wanted to keep it. After reaching San Francisco I was out on the street and saw some fruit offered for sale. I had saved up pennies and nickles so wanted to offer them for the fruit.

The amount came close to 50 cents and I gave the man selling the fruit nickles and pennies. When I put them in his hand he became angry and threw them on the floor, and said they were no good and snatched the bag of fruit away from me. My brother and I picked up the money and left the store.

We took a steamer named George W Elder to Portland. This boat was a blockade runner during the civil war. Although being six holds deep it was built narrow, hence the rated capacity figured on the basis of the beam was much less than the actual capacity. The boat could carry more goods than its registry indicated and was suited to the carrying of contraband of war.

On the trip northward in this boat we faced headwinds which made the vessel pitch heavily. We were told the bow at times was 75 feet out of the water. As the boat headed into an oncoming wave the breakers at times splashed water onto the bow. Once I was out on the bow and the water wet me. After that I stayed away from it.

When coming the Willamette river near Portland the boat being deep could not clear the sand bar and had to wait until the tide came in to proceed to the city. There we transferred to a river steamer which took us to Kalama where the present bridge across the Columbia river is situated. We took the train there to Tenino and staged to Olympia from that point as that was as far as the railroad had been built--Yakima Herald, Dec. 1936.

The mattress was put back. The cans of water did little good for the bedbugs dropped off the ceiling on to the bed.

In the morning Gen. Milroy complained to the hotel keeper who at once took him out and showed him the stockade. The bark was on some of the logs ~~on~~ and when portions were broken away bedbugs were seen to be numerous under it. The hotel keeper explained that to rid the hotel of bedbugs was impossible since the stockade was alive with them.

The journey from Wallula to Walla Walla was made by stage of the old fashioned Concord kind. Freighters had been on that road, the dust was deep in the ruts and the air was filled with it. To keep the dust out, ~~on~~ the stage was closed up tight and it sifted in even then.

Everyone wore dusters to protect his clothes. The stage was crowded and the air was hot and suffocating. When they arrived in Walla Walla dust a quarter of an inch thick was all over them. They were a dirty lot and scarcely recognizable as white people, Milroy remarked.

Scattering ranches were about the county around Walla Walla and so wheat was raised. Judge J.R. Lewis, one of the three judges in the supreme court of the territory took the two visitors out to a ranch to show them a place where volunteer wheat had been harvested for two years.

The farmer in the first instance produced more than 100 bushels of wheat to the acre and considering he had all he needed did not put in a crop the next spring, but the grain volunteered and he took off 76 bushels to the acre that season. The third year a volunteer crop again appeared and the farmer harvested 40 bushels to the acre. The farmer had affidavits signed by the threshers to substantiate the records.

Afterwards Judge Lewis was the first president of the First National bank in the old town of Yakima, now Union Gap. That bank in

1885 was moved to the corner where the Larson building now stands.

In the early days supplies were hauled into Walla Walla by freight teams from Wallula. A physician and banker, Dr. Baker, conceived the idea of building a railroad to Wallula, using wooden rails capped with straps of iron and proceeded to build it but the venture was a failure, Milroy said.

In Walla Walla Gen. Milroy learned that Gen. J.P.C. Shanks, congressman from Indiana and chairman of the committee on Indian affairs was at Lewiston so he left by stage for that town to see him.

J.A. Sims, Indian agent at Ft Colville was at Walla Walla and had two spring wagons with him. ~~He proceeded~~ Milroy was left with him to proceed to Colville, arrangements being made for Gen. Milroy to meet him at the ferry across the Snake river. Gen. Shanks and his son and Gen. Milroy coming down the river by steamboat from Lewiston--Yakima Herald, Sunday, December 27, 1936.

Pioneer Attorney Recalls Fight For Rail Terminal.

(This is second of series of articles of R.B. Milroy, written for the Yakima Sunday Herald by Elias Nelson, staff member.)

The frantic fight of Olympia in 1873 to become the terminal of the Northern Pacific railroad still lingers in the memory of R.B. Milroy, court commissioner. Olympia expected to become the terminal but as developments proved the site that could offer the best bid was successful.

