

# Colorado HERITAGE

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In the Pine River Valley of rural southwestern Colorado is the town of Bayfield, where 1920s residents farmed, ranched, ran businesses, and operated lumber mills—and where fears and concerns of a fast modernizing America led to the formation of a Ku Klux Klan lodge. Beginning on page 14, Duane A. Smith looks at surviving KKK documents, records, and literature to chronicle the brief arc of Klan No. 69 of the realm of Colorado.



At a time when Denver's Ku Klux Klan was in full stride, 1920s residents of Five Points—the city's most predominantly African-American district—began moving beyond the boundaries of that rapidly overcrowding neighborhood. For three decades they advanced eastward, block by block, crossing invisible "race lines" to live in areas like the neighborhood of Manual Training High School (three students of which are pictured here in 1953). Based largely on firsthand memories of the experience, their story begins on page 28.

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Jeremy Johnston

# A Wilderness Hunter in the White House

## Theodore Roosevelt, the Western Sportsman

With Theodore Roosevelt's famous charge up San Juan Hill and his rise in political power, his enjoyment of his favorite sport—hunting—irreversibly changed. In his first Colorado hunting trip near Meeker, the papers reported the vice president's progress breathlessly, and not always truthfully. But the handful of curious ranchers he met on that outing was just a hint of the attention he would draw when he came back four years later. And as the once rough-and-tumble outdoorsman now enjoyed royal treatment as president of the United States, even overseas politics found their way to his camp tent . . .

In 1905, Charles M. Russell painted a watercolor, *In the Mountains*. The painting (see front cover) depicts Theodore Roosevelt clad in a buckskin shirt, sitting atop a white horse, shooting a large grizzly while surrounded by a pack of hunting dogs in a thicket of downed timber and brush. The scene is full of action. Roosevelt's horse looks skittish, ready to bolt away from the angry bear. The bear arches back on its haunches with a foreleg raised, poised to swipe away a hound whose white teeth slash towards the bear's throat. Some of the dogs attack the bear, while others





Facing: Theodore Roosevelt (right) and John B. Goff during the 1901 cougar hunt near Meeker, Colorado. Roosevelt wears the same outfit he wore during his days as a rancher in the Badlands. Note that the dogs seem more interested in Goff's sandwich than the dead cougar at their feet. Photograph by Philip B. Stewart.  
Above: Roosevelt's 1905 hunting party

hang back, blood dripping from wounds inflicted in the fight. The snow-covered mountains in the background, bathed in a soft pinkish light that only Russell could paint, stand as silent witness to the desperate fight. Russell probably painted the scene at the urging of his wife, Nancy, who may have hoped to cash in on not only her husband's popularity as a cowboy artist, but also on the fame of Theodore Roosevelt, the Cowboy President.

In reading Roosevelt's account of the hunt, published in October 1905 in *Scribner's Magazine*, one is struck by how accurately Russell's painting depicts the scene as Roosevelt describes it:

Just as we came in sight of [the bear], across a deep gully which ran down the sheer mountain-side, he broke bay and started off, threatening the foremost of the pack as they dared to approach him. They were all around him, and for a minute I could not fire; then as he passed under a pinyon I got a clear view of his great round stern and pulled trigger. The bullet broke both his hips, and he rolled down hill, the hounds yelling with excitement as they closed in on him. He could still play havoc with the pack, and there was a need to kill him at once. I leaped and slid down my side of the gully as he rolled down his; at the bottom he stopped and raised himself on his fore quarters; and with another bullet I broke his back between the shoulders.

Roosevelt believed that western art should be accurate in all details. In 1904, he received a Russell sculpture, *Smoking Up*. Concerned about a flaw—the horn of the cowboy's saddle was missing—he wrote Russell to inquire what had caused the error. Russell responded that the horn had broken off during the casting of the piece. Roosevelt expressed relief: "I am really glad to have that explanation; because I have been studying over the matter a great deal!" When considering the accuracy of *In the Mountains*, the only glaring discrepancies in Russell's painting are as follows: Roosevelt is wearing a buckskin jacket, when in fact he wore a canvas coat, and the bear he killed was not a grizzly but a black bear. Perhaps Russell wanted the viewer to recall Roosevelt's days in the Dakota Badlands, where he indeed wore a buckskin jacket sewn by one of his ranching neighbors. Russell might have also felt, and correctly so, that a ferocious grizzly made the scene more thrilling. Roosevelt agreed: "If we had run across a

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grizzly there would doubtless have been a chance to show some prowess."

Russell was not alone in taking artistic liberties with this scene. Roosevelt himself enhanced the event in his writings, ignoring details that compromised his skills as an outdoorsman and hunter; thus, he carefully shaped the public's perception of the presidential bear hunt of 1905. John B. Goff, his guide on that hunt, shared a slightly different perspective of it in an *Outdoor Life* article. Goff depicts Roosevelt's killing of the bear in much the same vein, but the events leading up to the kill were tellingly left out of Roosevelt's article. Goff noted that after the dogs brought the bear to bay, Jake Borah, another of the guides, instructed an assistant to throw rocks at the bear to chase him down the hill. As Goff explained, "the idea was to get him down so as to save the President climbing the steep and rocky hill, which was too precipitous to take a horse up."

Goff's account of the hunt upset the president, who ordered his secretary, William Loeb, to inform Goff of his disappointment. In a letter, Goff apologized to Roosevelt:

I am very sorry that any thing should have been published that you would not approve of. . . . I am very sorry that I made any statement what ever and certainly would not had I known . . . that you did not want any statement made by Jake [Borah] or my self . . . . I never had any thing happen that maid [sic] me feel so badly after you being so kind to me. It hurts me more than if it had been any one else.

