



THE DAILY NEWS

FROM THE OLD HICKORY (FCF) CHAPTER
ON THE HORSE CREEK ALONG THE GREEN RIVER
THE TIME SCRAGGLY COYOTE FELL IN LOVE.
JAN. 1863



Scraggly Coyote was a strange name for a mountain man, but Scraggly was a strange man. Now most of us already know about Scraggly Coyote's problems: how he never took a shower or bath and how he never changed underwear and how he couldn't speak without sneezing and slobberin everywhere. BUT, we also know that Scraggly Coyote is the great, great, great, great grandfather of Billy Baptist. So here is the big question: how in the world did somebody with all those problems ever find a wife so Billy Baptist could have a great, great, great, great grandmother?!?!?! This is the story of how Scraggly Coyote came to find his wife.

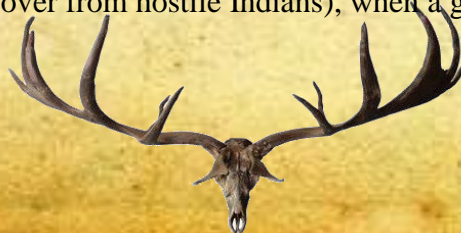
It all started one day when Scraggly Coyote was layin in a pile of dead, wet mules. Now don't ask me how Scraggly came to be laying in a pile of dead mules, or how the mules got wet. This is not something that Scraggly did every day. In fact, I think he only did it once. How he got to be in the pile of dead, wet mules is not important. Some folks that wuz at the 2004 PFWB District Pow-Wow sort of know how Scraggly ended up in that pile, but the story is complex. Just take my word for it, he wuz layin there in that pile of dead, wet mules. As Scraggly was laying in that pile of dead, wet mules, he had to shoot something that wuz a far off. Don't ask me what he wuz shooting at...it ain't important. The point is that he was taking a shot with his rifle.

In a sad twist of events, Scraggly leaned on one of them dead mules to get a good shot. Sadly, just as Scraggly put his weight on that dead mule, it pushed some gas out of the back end of that mule. It was sort of a green colored gas, but Scraggly was focused on his shot and didn't notice it. Of course, as soon as Scraggly pulled the trigger, that exploding gunpowder ignited that cloud of green gas and a REALLY BIG exploshun happened and blew up the mule and blew Scraggly

about 23 and a half feet in the air. **BOOOOOOOOM!!!!!!!**

Scraggly laid there for several months without knowin where he wuz. He was so beat up frum the exploshun that he couldn't move a single muscle. He was barely alive...about 3% alive (97% dead), but he was still alive. Just then, right at that moment, after layin months on the ground in the pile of dead, wet, exploded mules, a miracle happened. (at least you know how the mules got exploded even if you don't know how they got dead and wet)

OK, OK, I'll tell ya how the mules got dead and wet. Scraggly was creepin through a gulch with a pack of mules (using them for cover from hostile Indians), when a giant flash flood swept



Scraggly and all the mules down the gulch. The mules all got drowned, but Scraggly could hold his breath for a long time, so he made it OK.

Back to Scraggly. He was mostly dead (97% dead) when the miracle happened. A beautiful Indian woman found him. Now this wuz a very special Indian woman. She had some mental issues that came from being almost eaten by a buffalo when she wuz little. This woman talked and talked and talked and talked and never stopped talking to take a breath. Even while she was draggin Scraggly, who was mostly dead (97% dead), to her village, she never stopped talking. This was fine with Scraggly, since he was mostly dead and couldn't hear anything anyway.



This Indian woman fixed Scraggly right up. In fact, Scraggly fell in love with this beautiful Indian woman. Scraggly never liked to talk anyway, because all the sneezin and droolin embarrassed him a lot. Scraggly liked this woman because she never expected him to talk because she was always talkin. The woman, since she never stopped to take a breath, never realized that Scraggly smelled so bad because he never took a shower. It wuz a match made in heaven.

They could have gotten married right then and there and lived happily ever after....but noooooo. There had to be some sort of trouble, of course. This special Indian woman was the daughter of a



mighty Indian warrior. This warrior did NOT want Scraggly for a son-in-law. Scraggly had way too many problems to be in the family. The warrior considered killin Scraggly, but he knew his daughter would make his life miserable by griping at him until he died of Painful Ear Syndrome. (PES; a rare medical condition)

The mighty warrior had to figure out some way to get out of this situation, so he went and talked with all of the Indian elders at council. The elders knew his daughter and they knew Scraggly by reputation, so they understood the problem. The elders were smart. They were wise. They were clever. They had gotten out of worse situations before. They came up with the solution. The elders proposed that the warrior demand a VERY high price for his daughter. (This was common back in those days and even before those days: See, for example, some Old Testament (Bible) history.) Anyway, the elders proposed that the warrior come up with something absolutely impossible as the price for marriage. The elders knew that Scraggly was one of the world's greatest trappers and that he could come up with a lot of money (or beads, whatever) if he had to. That meant that it was not going to be easy to come up with something that Scraggly could not afford. The warrior thought and the elders thought and then they had the perfect idea! They would tell Scraggly that he must catch and skin AN ANIMAL THAT HAD NEVER BEEN CAUGHT BEFORE and present that skin to the warrior before Scraggly could get married. It wuz the perfuct plan.