Milroy had come to Olympia in 1872 from Indiana with his mother and three brothers. The next year the announcement was made that the railroad would make Tacoma the terminal. This caused some resentment in Olympia and his father, Gen. R.H. Milroy, superintendent of Indian affairs of the territory of Washington, called a public meeting to determine what should be done.

The Puget Sound-Columbia river branch of the Northern Pacific railroad had been built from Kalama to Tenino before the Northern Pacific could extend its line from Tenino to Tacoma their own city would become the terminal.

Acting on that belief the work was undertaken. Surveying the line, clearing the right of way, building the roadbed and laying the ties and rails proceeded with all possible haste. The entire population turned out to help, including women and children. The women cooked the meals for the men as the work went forward. The line was built over the most difficult part and the construction had passed Tumwater and reached Bush Prairie when the Northern Pacific reached Tacoma so Olympia lost the race.

Seattle and Steilacoom, together with Olympia, had been active contenders for the terminal and when Tacoma won the feeling against the railroad in these cities was strong. When Olympia first expected to be the terminal large areas including tide flats were platted in the expectation

that a big city would be built.

As a boy Milroy saw the site of Tacoma from a canoe in the bay.

He could see just one house, but several owned by donation claimants were on the flat above. The entire area was heavily wooded. These donation claimants offered the railroad better terms than the established cities could and the offers were accepted. The new city was platted as New Tacoma but later the name was changed to Tacoma.

Among the interesting anecdotes of early days told by Milroy was the story of Bishop DeVore, a Methodist who built a church in Olympia.

DeVore was the presidential elector for Oregon in 1876 and when an electoral commission cast its vote in favor of Rutherford B. Hayes, although Samuel Jones Tilden had the larger popular vote. He was a postmaster in Oregon at that time and the United States senatorial commission that came to Oregon to investigate the election threw out his vote on the grounds that he could not serve because he held a government position.

When DeVore came to Olympia to build a church he went about raising money and even called upon saloon keepers for donations. He came to the saloon of Jim Pray and the proprietor after making his own donation introduced the minister to a gambler and suggested that he contribute.

The gambler replied that if the bishop could beat him in a game of seven up he would give \$10. The bishop at first hesitated saying he did not know how to play the game but upon being shown the values of the cards agreed to play. The cards fell to his advantage and by playing them correctly the minister won the game and received the money.

A man by the name of Ward had a sawmill on the Deschutes river at Tumwater near Olympia. The bishop went to him and asked for a donation of lumber. Not being disposed to give anything but believing that the minister was soft physically, Ward said he would give them all the lumber he could carry alone down to the sound in a day and float to Olympia.

The minister accepted and appeared early the next morning and went to work. He was a six-footer and strong and by evening had carried and dragged to the water's edge enough lumber for the church. He placed the lumber so the tide when rising in the evening floated it and he was able to raft it down the bay to Olympia.

When a boy of 13 Milroy frequently went as a messenger for his father to the Chehalis reservation, a distance of 35 miles. If going alone he rode horseback but at times a doctor went along and he then drove a team and buggy. In some places there were corduroy roads but for the most of the distance in spring the road was a mass of mud and the wheels of the buggy sank to the hub. Under such condition the trip to the reservation took all day.

When going horseback he rode a gray mare that was light on her feet and made good time. He carried a little gun and often killed grouse and pheasants.

"One day when going through heavy timber riding the mare I came to an open place where the sun shone through," Milroy said. "A cougar was lying in the road sunning himself. Naturally I stopped and the mare was no more anxious to go ahead than I was. I pondered what to do for there was no way to go around unless I went back to Black river.

"A large tree had fallen at the side of the road and lay extended away from it. The stump was high above the ground and the cougar lay just below it. As I stood and watched the cougar jumped up on the stump and remained there. I was sure the animal intended making a meal of me.

"After a time the cougar walked along the log, and as there was brush beside it the animal was soon out of sight. I thought the animal had merely gone out of view and would come out and pounce upon me when I passed. After waiting for a time and seeing

nothing of the animal I rode the mare as fast as she could go past the stump and the cougar and I never saw one another again." Yakima Herald, December 20, 1936.