But Roosevelt wrote back. "I have received your letter," he said. "That is all right. Don't think of it any more and I won't myself." All was forgiven, and Goff and Roosevelt continued to correspond.

The event reveals a side of Roosevelt that is rarely seen.



John Goff (left) with fellow hunting guide Jake Borah in 1905

Though he insisted on accuracy in others' depictions of the West, including Russell's, when it came to portraying his own adventures he assumed complete control. This need to shape the depictions of his western outings resulted not from a desire to be accurate but to shape his public image as a western hunter—an image that would alter his private life and the nature of his hunting trips as his career progressed.

The change is well illustrated by comparing Roosevelt's two hunting expeditions in Colorado with guide John Goff. The first was in 1901, shortly after Roosevelt was elected to the office of vice president of the United States. The hunt began the transition from Roosevelt the lone sportsman to Roosevelt the famous hunter. In the spring of 1905, Roosevelt, now president, returned to Colorado for a bear hunt. Although the hunt took place in the same general locality and with the same guide, the atmosphere was radically different. Roosevelt and his hunting were to be seen by the eyes of the nation, and his success needed to be guaranteed. No longer would it be Roosevelt alone in the wilderness in pursuit of game; this time, the press presented Roosevelt's accomplishments and failures as popular entertainment. At the same time, concerns for his safety conspired to limit his chances of success and his ability to experience the kind of adventurous hunt he had enjoyed during his ranching days in the Dakotas. Throughout his presidential administration, Roosevelt learned that fame did not mix well with his favorite pastime.

On January 11, 1901, Vice President Roosevelt arrived in Meeker, Colorado, with his guests, Philip B. Stewart and Dr. Gerald Webb of Colorado Springs. Once in town, the trio met John B. Goff, a well-known and respected Colorado hunting guide. Goff had a well-trained pack of dogs that he used for hunting mountain lion and bear. He divided the pack into two groups: the seizers and the trackers. The trackers trailed the game until it climbed a tree, where it would be shot. Sometimes, a cougar or bear turned to fight the dogs; this is when the seizers came into play. Seizers attacked the animal and, in the case of a mountain lion, pinned it to the ground until it was killed. When a bear refused to tree, the seizers nipped at it, keeping it at bay until the hunters arrived. Goff's talented dogs guaranteed that Roosevelt would not go away disappointed.

The day after Roosevelt arrived, the group proceeded to



Goff rides alongside his dog pack in 1901, during Roosevelt's first Colorado hunt. Photograph by Philip B. Stewart.

Goff's ranch north of Meeker. Along the way the dogs treed a bobcat, which Roosevelt killed. "It was no trick for Colonel Roosevelt to kill it when we came up," Goff wrote in *Outdoor Life*. But the newspapers told another story, launching a procession of "tall tales" regarding the hunt. The *New York Times* wrote that Roosevelt had killed a large mountain lion instead of a bobcat. The writer claimed that Roosevelt won the first shot after drawing straws with the other hunters. He went on to say that as soon as the game was over, the lion leapt towards the hunters, only to be shot in the air by Roosevelt.

Upon reaching Goff's ranch, Roosevelt witnessed another problem that would only increase with his rise to fame: the presence of spectators. Although Roosevelt wrote in his autobiography that during the trip he was simply "Johnny Goff's tourist," Goff told a different story to an *Outdoor Life* reporter. He said that during Roosevelt's stay, three to four visitors a day came to the ranch to get a look at the dignitary. (Goff normally had only one or two visitors a week.) Goff's neighbors came up with good excuses for their visits; a missing horse seemed to be the most popular. Roosevelt met all of this with good humor and politely expressed his regrets about the visitors' misfortunes. "While his sympathy was forthcoming for a while," wrote the *Outdoor Life* reporter, "it eventually ran into a huge joke, and sometimes wound up by the whole party 'joshing' the visitor unmercifully." Despite the attention Roosevelt received from well-wishers, the residents of northwestern Colorado did leave Roosevelt and Goff alone in the field during the hunt.

After spending the night at Goff's ranch, the hunting party proceeded north to the Keystone Ranch, the hunters' main headquarters. Along the way, the dogs chased a bobcat into a hole, catching and killing it before the hunters could arrive. Roosevelt killed his first mountain lion on January 14, only three days after his departure from Meeker. The dogs effectively treed the lion at first, but the hunters had to stop their pursuit some fifty yards from their prey. The delay was not to draw straws but rather was for Stewart, who had spotted a rabbit and wanted to take its picture. After the delay, the hunters approached the treed cougar, only to have it jump down to attempt escape. The cougar climbed another tree, then jumped down again when the hunters approached. This time it did not escape. The dogs tackled it, and a bloody fight began. Roosevelt feared that if he shot at the mountain lion he might hit a dog, so he ended the struggle by stabbing the cat with his hunting knife. Goff was amazed at Roosevelt's action and later wrote, "While I have killed over 300 lions myself, and have been among them for nearly twenty years . . . I would not care to tackle them in the off-hand, fearless manner in which the colonel did on this trip." Johnny Goff's tourist proved himself an atypical eastern dude.

