

Speelyi¹

W/art

~~from a giant's forehead~~

~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~

The Columbia River flows like a trickle of perspiration on a giant's forehead ^{which Speelyi or Coyote named long ago} as it escapes from the reaches of sand, vast plateaus, gentle untimbered mountains and weathering or still solid basalt cliffs.

~~On the mid-Columbia~~

~~the trickle is changing into Lake Umatilla for 77 miles of the~~
~~river's 1,264-mile course of which 512 miles are in British Columbia and~~
752 in the United States. Creation of the lake, scheduled to begin Tuesday and continue four days, ^{will transform the river into} creates the final stretch of slack-water from tidewater to the mouth of the Snake River near Pasco.

This transformation, which has no parallel along that region since the ^{time} legendary days of ~~Coyote~~ Speelyi or ~~Coyote~~ a demi god, ^{OR} and the ^{fearsome} cannibal women giants, ^{It will take} ^{in reputation for by} ~~is to take place as John Day Lock and dam is prepared by the~~
Walla Walla District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to go into electrical generation in June. ^{to place John Day on into electrical}

^{generation in June}
(The lock and dam are ~~the~~ new giants of the Columbia in the home-land of giants. ~~Because along this mid-Columbia section~~ The Indian long braids, the historians, yet tell of ^{the long days} giant cannibal women, known throughout the whole Yakima country and beyond. ^{even times even} ^{the}

^{days or speelyi} ^{he was}
In days as old as the river itself, long before the Indians came upon the land, ~~there lived~~ a transformer, trickster and mythic hero. ~~He was called~~
~~Speelyi or Coyote and he had more power than any medicine man of later years.~~

He should not be confused with ~~the~~ spelyah, the ~~Indian word for the~~
animal, coyote.

^{law bringer}
(Speelyi, the river roamer was a ~~lawmaker in a time when there were no~~
laws. He ~~gave~~ bestowed names upon places which the Indians still ^{known} call ~~by the~~
^{he ambled} ~~thence~~ same. He ~~walked~~ ^{then} along the river, preparing for the coming of the Indian.

Animals and birds ~~in those prehistoric times~~ were endowed with superhuman powers. They ^{enjoyed} ~~had~~ eternal life, possessed ^{great} ~~prodigious~~ ~~strength~~ strength and all the characteristics ~~and~~ of human beings, good and bad.

(more)

first ad Speelyi

Speelyi was not above killing, thievery or other vices. But he ~~at~~ did many things to ~~compensate~~ for his sometimes human behavior.

Not only did Speelyi conquer and control the sun ^{and} evil spirits of the weather but he released salmon to become food for the people. ^{Until then} ~~the~~ salmon had been ~~kept~~ imprisoned, low on the river, by two selfish bird sisters.

He destroyed the dam which ^{impounded} ~~imprisoned~~ the salmon so they could migrate upstream.

He encountered the five terrible wolf brothers and killed only four of them. ~~There~~ So there were still wolves.

As a shaman or medicine man he matched wits with conspiring birds and animals. When he defeated them, the penalty was loss of their magical powers, ~~and~~ they were forever destined to be of use to man, each in a different manner.

Speelyi encountered the cannibal woman At'At'Alea. She was vanquished and turned to ~~stone~~ stone, as a witness that she had died because she had no good purpose.

Eventually, when his mission was nearly finished and the first people came, they had no mouths or eyes, so Speelyi took a flint knife and changed them, giving mouths and eyes. He then showed how they should catch salmon and prepare them for a first salmon feast so they would return ~~to the~~ ~~river~~ each year.

Fire was stolen from a selfish owner by the trickster, who gave it to the people.

There were many At'At'Aleas, striped ogresses, defeated by the bird and animal people. Two, who preyed each spring upon the people at Celilo were finally chased back into the Yakima Valley and caught on Toppenish Ridge. One was slain by Raven, who used a black obsidian knife. She fell, arms outstretched and her mark remains in the sagebrush hills. The sister ~~also~~ fled toward Satus Creek and was turned into stone.