Settlements were sparse in eastern Washington and few of the principal cities had been founded 63 years ago when R.B. Milroy, pioneer Yakima attorney and court commissioner first saw this section of the territory.

Walla Walla was a small city but the ground upon which Spokane is situated was unclaimed and Yakima had only one settler within what are the present city limits.

His father, Gen. R.H. Milroy, superintendent of Indian affairs in the territory made a trip to Eastern Washington in 1873 to hold councils with the Indian chiefs at a number of points and make arrangements for the establishment of an agency for the Okanogan Indians. Milroy accompanied him on this journey.

They went by steamer from Kalama to Portland where they chanced to meet Gen. Jefferson Davis, a Union general whom Gen. Milroy had known during the Civil War. They were both from Indiana. Gen. Davis insisted that they go with him to his headquarters. While they were there Indian Agent Mechem of the Modoc reservation who was wounded and nearly scalped in the Modoc war of 1872 came in.

Milroy observed fresh scars around Mechem's forehead. These were the result of the attack upon Gen. Canby and his group of officers and Mechem when in a council with Capt. Jack, leader of the Modoc Indians. Gen. Canby and others were killed and Mechem was among the wounded. Soldiers stationed nearby came to the rescue so the Indians did not have time to finish the scalping.

The journey was resumed by steamer up the Columbia river with a portage at the cascades of the Columbia and another from the Dalles to Celilo. The salmon run was on and seals ranged up the stream as far as the lower cascades to feed on the fish. In going up the river the good natured captain let Milroy take his rifle and shoot at the seals as they raised their heads out of the water.

The Indians had a legend that the Columbia river broke through the Cascade mountains and a natural bridge spanned the stream over which they could go but this eventually fell. The place is known as the Bridge of the Gods.

Two series of rapids make up the cascades of the Columbia, the lower one being the highest. It was at these cascades that Gen. Phil Sheridan in the Indian war of 1855 had a battle with Indians who had besieged and killed whites who had taken refuge in the blockhouse. This building was still there at the time of Milroy's visit.

Around the north side of these cascades ran a narrow-gauge railway as a portage and above the cascades the party boarded a second steamer which took them to The Dalles. On the south side of the stream a somewhat longer railroad ran through a natural gorge around The Dalles cascades to Celilo, above which the third steamer took them to Wallula.

An old post of the Hudson's bay company was at Wallula. The largest of the buildings was used as a hotel and there was still intact a part of the original stockade which surrounded the post.

The weather was exceedingly warm so they obtained an upstairs room for the night. They observed that the legs of the bed stood in cans of water to prevent bedbugs from crawling from the floor up the legs into the bed.

Milroy was tired and was soon asleep but before long his father woke him and made him get out of bed. The bed was alive with bedbugs and Gen. Milroy had been unable to go to sleep. He took the mattress and sheets, stuck them out of the window and shook the bedbugs off.

How many times his father woke him and went through the process of shaking the bed clothes and the mattress free of the vermin Milroy is not certain but it was at least twice. Putting the mattress on the floor to get away from the bedbugs in the bedstead was of no avail.

The greatest fright that came to R.B. Milroy while on a trip with his father through Eastern Washington in 1873 was at Touchet. His father had gone on a side trip to Lewiston, Ida., and Milroy was left with J.A. Sims, Indian agent of Colville who was in Walla Walla.

With him he went by team heading for the crossing of the Snake river. They reached Touchet the first day and camped there in a corral for the night. A cougar had been killed at the ranch the night before the rancher told them and showed the fresh hide.

Milroy slept in the bed of the spring wagon with his head at the back end. In the night he was awakened by an animal licking his cheek. Remembering the account of the cougar being killed he thought the cougar mate had come to make a meal of him but when he turned his head to look he saw that it was a calf.

At the crossing of the Snake river they were joined by Milroy's father, General R.H. Milroy, superintendent of Indian affairs for the territory of Washington, Gen. J.P.C. Shanks, Congressman from Indiana and chairman of the committee on Indian affairs and General Shanks' son, who had come by steamboat from Lewiston.

