

## COLUMBIA'S LAST BIG "BAR HUNT" IN 1866

C. B. Rollins' Uncle Owned Cub Which Grew Up and Escaped.

SHOT BEAR IN CAVE  
4 Pounds of Powder and 5 Gallons of Whisky Used in Chase.

Did you know there were bears in Columbia? There were, specifically, two bears here—big black bears.

The men and boys who celebrated Thanksgiving this year by getting out shot guns and tramping into the woods all morning, hunting rabbits, possums or coons found no really big game at all. In 1866 the last big "bar hunt" took place in Columbia and then the days of real sport were over.

Dr. Woodson Moss and C. B. Rollins, Sr., were among the small boys who attended that famous bear hunt. R. B. Price, Sr., is probably the only man living who helped shoot the bear. Among the others who remember the bear hunt are B. M. Anderson, Edwin M. Price, E. W. Stephens, W. M. Scott and Samuel M. Baker.

**Cubs Come From Montana.**  
The bear which caused the excitement was brought to Columbia by Mr. Rollins' uncle, Josiah W. Lamme. It was one of two black bear cubs which Mr. Lamme brought with him from Montana in 1864. These cubs were kept for over a year in kennels at the Rollins home, chained to two posts, and grew to full size.

Mr. Rollins owned a tawny Newfoundland dog called Lion who fought continually with the bears over their meals. One day when the dog and bear were fighting, a student named Mac Williams tried to pull off the dog and the bear's chain snapped. Bruin climbed a tree in the yard and stayed there all night. There was a party at the Rollins home that evening and he was neglected. The guests passing in and out through the gate were not aware of the bear in the tree tops just over head.

**Bear Found a Year Later.**  
About a year later the bear was discovered by Tom Gentry, N. T. Gentry's father, near the Hudson home, now a part of the agricultural farm. Volunteer bear hunters enlisted at once. The Columbia Statesman of March 6, 1866 says the crowd was armed with "shot guns, revolvers, bludgeons, cutlasses, corn knives and blunderbusses." Down the Hinkson Creek into a cave in the bluffs they chased the bear. The cave is southwest of Dean F. B. Mumford's home. The town assembled there to plan the killing.

Doctor Moss was on horseback behind his uncle, William Woodson, an ex-Confederate. The excitement was electric. He said: "The cave was deep and small and the bear was at the bottom. The crowd decided to blast the cave and negro quarrymen were employed. Orders were sent to town for four pounds of powder and five gallons of whisky and for three days and nights they worked, re-en-

forcements coming from town all the while. Most of the men were former soldiers. Shots fired at imaginary bears increased the excitement and hurrying. When the supply of Tanglefoot ran low 'a barrel of Lager and four dozen chalk pipes with tobacco' were ordered. Recruits came straggling in from all over the country.

**General Guitlar Did the Shooting.**  
"The victorious strategy was a breastwork of fence rails carried into the cave and built up as rapidly as the men could advance. The four who finally took the bear were Gen. Odon Guitlar, "Wax" Gordon, Capt. Henry Cook, and William Woodson. General Guitlar did the shooting and the others served as support."

The Statesman adds details about stragglers who fired on dogs or ponies as a result of trouble with double vision, and accidents which crippled some of those who did "tall running" in fear of pursuit. The issue of the following week contained a statement signed by Tom Garth, a town character, that "he was the only sober man at the bear fight" and a defense of his "well known abstaining character." After the bear was killed the old negro quarryman slung it about his shoulders like an animal fur scarf and, mounted on an ox cart, headed the victorious procession to Columbia. The multitude marched into town with more cheering than the parades down Broadway this fall have

developed, according to spectators. The next night the hunters enjoyed a bear supper at one of the hotels. This is the story of Columbia's last bear hunt.

**First Bear Hunt 20 Years Earlier.**  
The first bear hunt preceded this one about twenty years. Mr. R. B. Price described it. "A full grown black bear was routed by a parcel of hunters on what is known as Bear Creek a mile and a half northwest of Columbia. The bear headed straight for town, the men on horseback and all the dogs of the neighborhood barking and following close behind. The citizens were aroused by the uproar and came behind."

"Down Court House street, now North Eighth street the bear came. It turned into an open alley back of Gillaspie's drug store, then the location of the Boone County National Bank. Mr. Moss Prewitt had an office in the rear of a store with an opening on this alley. The clatter and cries, "Man-eating bear" excited Mr. Prewitt and he stepped into the alley just as the bear, horsemen and crowd rushed by. Bear, dogs and all ran over him. Mr. Prewitt was left dazed, silk hat on one side of the road and spectacles on the other. There is a story of one man who broke a leg, running from the bear."

Agricolae, agricultural sorority, gave their annual "Farm Frolic" Saturday night for the junior and senior men in the College of Agriculture.

The chaperons at the informal dance which was given Saturday night at Read Hall were: Mrs. John Forsee, Mrs. Henry Price and Miss Eva Johnston. Christmas decorations were used.

"The bear went down southeast of town until it reached the Hinkson and safety," said Mr. Price. "It was never seen again."

**Y. M. C. A. To Obtain Noted Speaker.**  
The Y. M. C. A. plans to bring a number of speakers of national repute to Columbia next term, including David R. Porter, secretary of the student department of the international committee of the Y. M. C. A., and Robert P. Wilder, secretary of the Student Volunteers.

**Postpone Band Concert.**  
The band concert, which was to be given by the University Cadet Band in the University Auditorium at 4:15 o'clock this afternoon, was postponed on account of the lack of heat in the auditorium.

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Gift Suggestion IV.

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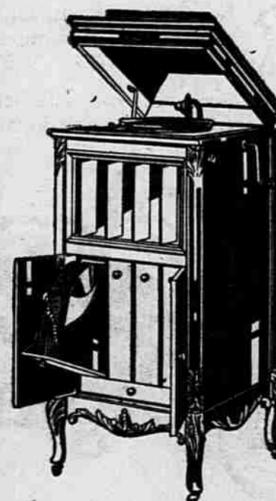
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