The next day, the dogs found another cougar trail and eagerly began their work. They chased their prey into its den, and the seizers eagerly climbed into the hole. Inside the den were the cougar's three kittens, and much to Roosevelt's regret the dogs quickly killed them. Roosevelt was surprised that the mother had given up her kittens so easily to make good her escape. The mountain lion then found temporary haven in a tree but jumped out of it when the hunters approached. The dogs caught the lion and, again, Roosevelt stepped in to end the struggle with his knife. Roosevelt wrote that one of the dogs had let go of the lion's head, which gave it the freedom to turn on him. But fortunately for Roosevelt, a dog grabbed hold of the lion's free paw. Roosevelt jammed the stock of his gun into the cougar's mouth to effectively protect himself, then killed the cougar with his knife. He later showed the gun to J. A. McGuire, editor of *Outdoor Life*. McGuire described the gun as having "four or five teeth imprints in the stock, large enough to place a pea in."

A few days later, both Stewart and Webb each killed a cougar. Then, while chasing a bobcat, the dogs managed to find another cougar's trail. The hunters were unaware of the change in prey until it was too late. The mountain lion sought refuge in a hole, only to have the dogs follow it in. A vicious fight began and one of the dogs was killed. (Another died from its wounds shortly after the party returned to the ranch.) The hunters tried to smoke the lion out with a sagebrush fire, but the lion preferred smothering in the hole rather than facing the hunters. As Roosevelt wrote in his 1905 book, *Outdoor Pastimes of an American Hunter*,

"we returned to the ranch carrying its skin, but not over-pleased, and the pack much worse for wear." Webb used his medical experience to sew up the surviving dogs' wounds.

Shortly after this unpleasant experience, business forced Webb and Stewart to return to Colorado Springs. Roosevelt was having too much fun to leave just then, so he decided to remain a few more days, allowing Goff and Roosevelt to become closer friends. "We were entering on that well known epoch on a hunting trip, when a hunter forms an opinion of his fellow-man . . . that is lasting," Goff wrote. "In my case it need not be said that my feelings toward Colonel Roosevelt grew warmer each day, until at the hour of his departure, I felt I was separating from some dear friend."

Roosevelt's trust of Goff also grew, as illustrated by an adventure following Webb and Stewart's departure. The dogs led the hunters to two cougars, a female and a male. The female quickly treed, but the dogs ignored her and continued to chase the male. The pack chased the male to the edge of a cliff. When the hunters arrived, he had made his way along the cliff face. Roosevelt described the cliff as being "about a hundred feet high and the top overhung the bottom, while from above the ground sloped down to the brink at a rather steep angle, so that we had to be cautious about our footing."

Roosevelt managed to get off one shot, wounding the lion and driving it farther under the overhang. By clutching onto a large rock that projected over the edge, Roosevelt could peer down and make out the cougar's form. "Thanks to the steepness of the incline," Roosevelt complained, "I could not let go of the rock with my left hand, because I should have rolled over." There was only one option left: Roosevelt suggested that Goff brace his own feet against the rock, grab Roosevelt's ankles, and lower him slowly over the ridge, where he could get off a shot. "And for once in my life my heart stood still for a while," Goff later wrote, "so completely thunderstruck was I at the nerve of the man." Down the incline he lowered Roosevelt, who shot the cougar directly between the eyes. The dead lion fell off the cliff to the bottom, where the dogs awaited. On the following day, the hunters chased down and killed the female lion.

The hunters moved on after killing the pair of lions, relocating to two other ranches in the following days. When they returned to the Keystone Ranch, they carried three more cougar skins. During the remaining days of the hunt, Roosevelt killed four more mountain lions. The last gave him quite a fight after it was shot, but the future president stabbed the lion with his knife while Goff clubbed it with a stick. This was no small feat on Roosevelt's part, considering that the lion weighed 227 pounds and measured eight feet in length. The lion held first place in the Boone and Crockett record books until a tie resulted in 1954. Today it is tied with three others for sixth rank.

Many of the secondary accounts of Roosevelt's 1901 hunt



focus solely on the continual killing of mountain lions, which overshadowed Roosevelt's skills as a naturalist. In October and November, *Scribner's* printed Roosevelt's own two-part account of the hunt. He dedicated the first installment to the natural history and behavior of the mountain lion, in the process dispelling widely held myths about cougars. Roosevelt took the time during his hunt to record scientific data: Every mountain lion shot on the trip was carefully measured in length, weighed, and its stomach contents recorded. Roosevelt donated the specimens acquired on the hunt, along with his detailed information regarding each, to the U.S. Biological Survey. In a letter to Roosevelt, Clinton Hart Merriam, chief of the survey, described the collection as "the largest, most complete, and most valuable series ever brought together from any single locality." The specimens, he added, would be "of inestimable value in determining the amount of individual variation."

Despite the vice president's contribution to the understanding of cougars, the press preferred to portray him as the great hunter. In fact, reporters accredited many adventures to Roosevelt that never occurred. The January 16 *New York Times* described one such adventure in which Roosevelt barely escaped a grizzly. The story made the front page. But the author appears to have forgotten that in the middle of winter, bears hibernate. In another front-page *Times* story, Roosevelt was supposedly treed by a pack of wolves. The article described him sitting in the tree for four hours while shooting down at the wolves with his revolver. When the other hunters arrived, six of the imaginary wolves were dead. This tall tale got back to Roosevelt, who was greatly upset that such rubbish was being printed about him. He was further angered when he received a letter from an admirer asking for a tooth from one of the wolves, but he eventually saw some humor in the letter.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1901.

**COL. ROOSEVELT IN DANGER.** VEN  
 Falls While Fleeing from a Wounded Bear, but His Companions Kill the Brute. Two  
*Special to The New York Times.*

**MEEKER, Col., Jan. 15.**—An unlucky stumble all but placed Col. Roosevelt within the grasp of a Rocky Mountain grizzly yesterday, but the coolness of the New Yorker and the persistency of his companions' fire served to win for them another trophy. After slaying the lion Saturday morning the party proceeded to the Keystone Ranch. Monday morning saw them in the saddle and ready for the first onslaught on Coyote Basin. Dr. Webb rode into Meeker to-day and detailed the second adventure.

