

No 41

Indian Legend of Dorn Point 11/17/1953

Indian Legend of Dorn Point

Should the reader

On a very narrow strip of land on the east side of Big Valley, between Dorns Point or Hill and the junction of Kelsey and Colo Creeks, is the site of a well used Indian village. This was one of the principal camps and the main fishing grounds of the Li-leek tribe. It was called Na-dano, the same name as the hill.

One eighth mile south of this Indian village is the remains of another, but less used camp. At this latter site may still be seen the remains of a few house pits where their tule huts stood, also the evidence of a ground oven or two on the excavated side of the road, a large acorn mortar hole in a fair sized boulder and a very large boulder used for a rubbing or grinding rock. This camp was abandoned about seventy five years ago.

Going up the grade on the present Soda Bay road as it leaves Big Valley the roadway goes thru a cut in a large rock formation which we call Devils Gate. An old narrow Indian trail from Big Valley to locations on the lake to the east went thru this site. This rock formation was the home of Rock, a legendary Indian with great power, described further in this article.

The extreme eastern shore of Dorns Hill is composed of very large, rough rocks with the contour of the land being very steep. For about one fourth mile along the shore at this point there is a continual flow of gas bubbles and mineral water from waters edge extending a few yards out in the lake. Altho mixed with Clear Lake the volume of mineral water is sufficient that it has discolored the rocks of the shoreline at this site to a brick red.

When Clear Lake is at the four foot level there is one boulder which forms the most easterly projection of Dorn Point or Hill. It is red and is called Blood Rock. The Indian name was "de-ta-pacc", meaning place to spear perch; a place of interest to them as told in the

legend following.

Our local Indian legends were generally based on the impossible but it was their method of answering all questions of which they had little knowledge. Legendary power of individuals to change from human to animals or birds, to inanimate things or to an individual with God-like powers and then back again is sometimes confusing.

Following is an Indian legend pertaining to Devils Gate and Blood Rock which is printed as told by a fine old Indian to the writer only a few years ago. Nothing has been added nor has anything been deleted:

"Rock was an Indian and a devil with a lot of power and his home was at Devils Gate on the grade going up Dorns Hill from Big Valley. He lived with two girls. His main object was to get passerbys, especially young men, to enter into some form of contest, such as racing or testing each others bows for strength. Because of his superior powers he always won. Sometimes visitors had no bows or could not enter into a contest. In any circumstance it always wound up by Rock turning the visitors over to the two girls. These two girls were like Rock, only lived to kill people. They wore at all times rock diapers that could not be removed. As they made love to the men visitors they would play around the neck of the men with their hands. Their finger nails were hard and sharp like stone. They would finally get their fingers just right and tear out the throats of the victims. Their bodies were then taken to ^{ta-paco} de-tappaco (Blood Rock), thrown into the lake from this rock and then eaten by a large perch. One time a victim had a friend that decided that he would get rid of his fish so he got some other friends together and went after the fish. The fish came to the top of the water when the men came to this certain rock and they speared him. They dragged it out and killed him on this large rock. The blood from the fish caused the rock to be forever red. This also broke the power of the girls and no more victims were claimed.