The journey to Colville was resumed by team. The first day out from the Snake river they saw Palouse falls on the Palouse river. These were in the deep canyon and were seen as they looked down into the gorge. They are 100 feet higher than Niagara falls. Although near the old military road these falls are a considerable distance from the main traveled roads of today and are seen by few people.

Darkness overtook them before they could find water and they were obliged to stop at Camp Lougenville. Marshy ground was near the place but there was no water. Mosquitoes were numerous and plagued them that night as they had nothing with them for protection.

Having had no water all day they were exceedingly thirsty. Gen. Shanks was a profane man so swore and cursed all night which made things

worse for him and his tongue was so swollen in the morning that he could hardly talk. Hitching up at daybreak they went on and reached Big lake in the forenoon.

As they came to the lake Milroy ran ahead and came to a spring from which the water flowed into the lake. He threw himself down at once to drink. After drinking a little he noticed wigglers were in the spring. This made him hesitate for a moment but he gritted his teeth and drank until his thirst was quenched.

The horses had been able to graze but little the night before so they were hobbled and turned loose but they ran away and several hours were lost getting them back.

While at this noon camp they came upon a rattlesnake and the driver wanted to show that a snake would commit suicide if tormented. The driver cut a long willow switch and whipped the snake so it struck and worked itself into a frenzy of anger. This was kept up until the snake turned its head and struck itself and so died as the poison got into its blood, Milroy said.

The Spokane river was crossed on the bridge a few miles below the present site of Spokane. Except for a store at the bridge no settlements or settlers were in the vicinity since leaving Touchet no farms had been seen but many settlers were in the Colville valley. Grain was raised there and a German miller had a grist mill and made Farina which was shipped to Walla Walla and Portland.

Salmon were exceedingly abundant in early days and during the run crowded into the headwaters of small streams in such numbers that they jammed the creeks. Farmers of the Colville valley threw them out with pitchforks and hauled them by the wagon load to their land and spread them out for fertilizer. This made an awful stench in the fields.

The stop was made at Fort Colville where so many soldiers had

deserted that only 16 were left.

The soldiers had been deserting and going by the military road to Walla Walla. When the officers discovered that a soldier had deserted a race began to intercept him at the Spokane bridge because he could not cross the river at any other place. In that way some were captured and brought back and eight such were in the guard house at this time.

When Gen. Milroy reached Ft Colville courriers were sent out to the chiefs and head men of the Okanogans, Kalispell, Spokane, San Poil and other tribes asking them to come to Colville for a council. This was to be held in front of the porch of the main building of the old Hudson's bay company post. Indians built an extended canopy out from the building of boughs for shade under which the chiefs might sit. As many as 3,000 Indians gathered for this council.

A white man, Louie Landwall who was at the fort was engaged as a packer to go with the group to the Okanogan country when the meeting with the Indians was over. His presence brought out an interesting story.

A runner arrived bringing word from Chief Gerry of the Spokane Indians saying that he could not come to Colville because Landwall had vowed he would kill him on sight. Gen. Milroy called Landwall in and asked if that was true and he said it was.

The general remonstrated with him whereupon the packer related that Gerry had once led a band of Indians that killed several white men and he alone escaped.

As a young man Gerry had been sent east and given an education as a minister. At the completion of his course he came back to the reservation wearing white man's clothes and a silk hat. The Indians would have nothing to do with him so he threw away the civilized man's clothes, donned Indian garb, painted his face and started a war against miners because prospectors were coming in and the Indians wanted to drive

them off the reservation.

Landwall ^{was} and a member of the group of prospectors and Gerry with a few braves set out for their camp. On coming near Gerry went ~~and~~ ahead alone and made friends with the prospectors which he could do as he could speak good English. He remained and had a meal with them.

On returning to his companions Gerry led them back and fell upon the whites and killed all but Landwall. Later Gerry became chief of the tribe.

Gen. Milroy told Landwall he must let Gerry come to the council and eventually the packer agreed not to attack the Indian chief but to let to get one day's journey away from Colville after the meeting.