"It was still quite early in the morning when we entered the basin," said he. "Goff assured us that we would stand an excellent chance at that time if bears were around. We had hardly ridden a quarter of a mile when Goff called our attention to a huge brute lumbering unsteadily up Miniature Canon to one side. We dashed up the rocks, dismounted, and resumed our pursuit on foot. Hastily the Colonel took a shot. The bear but moved faster. Roosevelt was wild with enthusiasm, and despite the guide's warnings, dashed ahead of us all.

"The bear had now almost reached the head of the canon and there was no escape except by scaling the cliff. Roosevelt's last shot stung him, and rearing on his hind legs and snarling fiercely, he started toward 'Teddy.' 'Run, Colonel!' yelled Goff, for the bear was mad and his twelve hundred odd pounds were fairly quivering with rage. Roosevelt took another shot, but the bear was now under full swing and coming with speed.

"One more shot, and then Roosevelt turned to flee, but to our horror he stumbled and fell sprawling. I took careful aim and fired, but still he came; Goff ran forward and shot, and Roosevelt scrambled to his feet with the brute 15 feet away. He coolly turned and fired again and stopped the animal. A fusillade from all followed, and with a last stagger toward us the game old animal lay down and died."

**ABSCONDER STOLE \$250,000.**

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1901.

**COL. ROOSEVELT WAS TREATED.** QUE  
 Attacked by a Number of Gray Wolves and Remained a Prisoner for Four Hours.  
*Special to The New York Times.*

**MEEKER, Col., Jan. 18.**—Col. Roosevelt was treed by gray wolves last night and kept a prisoner for four hours. He started alone late in the afternoon to shoot coyotes, but did not find anything till in the dusk he saw the shaggy form of a gray wolf 300 yards distant and outlined against the sky. It was too dark for accurate aim, but the bullet sent the beast limping and yelling over the brow of the hill. The tracks showed that one of the animal's legs had been broken by the shot.

The Colonel followed, without thought of danger until he noticed that the yelping of the wounded animal was answered by others. These gray wolves are twice as large as coyotes, and dangerous when in numbers.

Col. Roosevelt started for home, but had lost his direction, and in the darkness had difficulty in following his own tracks. Darkness made effective shooting impossible, and the country soon seemed alive with wolves.

In climbing the tree Col. Roosevelt lost his cartridge belt. His companions, who had become alarmed by his absence, found him when it was nearly midnight. Under the tree were a half dozen wolves he had killed with his revolvers. The others were soon scattered by the dogs.

**BIG FEDERAL STEEL DEAL?**  
 Reported to Have Bought Nearly All

Fanciful tales of Roosevelt's 1901 hunt appeared in the *New York Times* editions of January 16 and 19.



After leaving Meeker, Roosevelt was interviewed in Colorado Springs and decried the incompetent reporting of his hunt, noting that most of the stories were willful fabrications. He could not know that this was just the beginning of an unfavorable mix between newspaper reporting and his hunting trips.

On September 14, 1901, Roosevelt assumed the presidency after a Republican turned anarchist assassinated William McKinley. With Roosevelt's rise in celebrity, the newspapers' bothersome reports and the numbers of irritating spectators would only increase during future hunts.

Roosevelt's first presidential bear hunt took place in Mississippi. After the hunt failed, he complained to his former cougar-hunting companion, Philip Stewart:

There were plenty of bears, and if I had gone alone or with one companion I would have gotten one or two. But my kind hosts, with the best of intentions, insisted upon turning the affair into a cross between a hunt and a picnic . . . and I never got a shot. Naturally the comic press jumped at the failure and have done a good deal of laughing over it.

The president also noted that newspaper correspondents invaded the hunting camp. "It was literally only by the use of guards armed with shotguns that I prevented the yellow journal men from coming along too." ♦♦

Undeterred by the Mississippi trip, Roosevelt began planning for another bear hunt, but this time he wanted to be better prepared. He asked Stewart to look into the areas around Meeker that would be suitable for bear hunting. He also wanted to be certain of success. Although the hunt was for bear, Roosevelt told Stewart, "I should not say anything about the bears. I should simply say that we were going for mountain lions, because with Johnny Goff's pack we are certain to get a mountain lion." Roosevelt concluded his letter by noting,

If I were in private life it would never enter my head to try and get such information, and especially to endeavor to make sure that I could kill mountain lions or have a chance at bear. But the bitter experience with newspapermen, and

♦♦ Although Roosevelt did not kill a bear during his Mississippi hunt, a cartoon of the president refusing to shoot a captive bear gained great national attention. The cartoon bear launched a new name for toy bears: the teddy bear.



The Rocky Mountain News on January 28, 1901, ran this page-one cartoon caricaturing Roosevelt's growing reputation as a western sportsman.

with the extreme difficulty of doing anything alone, now that I am President, and the knowledge of the way the amiable nonhunting public looks at failure to get game no matter from what cause, all join to make me feel that I would like what our southern friends call "sure enough" information before I am able definitely to make up my mind.

Stewart began to plan for the president's bear hunt with great secrecy. Judging from a letter Goff wrote to Stewart, even the guide did not know his client's identity until later. Goff told Stewart that the area around Rangely, Colorado, would be a suitable locale.