Graysquirrels grandfather was Coyote, a god, and both lived on the coast. Coyote lived in a solid rock wall. The opening solid and only opened by special power. Graysquirrel came over to Lake County and brought his bow along. It had been made out of ash from the coast; it was especially good. He knew about Rock and had prepared himself ahead by consulting with Coyote. When he got to Rock's at Devils Gate, Rock was waiting for him and promptly asked to test bows with Graysquirrel. With confidence Rock took up the others bow and bent it back. Three times he bent it back but did not try to break it. The fourth time he bent it back and tried to break it but couldn't. Rock complimented Graysquirrel on the quality of the bow, then in turn Graysquirrel tested Rock's bow. The third time it broke. This so angered Rock he tried to catch and kill Graysquirrel. Graysquirrel ran up a tree and by jumping from tree to tree started for his home on the coast and at the same time Rock changed himself into a large round boulder and rolled after Graysquirrel, trying to get him. Graysquirrel would holler "Cum Cum" as he jumped and Rock would say "I'll Cum Cum you". It took one day to get to the coast. Here Graysquirrel ran up a lone tree, it was the last one and the largest. Rock had knocked down every other tree but when he hit this one he only bounced back like a ball. Graysquirrel hollered "Cum Cum" and Rock again said "I'll Cum Cum you". Rock laid still, figuring Graysquirrel would finally have to come down. After a time, during the night, Rock commenced to snore. Graysquirrel came down, jumped up and down on Rock, who kept on snoring, to be sure he would not wake. Graysquirrel then went to his grandfathers house, an opening appeared in the solid rock wall, and he went inside. He told Coyote his troubles and asked what to do next. Coyote gave him a special bow and arrow and said that if Graysquirrel looked closely he would find near the underside of ~~the~~ Rock the forms of hands, feet, etc. Rocks heart was in his foot, to look for the correct foot, shoot

the arrow into it, then come quickly back into Coyote's house. Graysquirrel done as he was told. He noticed a light or fire in one of Rock's feet and decided that was the one that had the heart in it. He took careful aim, shot the arrow into Rock's foot and then went into the solid rock home of his grandfathers. At first Rock moved a little but did not get up nor move off. After Graysquirrel was safely in Coyote's home there was a terrific explosion and Rock blew to pieces. From these loose pieces came all the loose boulders of the world."

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INDIAN LEGEND ABOUT GAS HILL

Miscellaneous Legends

3/27/1933

Koyote, the God, had his home and lived on the Gas Hill, which is on the east end of Main Street, Kelseyville. His two grandsons, Large Bullet Hawk and Small Bullet Hawk, both lived with him together with their sister Quail. They had lived there a long time.

One time the two grandsons spoke to Koyote and stated that they had seen but little and but few living things. Pointing toward the east they voiced a desire to go there to become more learned.

Koyote was lying by the fire and did not then answer. He rolled over and into the fire which nearly scorched him, but this was the custom before he was to speak on more than ordinary things. The two grandsons quickly pulled him out.

He told them that if they went they both might not come back but if anything happened to them he would know about it. They decided to go and spent four days in preparation.

On the morning of the fourth day as it became time for them to start Koyote told them that when they came almost to the place where the sun comes up that they would come upon the home of "Gee Luck", a large bird whose one idea was to kill anyone that came there. In their direction of travel they could not miss him. In the house of Gee Luck were housed many or all of the bad animals and birds such as rattle snakes, bears, etc. He gave them instructions what to do when they met up with Gee Luck. He also gave them two canes.

They traveled four days and came to the home of Gee Luck. There was a small bird on the top of the house who gave a sound to warn the owner of the strangers approach. Gee Luck pressed down on the bird until he chirped in fright. Gee Luck told him that if he lied he would be squashed to death.

As the two grandsons came up to the house ^{of} Gee Luck he met them and told them how glad he was to see young people and for them to come in, to eat, and they would play games and have a good time.

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Both of the grandsons then advanced to the doorway, and doing as Coyote had told them, they stuck a cane apiece just inside the house. Immediately all the bad animals, birds and snakes attacked the canes. Impressed by the power of the canes all these things were killed. Because of the power of the canes all these things were killed. Gee Luck was quite put out and wanted to know why they and others always tried to destroy his pets. Finally he invited them inside to eat mush and meat. The meat was the ground up flesh of his former victims and of snakes. The mush was the blood of these victims.

One grandson, Large Bullet Hawk, said he would not eat as he had come to gamble. For luck he was fasting which made it mandatory that he have no food. The other grandson, Small Bullet Hawk, ate but only as his grandfather had suggested. He took a hollow elderberry limb, he put the stick in his mouth, thru his stomach and on thru his body and into the ground.

Gee Luck gave them four bowls or baskets of food. Small Bullet Hawk took them and bored the contents down this stick which in turn ran straight into the ground.