When the council was opened the chiefs sat in the front rows, Gerry with them. Landwall sat down on the steps in front of Gerry and fastened his eyes upon him and kept his gaze fixed that way as a cat watching a mouse, Milroy said.

Each chief in turn spoke for his tribe but when Gerry's turn came he was unable to speak because he was tormented exceedingly by Landwall's fixed stare upon him. When the conference was over Gerry entered the headquarters and explained to the officers why he could not speak and had a private conference with them.

For fear of Landwall Gerry after that never went anywhere without a few Indians with him as body guards. Yakima Herald, Sunday, January 3, 1937.

Colville Indians near Kettle falls on the Columbia river had a way of making canoes that R.B. Milroy, court commissioner, had not seen before.

They were made from the inner bark of pine trees and he saw canoes of this kind when his father, Gen. R.H. Milroy, superintendent of Indian affairs in Washington territory, in 1873, when on a trip through the Eastern portion of Washington territory.

The bark made into a canoe was taken from a pine tree selected because it was free from branches and was of the size and length required.

The outer rough bark was cut away carefully and the inside bark was peeled off in a right angle piece big enough and long enough for the canoe. The two ends of the piece were bent up and sewn together, one for the bow and the other for the stern and then pitched with rosin to make the union tight.

The canoe was braced athwart on the inside and since the bark was not strong a mat of split serviceberry branches was placed in the bottom. The Indians would not let a white man with shoes on step into the canoe as the heel of the shoe ~~might~~ might puncture a hole in it. They made him get ~~into~~ into it on his knees.

Milroy took a ride with an Indian in the Columbia river a short distance above the bend of the river in the falls. When coming ashore he stepped into shallow water at the landing and something struck his foot. He looked and there was a big salmon, exhausted from loss of blood. Although wounded by an Indian spear below the falls, the fish had been able to get above the falls. He grabbed the salmon by the gills and yanked it up on the bank. The fish was still acceptable and they had it for dinner.

With Colville as the headquarters they were in that section for a week as considerable time was required to arrange for the council with the Indian chiefs. Several incidents occurred which stuck in the memory of Milroy.

One day Gen. J.P.C. Shanks , his son Jim and Milroy went to see the Indians spear salmon at the falls. A flat rock stuck out of the water near midstream and an Indian had been taken in a canoe to this vantage point.

The fish could not always make the jumps with accuracy and as the Indian stood there facing upstream a salmon leaping high struck him in the back of the neck and knocked him off the rock. Although able to keep his nose above water the Indian was being carried down stream rapidly . Seeing his predicament his companions put out in a boat and rescued him.

This Indian seemed to be able to swim enough to keep from going under but Milroy commented that from his observation he was astonished at the number of Indians that could not swim.

On the river at some distance above the falls were the store and the grist mill of ~~Opp~~ Openheimer, the post trader. Half way between his trading post and the falls were the buildings of the Hudson's bay ~~company~~ company. The factor was a man by the name of McDonald who had married a squaw and had nine sons, all of the m six footers.

Milroy went one day on a pony to carry a message from his father to McDonald. As he was galloping along the trail all at once four or five coyotes passed in front of him so he brought the horse to a stop quickly. The pony was quite willing to stop and Milroy said the sight of the coyotes gave him quite a start for they seemed much larger than any he had ever seen and he thought they were gray wolves. Others besides those first seen passed across the trail and there were at least a dozen in the pack.

The coyotes disappeared into the brush and Milroy continued on his errand.

On another occasion he was going on foot along a trail between McDonald's place and the grading post. He noticed there were squaws at the

Indian encampment there.

When still a boy he persuaded a visiting group of Indians from Eastern Washington to take him with them. He drifted from one tribe to another and finally he came the leader of a horse and cattle stealing band of Cayuse Indians and so incurred the wrath of whites and Indians. He eluded capture for a time but was finally caught by Maj. Lougenville who made him promise to cease stealing. Knowing the language of all the Indian tribes and speaking good English ~~now~~ he was well fitted for interpreter, Milroy said.