(more)

second ad speelyi

This site, along Highway 97 is a token leaving place ~~and has always been that as long as the oldest Indians remember, located as it was on the old trail from the Valley to the river fisheries, before and the white men came.~~

~~Now~~ Several of the At'At'Aleas, ~~turned to stone, have been abandoned~~
~~and now~~ now been vanquished a second time, in this instance by modern highway, railroad and dam builders, who did not know the giant rocks they were blasting ~~out of the way~~ had been ~~big~~ big medicine long ago.

Books have been written by anthropologists recounting the hundreds of heroic deeds of the likeable rascal, Speelyi. He must have travelled widely because his name is known all over the Pacific Northwest, in Central Canada, eastward into Montana and the Dakotas and all over California.

To the Indian way of thinking Speelyi was ~~the person~~ much like Uncle Sam of today.

Then *is time*
Long after Speelyi ~~came along the river, transforming it,~~ another ~~slow process began.~~ *change began*

(Historically this began with the overland explorers, Lewis and Clark.

They passed down the mid-Columbia in October, 1805. Other explorers, fur traders and missionaries, ~~the~~ and the pioneers followed. Finally came the dam builders.

movement
Accompanying Wilson Price Hunt's party of the Astoria ~~fur traders~~
in 1811-12 to establish the Pacific Fur Company was a Virginian, turned free trapper named John Day. ~~Day~~

Day and a companion, Crooks, ~~lost the main party~~ became separated from the main overland *Party*. They finally made their way out of the Blue Mountains,

(more)

third ad Speelyi

were befriended by the Walla Walla Indians ~~as~~ as they worked down the Columbia, ~~toward old Astoria~~ were robbed of guns and stripped of all their clothing and driven ^{Naked} into the wilderness. This was in the country and along the river which ~~was later to be known as John Day's River~~ became known as John Day's River. Later found by trappers they were taken down river but Day's mind was shattered and he died two years later. Where he was buried has never been known for a certainty.

^{Here}
~~Down this section of the river~~ also passed the Jesuits and the Order of Mary Immaculate Catholic priests such as the Rev. M. Demers in the 1840s, the famous Father Peter Jo n de Smet, before the Oregon mission was ^{cq} erected a vicariate apostolic, Dec. 1, 1843. That year the priests estimated the Indian population at 110,000 "one half in the Rocky Mountains region and the rest in Oregon." And then, what is now British Columbia was called New Caledonia.

Lewis and Clark called the John Day Lepages River ~~when they camped~~ ^{on} the ~~on~~ Oct. 21, 1805. They called it Clarks River on their return journey the next year ^{and} It is Choch on one of their maps.

The trappers, Peter Sken Ogden and John Work, in their journals of 1825, called the river John Day.

Lewis and Clark found many villages of Indians ~~in the region, as old~~

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an off season for fishing. ~~They obtained~~ The nearly famished explorers
obtained a few fish and food roots from the Indians and ^{numerous} ~~many~~ dogs to subsist
upon during the last of their downriver journey.

They also found most of the ~~villages~~ ^{old} tule mat villages along the Washington
shore. This was because of a long war with the Snake Indians ^{to} ~~on~~ the south,
and raids by the Snakes for a century which had driven the northern Indians
further north. The Snake raids penetrated into the Yakima country, north
of present Fort Simcoe State Park and along ~~after~~ Dry Creek south of Toppenish.

Nine rapids of consequence, which took toll of voyageurs, traders,
missionaries and stern wheeler river boats are submerged by Lake Umatilla.
There are three at John Day and extend three miles upstream. Then in order,
upstream, are Indian Rapids, Squally Hook, Rock Creek, Four O'Clock, Blalock,
Owyhee, Canoe Encampment and Devil's Run.

John Day Dam is 215.6 river miles from the mouth of the Columbia.

~~Blalock~~
~~Blacklock~~ Rapids, at mile 249, were named for Dr. Nelson G. Blalock
pioneer of Walla Walla and a veteran of the Civil War who had horticultural
developments there. ^{Blalock} ~~Blacklock~~ Island, largest in the Lake Umatilla reservoir,
is two miles wide and seven miles long. All but a few ^{high points} ~~bits~~ of it will
be covered.