As soon as Small Bullet Hawk was thru eating, Large Bullet Hawk suggested they start gambling. Gee Luck said to wait until his partner, Second Gee Luck, came. A great noise was heard up in the sky and Second Gee Luck came down and threw the chopped up remains of another victim down thru the smoke hole of the house and into a place built to receive them which was on the inside and back end of the house.

Second Gee Luck then came down into the house and he too expressed great delight in having visitors. It was then suggested that they gamble and Large Bullet Hawk said he would be the first to take position. This meant that he would get up on the house and stand at the edge of the smoke hole while the one below would shoot an arrow at him.

Gee Luck told Large Bullet Hawk that he wanted to sharpen his arrow before he shot, so he took his arrow and would keep sticking the point

into Large Bullet Hawk first one place and then another. After awhile he could see the heart beating and moving.

Large Bullet Hawk then went up on the house and took position, standing in the smoke hole. Gee Luck shot his arrow which went thru the heart of the victim who fell dead to the floor below.

Gee Luck then told Small Bullet Hawk that when young people came to visit him that that was the way he gambled. That the young person never got away. He then wanted to know what Small Bullet Hawk intended doing with the body. Gee Luck was told that as he had won the game it was for him to decide. The body was then chopped up and thrown into the pit where others victims had been thrown.

Gee Luck then asked Small Bullet Hawk if he wanted to gamble, but he said he had not come to gamble but was going home, that he would return later and gamble with Gee Luck and bring another young person with him.

Koyote was able to know what was going on all the time. He rolled over in the fire again but this time was pulled out by the sister, Quail. Small Bullet Hawk came back to his home on Gas Hill. He staid four days. Koyote said he would take another grandson, Kingfisher, along with both himself and Small Bullet Hawk. That they would get the bones of Large Bullet Hawk.

They traveled four days and the same thing happened except on invitation to enter Koyote threw in his cane. The animals, snakes, etc., attacked it and again were killed. Gee Luck again protested but invited them in the house to eat. Koyote said the two young people were here to gamble and that he would do all the eating.

Koyote used the hollow elderberry limb and in the same way as his former grandson the baskets of food were soon gotten rid of. Gee Luck protested such fast eating but Koyote said that as the other two were anxious to gamble that he was in a hurry.

As soon as Koyote was through eating, Kingfisher flew up to the

hole preparatory to being the first to take position in the gamb-
same. While Gee Luck was busy cleaning up after the meal and getting his
arrow ready, Kingfisher danced and sang at the smokehole and then he
far in the sky. Due to ^{his} shaking dance while in the sky there occurred a
earthquake. This was notice that Gee Luck was going to lose to King-
in a gambling game.

Gee Luck was so slow in his work that Kingfisher had time to make
flights in the air and return. On the return of the third flight Gee
went to touch him with his arrow when suddenly Kingfisher shook him-
and a shower of white glass fell from his white feathered breast and
falling like a blanket over Gee Luck it cut him in many places and caus-
him to bleed freely. Gee Luck protested that Kingfisher wanted to do
something great, something that no one else wanted to do. Kingfisher said
had done it to make Gee Luck sweat (bleed).

Koyote had already told Kingfisher to watch and as the arrow
Gee Luck left the bow for him to grab the arrow before it hit his body.

As soon as Gee Luck wiped away the glass and blood from his face
he fired an arrow at Kingfisher who in turn grabbed the arrow in mid air,
and thru it back to Gee Luck.

It was then Gee Lucks time to take position in the smoke hole.
He turn flew four times in the air but because he could not make as
strong an earthquake as Kingfisher all the living things knew that Gee Luck
would be killed. On the fourth return Gee Luck took position. Kingfisher
aim high as Koyote had told him and shot Gee Luck thru the heart. He had
tried to dodge but the wisdom of Koyote prevailed and that Gee Luck was no

Second Gee Luck was asked as to the disposition of the body but
he said he did not care. Gee Lucks body was cut to pieces and the remains
thrown in the pit.