When Scraggly heard what he had to do before he could get married, he wuz sad. Scraggly knew it wuzn't gonna be easy. Scraggly wuz smart and he knew what the warrior wuz trying to do, but he wuz determined to try real hard so he could at least have a chance to marry the love of his life, so he set about finding an animal that had never been caught before. He traveled high and low, to



the East and to the West, but everything had been trapped before. He did find a new mushroom and some really weird looking rocks, but they don't count because they aren't animals. Then, from an old Indian scout up north of Winnipeg, Scraggly heard the story that he had been waiting to hear:



It turns out that a mallard duck got lost one day and wound up in the deep, dark parts of Africa. That duck eventually made it back to the United States, but it accidentally picked up the egg of a VERY STRANGE fish. The egg was stuck on the duck's foot and fell off when the duck landed

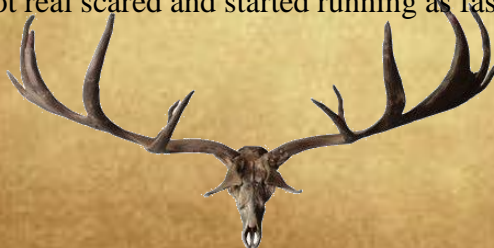
in the water back in the United States. The rumor was that the fish (the African Wamba-Wamba fish) was at least 15 feet long and lived up in a dark green lake north of South Dakota. It was the only fish like it, because the duck only brought back one egg. (You have got to have a girl AND his chance. He had to catch the fish, skin it, and give the fish skin to the old Indian warrior so he could get married. He knew that warrior had never seen an African Wamba-Wamba fish before. It was gonna be easy.

Scraggly soon found out that the African Wamba-Wamba fish, which normally grows in the Great, Green, Greasy, Gambeesee River of deep, dark Africa, could smell almost anything from miles away. This wuz trouble, because that meant that the fish would smell Scraggly comin from miles away, and would never bite Scraggly's fish hook. Scraggly wuz smart though, and knew a way to make soap that would erase ALL smell. The soap had two main ingredients, along with some minor ingredients like gunpowder and rat poison. The main two ingredients were (a) the fat from an opossum that had been specially treated (The opossum was fed a strict diet of rat poop for 6 months before the fat was collected.) and (b) tree bark from the giant garlic tree of Southwest North Idaho. (This tree is now extinct.) The two main ingredients had to be boiled together for 31 days, and then the other ingredients added. Anyway, this recipe makes the worlds most powerful soap.


After Scraggly made the world's most powerful soap, Scraggly did something that nobody could believe. He took a bath to wash all the smell off. He took the bath to kill the smell to catch the African Wamba-Wamba fish to get married. Simple, right? Wrong...not so simple. In a sad twist of events, that bath made Scraggly about 50% crazy. He was not completely crazy, but just 50% crazy. He could still go fishin since he was only 50% crazy. Probably the reason that he went 50% crazy was that he wasn't used to baths and because the soap was REALLY powerful. That soap dissolved all Scraggly's clothes and all his hair. He was completely naked. But there wuz NO SMELL AT ALL. All the smell wuz gone.

Scraggly sat down to go fishin. He didn't move a muscle. He didn't even breath, because the Wamba-Wamba fish is very sensitive and might see him. Sorry I cain't put pictures in, because remember that Scraggly didn't have any clothes, and he needs his privacy. Scraggly just sat there, waitin for the fish to bite. He waited and waited. Unfortunately, the old warrior had sent a friend of his to spy on Scraggly. The spy was watching. The spy decided to fire his rifle to make the Wamba-Wamba fish scared so that it would not come around and bite Scraggly's bait.


The spy fired his gun. **BOOOOOOOM !!!!!!!** The spy almost hit a big squirrel by accident, and that squirrel got real scared and started running as fast as he could run. In fact, nobody has ever seen




a squirrel run faster. It kept running faster and faster and faster. This will be important later. Anyway, this big noise aggravated Scraggly a bit because he was trying to be quiet, but he didn't move. Sadly, the gunshot made him a little more crazy (55 and one half percent crazy)

At that time, a sad thing happened. A big bear  came along and sat right next to Scraggly. Since Scraggly didn't have any smell, the bear thought Scraggly was just a funny shaped rock. The bear curled up right at Scraggly's feet and fell asleep. Sadly, this made Scraggly a little more crazy...72% crazy. Don't worry, he didn't do anything stupid. There wuz still 28% of his brain that was working right.