Problems in Congress ended any hopes for the Colorado bear hunt, but Roosevelt continued planning for another hunting trip with Goff. He again wrote Stewart, describing his plans and asking that an enclosed letter be sent to Goff. He now proposed a cougar hunt in Yellowstone National Park for the spring of 1903. At that time, the army, which

controlled the park, was attempting to thin out the mountain lion population. Roosevelt proposed sending Goff and his pack of dogs up to Yellowstone, where they would be under the employment of park superintendent Major John A. Pitcher. Roosevelt wrote Goff:

I do not know whether this can be done at government expense, but if there was a chance of my getting off on a hunt with you in that neighborhood I would gladly pay the expenses of you and the dogs up to the Park . . . Of course if you do go, don't say a word about me to anyone, but simply state that you are going to the Park to serve under the superintendent in killing out the mountain lions.

In a postscript Roosevelt added, "Of course in the Yellowstone Park it would [be] an unpardonable sin to run deer, elk, or sheep, so you must only take dogs that are absolutely trained and would follow nothing but the varmints."

As it worked out, this hunt would also fail to materialize. A letter to Major Pitcher from Roosevelt on February 18, 1903, indicated the possibility of bad publicity emerging from any presidential hunt in Yellowstone, where officials forbade hunting by the general public. Roosevelt told Pitcher that the secretary of war, Elihu Root, was afraid that a false impression would get out if anything were killed in Yellowstone. The president told Pitcher he would only tour the park itself and then travel outside the park boundary for his hunting. Roosevelt eventually came to the realization that his new scheme of hunting near Yellowstone would not work, and on March 4 he wrote Goff to cancel his services. In place of Goff, Roosevelt asked John Burroughs, a famed naturalist and non-hunter, to accompany him on his tour through Yellowstone. Burroughs accepted the president's invitation, and both men enjoyed several days exploring the park without hunting. The only animal Roosevelt killed was a small mouse that he thought might have been a new species. Burroughs fretted over the newspaper coverage of the event, fearing that a

reporter would misspell *mouse* as *moose* and thus cause a public clamor over the president hunting in Yellowstone National Park.

Roosevelt soon started planning another hunt with Goff. In October 1903, Goff was sent on the president's behalf to examine the prospects around Cody, Wyoming. The town of Cody erupted into a frenzy of excitement, but that hunt did not materialize either. Once again, Roosevelt refused to give up, and the following year Goff received another letter from the president confirming a spring hunt. Roosevelt emphasized that he truly wanted to shoot a bear and again discussed the Yellowstone area as a possibility. Expressing concern over the success of the hunt and the upcoming presidential election, Roosevelt told Goff: "If I come up as President . . . we must be dead sure that there is no slip up and that I get the game." Roosevelt noted that the public should be told that he was going to hunt mountain lions, not bears; he knew Goff could secure a cougar, and if the president shot a bear, the story would astonish Roosevelt's admiring public with the surprise of an additional trophy.

To be sure he would get a bear, Roosevelt asked Stewart if Goff was the right man for bear hunting and, if not, who would be better. When the president received a letter from Goff describing the hunting area in Wyoming and praising the bear-hunting abilities of his pack, Roosevelt wrote to



A. H. FUNKE, 83 CHAMBERS ST, NEW YORK.

**JOHN B. GOFF, Meeker, Colo.**

## GUIDE

for Yellowstone Park or any part of Wyoming. I expect to locate as soon as possible in Northwestern Wyoming.

SPECIALTY—LION AND LYNX HUNTING.

BEST PACK OF BEAR AND LION DOGS IN AMERICA.

CAN HANDLE PARTIES IN OPEN SEASON FOR ELK, ANTELOPE, SHEEP AND DEER.



Hunting guide John Goff (whose ad in *Outdoor Life* is shown here, along with a letter of his to hunting companion Philip Stewart of Colorado Springs) was sent by Roosevelt to Yellowstone to "thin out" the cougar population in the summer of 1905. He spent a year working in Yellowstone before moving to Cody, Wyoming.

my Wyoming although we had hunting with York. Jake Brock Mr. Thompson, of the same camp - oh! eleven out legs with other regard to your had better bags - It is a long way to haul stuff and such beds would be less bulky and more comfortable for you. The more I inquire about the country I was talking to you about; The more favorably impressed I am with it; and I think we will have a good hunt there. I think I can get a feed in from White River a distance of about forty miles. I think I can get a mattress and sleeping

Stewart inquiring about the prospect of hunting with Goff plus another pack to better ensure success. There was also mention of having three different hunts arranged. Roosevelt reminded his personal physician and guest, Alexander Lambert: "This sounds selfish, but you know the kind of talk there will be in the newspapers about such a hunt, and if I go it must be a success, and the success must come to me. . . . The hunt must be mine."

After much discussion, the president opted for one hunt near New Castle, Colorado. But he would hunt with two packs of dogs: John Goff's and those of Jake Borah, a guide from the Glenwood Springs area.

The Colorado bear hunt began on April 15, 1905, when President Roosevelt and his guests, Philip Stewart and Dr. Alexander Lambert, arrived in New Castle by train. For the duration of the hunt the president's personal secretary, William Loeb, set up a temporary seat of government at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs, twelve miles east of New Castle. When Roosevelt's train arrived in New Castle at 8 o'clock in the morning, Goff and Borah were waiting with a horse ready for him to ride to camp. The hunters' preparedness was for naught, as Roosevelt had to await the delivery of the 11 o'clock mail. Shortly after the mail arrived, the party proceeded south eighteen miles to the camp. Roosevelt did what he could to lower the public's great expectations of the hunt: "Before starting," reported the *New York Times*, "the President announced that he was not going to struggle hand to hand with a grizzly bear or strangle any mountain lions with bare hands. He said he would feel satisfied if he got one bear during the whole hunt."