Kingfisher then asked Second Gee Luck if he would gamble. He
said no. He was told that if he did not that he would not live. ^{Second} Gee Luck

then decided to gamble. Kingfisher then told Second Gee Luck to go up in the smoke hole and be the first to take position or be shot at. Second Gee Luck went up. He only danced at the smoke hole and did not fly up in the air. Koyote knew that Second Gee Luck would try to dodge so he told Kingfisher to aim high. He did, with the result that now both Gee Lucks were dead. His body was thrown in the pit after it was chopped up.

The little bird or wren that had acted as a lookout was then given Gee Lucks house, but only after the bones of Large Bullet Hawk had been removed, sacked up and made ready for the return to his old home at Gas Hill, Kelseyville.

The second day on the return trip Small Bullet Hawk asked Koyote if there were any other living things around. As was always the custom Koyote would not answer until asked four times. He then said it was best to forget it until he had returned home. Small Bullet Hawk kept after Koyote to see some other living things until finally Koyote told him to go to bed for the night and next morning if he heard sounds or talking to lie still. When the sun came up he could then get up, go outside and see what he could see.

After they had gone to bed Koyote took some sticks, broke them, and stuck the pieces endwise into the ground, in a circle like form. The next morning Small Bullet Hawk awoke and heard people talking. They were saying, "There are lots of fleas around here". After the sun rose then Small Bullet Hawk went outside and all these sticks were now people until their number equaled a large sized village.

Small Bullet Hawk wanted to stay with all these beings and make this his home but Koyote insisted that they return to their own home at Gas Hill with the bones of Large Bullet Hawk.

After the fourth day from Gee Lucks they arrived at their home at Gas Hill. Quail met them and was glad to see them but wanted to know where Large Bullet Hawk was. Koyote said he had been killed, that here were his bones but that she would see him alive again.

A big celebration was held for four days in which all creatures came and participated. The fourth day of this celebration, Meadowlark came in and said, "What makes it smell bad in here". Meantime Large Bullet Hawk had returned to life and was sitting alongside Small Bullet Hawk. When Meadowlark said what he did Large Bullet Hawk started to cry. Not knowing what was wrong Small Bullet Hawk asked Koyote four times what was wrong.

Koyote said that he was crying for what Meadowlark had said. That Large Bullet Hawk was going to leave in the form of a spirit and never come back.

The spirit of Large Bullet Hawk then left and Small Bullet Hawk, being lonely, told Koyote he was going to leave and roam around awhile. As the live Small Bullet Hawk started on his journey Koyote showed him a fork in the trail and told him to take the fork to the right. For him to keep going and Koyote would finally catch up with him. Small Bullet Hawk did this.

Koyote then went up the fork of the trail to the left and came upon the spirit of Large Bullet Hawk that was making his lonesomeway to parts further on. Four times Koyote went from Large Bullet Hawk to Small Bullet Hawk.

After the fourth trip Koyote went back to the fork in the trail and decided he would have to do something about the nuisance of trying to be with both the brothers at the same time and them being separated. He stood in the forks of the trail and threw his cane high in the air. When it came down it split Koyote in half. All power staid with each half. One half now went up the trail to Large Bullet Hawks spirit and the other half to be with Small Bullet Hawk,

On the fourth trip to Large Bullet Hawk Koyote came to a nice clean place to the right that had beautiful waterfalls, trees, flowers and was beautiful in general. To the left and down below was a dirty, evil smelling place where beings were quarreling and doing bad. People were suffering and burning. Here Koyote told the spirited Large Bullet Hawk that

he would always live in the beautiful clean place to the right because he had been good.

Koyote then went to Small Bullet Hawk and told him of the two places he had seen. And advised him to always be good and follow the right trail and he too would some day go where his brother was in the clean, beautiful land of waterfalls, flowers and good things.

The people and region around the Gas Hill at Kelseyville will always prosper and be tops in everything, fish, game, crops, games or anything as here ~~and~~ was the home of Koyote the Indian God.

It is wrong to interfere with anything to do with the Gas Hill itself for this is the home of Koyote and should not be disturbed.

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