The Indian name for the island was Chi Mowee, simply Big Island and

it ~~contained~~ was a village fishing site and burial grounds in early days. Most of the islands were fisheries in fact and most contained burials, long ago pilfered by grave robbers if the places could be found.

Not far upstream from John Day Dam ~~is~~ one of the cannibal women was turned to stone. This is called Ha Le Kawh Le Hut, meaning Someone Chased Someone into the Water. Indian ^Srode out to this island on horses ~~in~~ at night to fish *from an island there*

Another island was abundant with colored rocks and once, many arrowheads. Indians who attempted to carry the colored rocks or arrowheads ashore were mysteriously dumped into the river when the canoes invariably overturned so most of them left that island alone.

Canoe Encampment Rapids, 277 miles from the Columbia's Mouth should have been a great Northwest historic landmark. ~~but~~ It was called Le Campement des Barges by the French trappers and traders. Here, nearly a century and a half ago, season after season, ~~000~~ large canoe caravans brought trade goods from the east and through Canada. They stopped and camped at the foot of the rapids, awaiting arrival of traders from Vancouver who brought ^{heavy} bales of pelts. After a period of merry making and repacking the parties returned upstream or to Vancouver.

This site is downstream from ~~the~~ historic Wallula, old Fort Nez Perce,

6th ad

the second oldest community in Washington Territory, now deep beneath ~~McNary Dam's~~ McNary Dam's impounded lake.

(So slowly have later_year transformations come about, that it was not until 14 years ago three names were finally settled upon for the lakes behind ^{the dams} The Dalles (Celilo); John Day (Umatilla); and McNary (Wallula).

A suggestion by Col F.S. Tandy, then ~~district~~ Walla Walla district engineer was accepted after a prolonged ~~controversy~~ controversy between residents of the states of Oregon and Washington.

From McNary Dam, downstream on the Washington shore, are Plymouth, Paterson, the old site of Alderdale, ^{and} McCredie (across from Heppner Junction, Ore.) .

Close to the 250 mile marker ~~down~~ Pine Creek enters the Columbia and then comes ~~Roosevelt~~ relocated Roosevelt, two separate little towns, East and West Roosevelt.

Old Lady Canyon and Chapman Creek are upstream, then the little orchard settlement of Sundale. Five miles further is Rock Creek, up which the lake pool will spread several miles for a 40-foot deep boat basin.

Goodnoe and Towal face Oregon and the John Day River, which also will become a wide arm of the lake. The river enters the Columbia about two miles ~~upstream~~ from the dam.

N //

seventh ad

Old Indian historians, and younger Indians ^{affiliated with} ~~born in that~~ area, remain communicative links with the past. They are men like George Gibson ~~of~~ ~~penikese~~, Tom Albert, Isaac Albert, Henry Beavert, Watson Totus, Walter Cloud and his son, Louis Cloud and Levi George and his brothers of the Gus George family.

Sumamay, Old Lady was ~~xxam~~ the name for ~~this~~ region around Roosevelt and Alderdale.

This was the name of a six ton boulder, now safely preserved ^{at} ~~as~~ a Klickitat County rock painting or petroglyph park. Opposite Old Lady rock or Old Salmon Lady as it is sometimes called, is Speelyi himself, not so large and less distinctive.

Old Lady Rock, pitted with man-worn circular depressions, had the power to make ~~weather~~ wind, rain and other elements of weather. If struck on the downriver side, wind would blow from the west, if on the east side, the wind would blow from that direction.

It was because of one of ~~Speelyi's~~ Speelyi's whims that he punished the villagers and commanded the eels not to come along the Washington side, and to this day, they follow only the Oregon side of the river ^{here} ~~in this region~~.

8th ad Speelyi

~~Upstream from Roosevelt~~

The Roosevelt, Pine Creek and Alderdale locales were ~~headed~~ ^{frequented by} where
the Kah Milt Pah or Rock Creek Indians ~~also lived~~ ^{all Yakimas}.

At the cleared Alderdale site, 54 miles from downstream Kennewick on Highway 8, ~~the~~ Alderdale Creek trickles toward the Columbia, ~~and~~ ^{and} wild mallard ducks forage for food in the ~~headed~~ ^{Creek} muddy bottom land. Geese, nesting on many of the islands hatch their young and then enter the Columbia River to float downstream until May when the young are feathered sufficiently to fly. Ravens prey on the goslings.