Once in camp, the president enjoyed an elaborate dinner prepared by the camp cook, Jack Fry. The tent in which the meal was served contained a stove, folding camp chairs, and a table. In his *Outdoor Pastimes* book, Roosevelt described it as having "luxuries utterly unknown to my former camping trips." The first meal consisted of chicken pot pie, stewed tomatoes, mashed potatoes, hot biscuits, creamed corn, canned peaches, and a pumpkin pie. Goff later claimed that the president boasted the meal was better than any he had ever been served in the White House. Clearly this was not to be a run-of-the-mill hunt; the guides treated Roosevelt as American royalty.

On April 17, Roosevelt shot his first bear on the hunt, the event Charles Russell depicted in his watercolor, *In the Mountains*. The dogs had chased the bear for nearly an hour and forty-five minutes, bringing it to bay on a big rock. Borah told an assistant guide to chase the bear down toward the president so he would not have to ride up the rocky terrain—a strategy that hardly seemed necessary for a man who had shot a mountain lion while dangling from a cliff only four years earlier. The bear did not cooperate with the hunters at first, but the dogs eventually chased him to a position where Roosevelt could get a shot. The president's

first shot hit the bear in the thigh, causing him to roll down a hill. The dogs pursued the bear, and the ensuing fight ended with Roosevelt's second shot.

For the next few days the hunters saw no more bears, so they decided to move the camp. Roosevelt killed two bears from the new camp. He later described his last two kills as much less challenging than the first: "With neither of these last two bear had there been any call for prowess; my part was merely to kill the bear dead at the first shot, for the sake of the pack. But the days were very enjoyable, nevertheless." For the few remaining days of the hunt, Roosevelt spent most of his time in camp due to bad weather and a case of Cuban fever. On April 27, Secretary Loeb told the *Rocky Mountain News* that the hunt would end a week earlier than planned due to pressing business in Washington. On May 6, the president returned to Glenwood Springs. The next day he treated his hunting guides to an extraordinary meal at the Hotel Colorado. Following the dinner, he boarded his train and began his journey back to the White House.

Despite Roosevelt's planning, he was unable to prevent some of the problems that began with his earlier hunts. Spectators, so few on his cougar hunt, were plentiful on this bear hunt. One day, Roosevelt wrote, twenty young cowboys from surrounding ranches joined the party to "see the President shoot a bear." But the extra men proved useful when they rode through the snowdrifts ahead of him. The barrage of horses trampled the snow, providing Roosevelt with a nicely packed trail through the drifts. Still, the extra company resulted in much scrutiny of Roosevelt on his "vacation."

### BAN ON BEAR HUNT PICTURES.

Girl Rode Into President's Party—Order to Destroy Negatives.

Special to The New York Times.

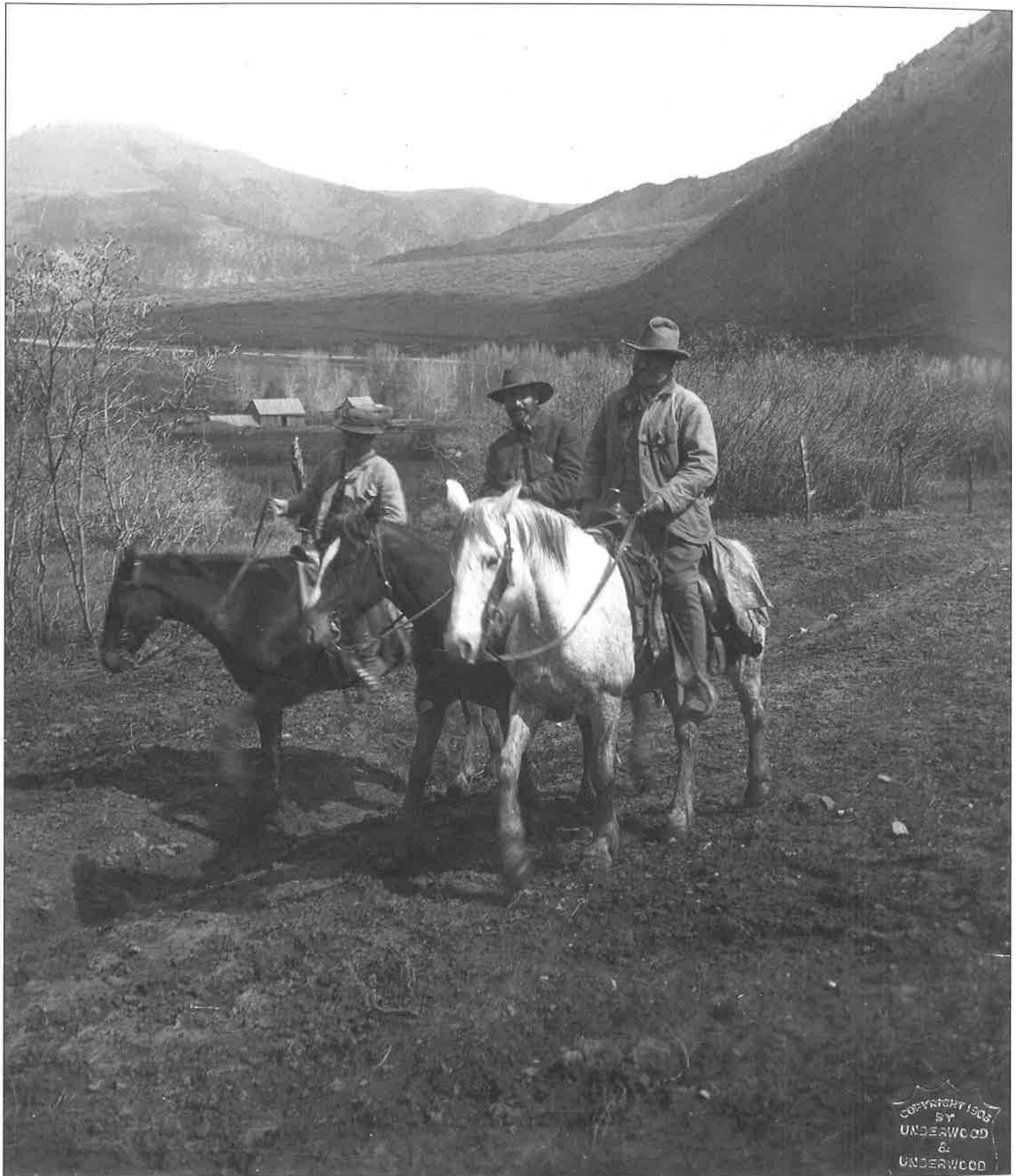
DENVER, June 14.—Because a Colorado woman in cowgirl costume rode close behind the President and his party when they reached Glenwood Springs on their return from the bear hunt and faced a battery of cameras, the Government has ordered that hundreds of snapshots then taken be destroyed. The pictures were made by residents of Glenwood Springs, and one was a moving picture. The young woman had joined the party as it neared the Springs.