In a fight a bullet grazed the top side of his head and on this spot was a white lock of hair while elsewhere the hair was a black as on the average Indian.

A scow was used to transport the pack train across the Columbia river and for this two trips were required. This appeared to Milroy a risky venture as the takeoff was not far above the falls and the scow was carried a considerable distance down the river before making a landing on the other side. However the men effecting the transfer knew what they were about and there was no accident.

The crossing was below the mouth of the Kettle river and camp was made for the night on the bluff. Just below in the Columbia river was an eddy which was squirming with thousands of salmon, they were that numerous.

A salmon had been caught and a part of it was cooked for supper while the remainder was hung high in a tree. A dog which did not belong to anyone at the fort had begun to follow Milroy around so he took it with him on the trip.

This dog slept beside him and awakened him in the night by growling. Off in the darkness, not far away Milroy saw two glaring eyes of an animal. The commotion caused by others waking up and by the dog in making a charge scared it away. In the morning the Indian herder identified the tracks as those of a cougar-Yakima Herald, January 10, 1937.

side of the trail digging roots but paid no attention to them.

As he passed a squaw reached out quickly and grabbed him by the foot, tripping him to a fall.

Alarming thoughts of scalping or other bodily harm flashed through his mind for the squaw held his foot firmly but as he noticed she proceeded to inch along his foot with her forefinger and offered him no harm. He let her finish. After returning to Olympia he received a beautiful pair of moccasins, ornamented with colored porcupine quills and also a pair of ornamented gloves. The squaw was the wife of Chief Tonasket of the Okanogan tribe.

Although time was spent at the council explaining to the Indian chiefs the policy of the government the main purpose of Gen. Milroy's visit was to select a site for an agency for all the Indians on the Colville reservation. Chief Tonasket wanted it in the Kettle river valley. Someone else wanted it in the Nespelem valley and others wanted it in other locations.

Following the council his father talked the situation over with Gen. Shanks and they decided that Gen. Milroy should examine the various sites so plans were made to visit the Kettle river valley and the Okanogan and Nespelem districts.

An outfit was organized with 15 horses, some of which were used to carry provisions and camp equipment and others were used as saddle horses.

Those going along on this trip with the superintendent and Milroy were J.A. Sims, Indian agent; Sherwood, the former agent at Fort Colville; Louie Landwall, the packer; George Harris, a quarter breed Indian as interpreter and Indian cook and a Kalespell Indian as herder.

Harris had a colorful history. His father was a half breed Indian who married a white woman at Fort Nisqually in Western Washington. His mother deserted him when he was a small child so he remained a waif among the Nisqually Indians and subsisted by stealing food from the

crawling about in the lumber.

When Gen. Milroy learned that a large herd of cattle belonging to the customs officer was on the American side of the line and herders were with them, he sent Indians to seize 160 head and drive them back with them. The Indians had been instructed to tell the Canadian herders to inform the customs officer that Gen. Milroy would be Osoyoos lake and would like see him there.

The customs officer came to the camp, in an angry mood and was told he must pay for the grass his cattle had eaten and return Sims' mare. He protested that the cows could not know where the boundary was but that Dodge did not stick when confronted with the fact that herders were with the stock and the monuments on the border were visible. After considerable bickering the amount to be paid was fixed at \$1 a head.

Sims and Milroy rode to the headquarters of the custom officer who paid the money and turned the black mare over to the Indian agent. The seized cattle were then returned and after that the Canadian official kept his office on the Canadian side of the line.

Accounts of this transaction, highly colored in a partisan way appeared in Victoria newspapers, copies of which are Milroy's possession.

On the reservation was a sub chief by the name of Sussaplicane who was jealous of Chief Tonasket. He had a following of his own and was not on good terms with the chief. As he did not come to the council at Fort Colville Gen. Milroy sent a message to him asking that he come to see him at Osoyoos lake.

The Indian runner brought back the message that if Gen. Milroy wanted to see the Indian he could come to his lodge. The general thereupon sent Indians to seize and bound the chief and brought him to the camp.

They arrived with him at the midday meal.