The village where the treaty signer, Elit Palmer lived is in this area.

~~Here also lived~~ Chief Wish Och Kmpits, seventh to sign the Treaty of 1855 ^{also}
^{came from this region}

He was succeeded by Black Wolf or Chamok Howlish, who in turn was succeeded

by William Yallup, dead now not many years. He in turn was followed by

his son, ~~William~~ Thomas K. Yallup, a tribal leader who died Feb. 9,

1961, when he was 76. They were all related and their kin are among the Rock

Creek or Kah Milt Pah people of the Yakimas

At Chief Elit Palmer's village was a spring, where bright red trout would surface to eye any stranger who stooped there to drink. Near here, ~~too~~, was one of the gambling rocks, a stone larger than an automobile over which contestants sought to outdo each other by throwing heavy stones. The Rock Creek or Pine Creek people excelled in this game. (more)

~~Alderdale~~ Alderdale was a trading center for the Horse Heaven wheat country. Peaches flourished there until a severe freeze in 1919. Then the people gradually drifted away, the Indians too, and the post office, established in 1907 was discontinued in 1962.

Old Roosevelt had a post office as early as 1906, and in 1889 there were \$40,000 sheep ferried across from Arlington, subject to a migratory sheep tax. Berlin, 16 miles northeast of Roosevelt existed in 1896, Sixprong, in 1898, and Alton and Haulwater, known in the 1880s are all gone with the years.

Chapman, dating to 1881, six miles west of Roosevelt became the site of Sundale Station. This was ~~known~~ known as Lang's Landing and mail was carried there by boat from Blalock.

The J.D. Trailer court, ^{a few miles} ~~five miles~~ from the John Day Dam and the site selected by Harvey ~~Aluminum~~ Aluminum for an \$80 million plant is also barren now, being discontinued two years ago.

But for a few years, some of the wilderness prevails, ~~even at Rock Creek where bulldozers have cleared away sage brush for the boat marina.~~

Eagles haunt the creek near the river, close to the old horse and foot race grounds of the river Indians. Like their parent and grand-parent birds they quest for food, suckers which they find in the diminishing creek.

(more)

10th ad

But Speelyi would recognize few other friends, ~~except~~ Eagle and
Rattlesnake, Duck and Goose, Otter and Salmon ~~who he had~~ and he would
find them only infrequently were he to return, ~~to the river~~, preparing
the land for ~~another kind of people~~ the coming of another kind of people.

Re
Speelyi

Sunday or Monday

W/art

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The trickle is changing into Lake Umatilla for 77 miles of the river's 1,264 mile course of which 512 miles are in British Columbia and 752 in the United States. Creation of the lake, scheduled to begin Tuesday and continue four days, creates the final stretch of slack-water from tidewater to the mouth of the Snake River near Pasco.

This transformation, which has no parallel along that region since the legendary days of ~~Quayak~~ Speelyi or Coyote a demi god, and the cannibal women giants, is to take place as John Day Lock and Dam is prepared by the Walla Walla District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to go into electrical generation in June.

The lock and dam are the new giants of the Columbia in the home-land of giants. Because along this mid-Columbia section the Indian log braids, the historians, yet tell of giant cannibal women, known throughout the whole Yakima country and beyond.

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He should not be confused with ~~the~~ spelyah, the Indian word for the animal, coyote.

Speelyi, the river roamer was a lawmaker in a time when there were no laws. He ~~gave~~ bestowed names upon places which the Indians still call by the ~~thesex~~ same. He came along the river, preparing for the coming of the Indian.

Animals and birds in those prehistoric times were endowed with superhuman powers. They had eternal life, possessed prodigious ~~strent~~ strength and all the characteristics ~~and~~ of human beings, good and bad.

(more)

first ad Speelyi

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(more)

seco d ad speelyi

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They passed down the mid-Columbia in October, 1805. Other explorers, fur traders and missionaries, ~~txx~~ and the pioneers followed. Finally came the dam builders.

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5th ad Speelyi

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seventh ad

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