The reason for the order restraining the photographers from using the pictures was that she wore a tan riding habit, the skirt of which lacked many inches of touching the ground; a cocked hat, a bandana handkerchief about her neck and sleeves rolled up. She rode astride.

When she heard of the plans to photograph the Presidential party she drove out with a New York correspondent to meet them, left the carriage, mounted another correspondent's horse and rode in between the President and Secretary Loeb as the cameras got busy.

The New York Times reported on a woman's attempts to have her photo taken beside Roosevelt as he rode into Glenwood Springs, with a resulting government order to destroy the many such pictures and even film footage taken of the president.





*From left to right: Philip Stewart, Alexander Lambert, and President Roosevelt, 1905.*

One spectator proved even more bothersome during Roosevelt's return ride to Glenwood Springs. A young woman attempted to have her picture taken while riding alongside the president. The *New York Times* tastefully described her appearance: "She wore a tan riding habit, the skirt of which lacked many inches of touching the ground; a cocked hat, a bandana handkerchief about her neck and sleeves rolled up. She rode astride." After hearing of Roosevelt's ride into town, she had borrowed a horse and approached close behind him while the cameras busily photographed the scene. Roosevelt was completely unaware of her presence. Due to her improper attire, "the government" ordered that the photos be destroyed along with the negatives.

Newspaper reports, which had infuriated the president during his cougar hunt and his Mississippi bear hunt, once again plagued him. In Colorado Springs, before leaving on

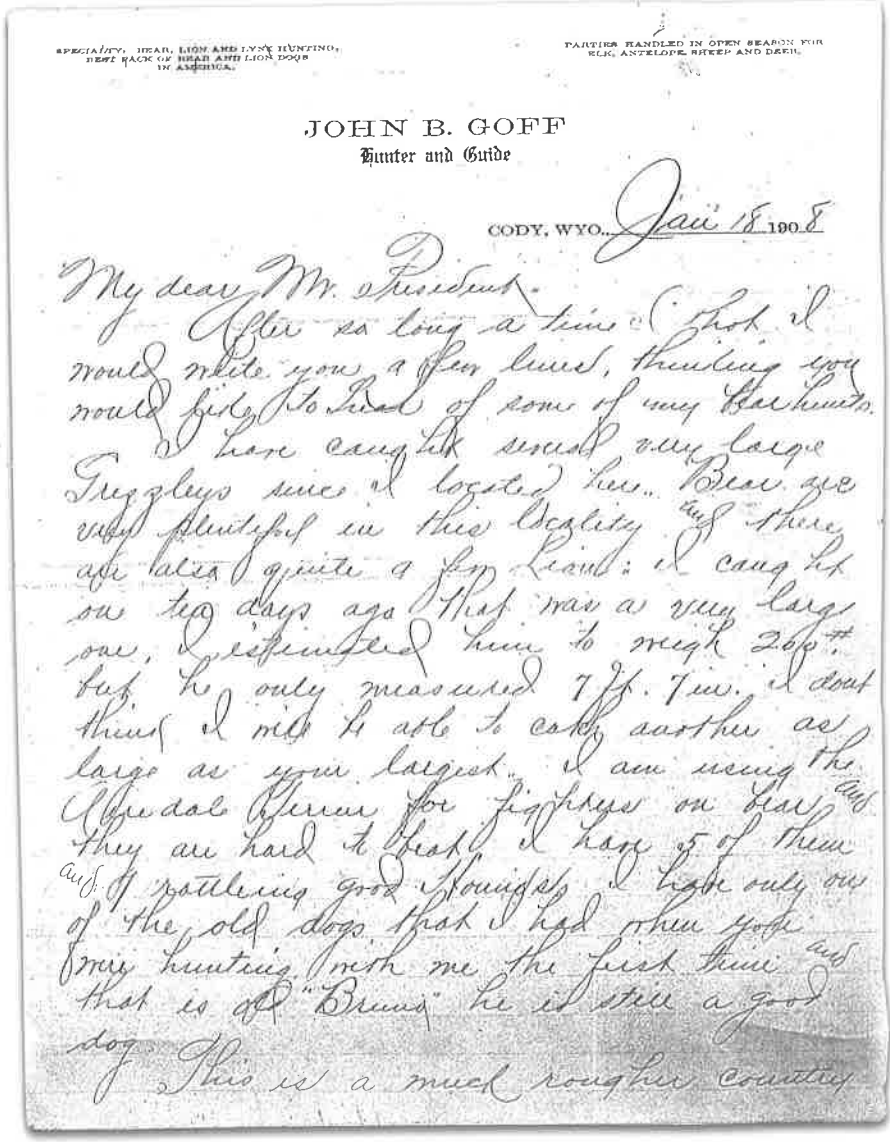
his hunt, Roosevelt made an appeal to the press and the people of Colorado that he be left alone. "If a lot of newspapermen start to come in after me," he claimed, "I will have to come home: that is all there is to it." The president went on to say that if anything newsworthy should happen he would send the information to the papers. But this did not prevent reporters from making up their own stories. On April 16, the *Times* reported that the president had killed his first bear shortly after leaving New Castle. The paper did not resort to adventuresome anecdotes, but it was still incorrect in saying this was Roosevelt's first kill.

