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Sheepeater Country, Big Game Hunting Paradise



BIG GAME HUNTING in the Sheepeater (Chamberlin Basin) Country is still "big" business today as it has been for many years and since game was livelihood for the Indians. Above are Clark and Lafe Cox, packers and guides in early 1930's with a party at Big Creek Mile High Ranch. Lafe and wife Emma Cox, at this time operate Cox's Dude Ranch on Johnson Creek; Clark and wife Beulah retired, living at Montour, Idaho.

George Anderson, Typical Forest Service Packer

George Anderson was a packer for the Idaho National Forest. He always took good care of his mules and rode a good horse. Whenever he was in the area he stayed at our place.

When I was first married, and taking my wife to sheep camp for the first time, we met George at Horse Springs coming down the trail with the government mules. I hurried over to tell him I got married and he should see my wife.

George was having stomach trouble and didn't feel good. He took a look at my pack outfit and said, "Huh! I guess you've got as much right as anybody to starve a woman to death," and went on down the trail.

One fall there was a fire and I was helping George pack. The fire was on top of a ridge, and it was

seven miles down to Lake Creek over a steep trail with about 20 switchbacks. Just as we got down to the road a truckload of CCC boys drove up. The officer in charge got out and started asking George questions. George finally said, "The fire is still going," and that was all.

The officer was new from Annapolis and had a campaign hat with a chin strap, which came just under his nose, and he looked funny to us.

The officer started up the hill with the CCC boys on the double. We just stood and watched. Finally George turned around and said, "I bet that So-and-So gets that crupper out from under his nose before he gets there."

George must have liked me. When he was bedfast at McCall he sent word for me to come, and gave me his pet mule, Old Hank. "Take him, give him a good home and all he wants to eat," he said. I kept Old Hank until he died.