The papers also printed stories that were far from flattering to the president. Roosevelt had come down with his case of Cuban fever shortly after killing his third bear. He wrote to his daughter Alice that the fever "bothered me very little, simply keeping me in camp for a few days." He added, "I would not have minded it in the least if it had not been that I was afraid the newspapers would make a hullabaloo over it. . . . It is a big chance for a President to go hunting, simply because there are so many newspapers of such an infernal quality, and I am mighty lucky to have gotten through this hunt so well." Still, the *Rocky Mountain News* reported Roosevelt's Cuban fever as a front-page story.

Given the intensity of the press coverage, Roosevelt was fortunate that some of his Cuban fever outbreaks went unreported. During one spell, Secretary Loeb found the president disoriented by high fever and wandering barefoot in the snow, holding onto Skip, one of Goff's dogs. Loeb helped the ailing president back to bed and brought Dr. Lambert in to treat him. Goff and the others never suspected a thing. The newspapers received no word of the president's midnight wanderings, and the public never knew until Loeb recounted the story to a reporter in 1929.

Another interruption came when Roosevelt had to address the emerging crisis in Morocco, where France and Germany neared war due to conflicting imperial aims. Roosevelt also needed to address the peace negotiations between Russia and Japan. On April 20, he wrote to William Taft, who was

John Goff continued his correspondence with Roosevelt for years after the president's trips to Colorado. In this letter dated January 18, 1908, Goff includes updates on his best hunting dogs.





Theodore Roosevelt, near Meeker in 1905, sits astride the white horse he seems to have favored while hunting in Colorado.

“keeping the lid on” in Washington, with his instructions on the matters. The same day he wrote to German ambassador Hermann Speck von Sternberg in regard to the Moroccan conflict, noting in his letter that the foreign crisis “made me wish I was not off on a hunt.” He was forced to cut his vacation short by a week.

The days when Roosevelt could escape with a long, relaxing hunt had come to an end. In a letter to Stewart, he summed up his accomplishments during the 1905 hunt in Colorado:

I have now killed three bear, and I have not the slightest anxiety to kill another, for I do not think I am in physical trim to get a grizzly by fair hard riding, and our first bear was really the only one where I had to show any skill or merit—and that of the most trivial nature.

Yet the American public still viewed the hunt as a great success for their Cowboy President, despite his frustration at being the center of their attention during his favorite pastime. Roosevelt’s physical appearance, of course, contributed to his rough-and-ready image. In a letter to his son Kermit he wrote: “I am in splendid condition now. My face and my hands are so roughened by wind and sun and snow that I look rather comic in a frock coat and top hat.”

In hopes of recapturing the wilderness adventures of his youth, Roosevelt later traveled as far as Africa and South America to find one last frontier where he could escape the pressure of publicity and enjoy the kind of hunting experience that was reminiscent of his days in the Dakota Badlands.

#### For Further Reading

Roosevelt’s accounts of the 1901 and 1905 hunts are in his *Outdoor Pastimes of an American Hunter*, which has been reprinted by Stackpole Books. John Goff wrote about both hunts for *Outdoor Life* (April 1901, July 1905). Roosevelt’s correspondence regarding the hunts can be found in the eight-volume *The Letters of Theodore Roosevelt*, edited by Elting Morison (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1951–54). More letters between Roosevelt, Goff, and other participants are in the microfilmed collection of Roosevelt’s papers, available at the Library of Congress. His letters to his children describing both hunts can be found in *A Bully Father: Theodore Roosevelt’s Letters to His Children* (New York: Random House, 1995). The Colorado Historical Society has published two articles about Roosevelt in *The Colorado Magazine*: Agnes Wright Spring, “Theodore Roosevelt in Colorado” (October 1958) and Charles J. Bayard, “Theodore Roosevelt and Colorado Politics: The Roosevelt-Stewart Alliance” (fall 1965).

For more on Roosevelt’s early life, see *Theodore Roosevelt: The Making of a Conservationist* by Paul Russell Cutright (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1985), *Mornings on Horseback* by David McCullough (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1981), and *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* by Edmund Morris (New York: Modern Library, 2001). In regard to Roosevelt’s hunting, see Paul Schullery’s *American Bears: Selections from the Writings of Theodore Roosevelt* (Boulder: Roberts Rinehart, 1997) and Schullery’s *The Bear Hunter’s Century: Profiles from the Golden Age of Bear Hunting* (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1988).

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