Sadly, right at that moment, a big rattlesnake  crawled right up on Scraggly's



shoulder and fell asleep. The snake,  like the bear, thought that Scraggly wuz just a funny rock. This drove Scraggly up to 84% crazy. Not completely crazy, though. Everything was still OK.

Sadly, that squirrel, who was still running faster and faster and faster, passed the sound barrier. Now when you (or a squirrel or whatever) pass the sound barrier, something called a sonic boom happens. It is really loud, pretty much just like a cannon shot. That's what happened...

BOOOOOOOM!!!!!!. This made Scraggly a little more crazy (92% crazy) but he was still doing OK because he still had 8% of his brain working right.

Now just then, sadly, there was a giant flappin noise up in the tree above Scraggly. Some birds had landed just above scraggly. Scraggly, even though he was one of the world's best trackers, could not tell what sort of birds they were. He figured they were something out of the normal, but he wuzn't gonna look up and see, because the Wamba-Wamba fish might see him look. Just then, one of the birds got the urge to go to the bathroom. Now the bird didn't realize Scraggly wuz there because Scraggly wasn't moving and because Scraggly didn't have any smell, so the bird can't be blamed for this. Anyway, a big bird dropping hit Scraggly just above the left eye. That droppin was BIG. Scraggly figured that droppin was at least from a 30 pound bird. Scraggly couldn't see out of his left eye because of the bird dropping, but he could still see out of his right eye. He decided to take a big chance and look up in the tree with his right eye. He knew the Wamba-Wamba fish might see him, but he had to see what sort of bird it wuz to keep from going any more crazy (HE wuz already 92% crazy). Anyway, just as Scraggly looked up with his right eye, a second bird got the urge to go to the bathroom. What Scraggly didn't know wuz that the first bird was just a baby bird. The second bird was the mama bird, and wieghed about 300 pounds. About one gallon of bird dropping hit Scraggly right smack in the right eye. This drove Scraggly 99.9 % crazy. He wuz not completely crazy, but he wuz almost completely crazy. There wuz still 5 or 6 brain cells that were hangin on and not crazy. This kept Scraggly from movin or doing anything stupid. Just then, the African Wamba-Wamba fish came up to the



surface to see what all the commotion wuz about. The part of Scraggly's brain that wuz not crazy got excited because he thought he might catch the fish.



Two of the birds above Scraggly that were eventually captured. The two men in the picture that captured them are very tough guys, and were freinds of Scraggly.

Sadly, right at that moment, a small bug landed on Scraggly's head. It wuz a small yellow and blue bug. It wuz attracted to the bird droppings. Sadly, this was all that Scraggly could take. He lost his 5 or 6 brain cells that weren't crazy, and went completely crazy. What Scraggly did then was not his fault. He wuz crazy so it ain't his fault. Right there, with the African Wamba-Wamba You might think this is impossible, but Sycamore, one of the guys in the FCF, has actually done this before. Just ask him. Anyway, Scraggly landed up in the tree, and the snake went flyin thorough the air all confused because he didn't understand why his warm rock jumped up in the air. The confused and frightened snake landed right on the bear and bit the bear right on the left ear. The bear, in great pain, roared and fell into the water right on top of the stunned Wamba-Wamba fish. The bear and the fish sank together, never to be seen again.

Scraggly, who landed in the tree, scared the baby bird and the mama bird, and the birds flew away. The mama bird wuz at least 15 feet tall, but that don't matter any more. Scraggly, regaining the use of some of his brain cells, became less than 100% crazy and realized he was up in a tree. Looking around, he spotted a raccoon that was frozen with amazement at the funny shaped rock that jumped up in the tree. (Scraggly still didn't have any smell...except for bird droppings, and he didn't have any hair, so he looked and smelled like a rock to all the animals.)



Anyway, sadly, as Scraggly sat there and looked at the raccoon, and as the raccoon sat there and looked at Scraggly, something really bad happened.



That squirrel, which was still running faster than the speed of sound, came up behind that raccoon real fast. Now normally that raccoon would have moved out of the way, but it was so distracted by Scraggly that it did not pay attention to what was coming up behind it. Stupid raccoon. Sure enough,



BOOOOOOOOOOM!

A big collision happened when that squirrel hit that raccoon faster than the speed of sound. It was amazing. It was the biggest boom of the day. A picture of the boom is shown below. Fur was flyin everywhere. The tree was split in half by the exploshun. Scraggly went flying through the air and landed in the bush where he was keepin his spare clothes. Scraggly got dressed and sat down in despair (that's really sad). As scraggly sat there looking at the tree split in half, the beautiful Indian woman found him. She had been following the spy who was following Scraggly and had scared the spy away. (The spy had heard of Painful Ear Syndrome (PES) and was afraid to talk with the Indian woman.) Anyway, the beautiful Indian woman and Scraggly felt real bad that Scraggly didn't catch the fish. But just then, a miracle happened, when the squirrel ran into the raccoon.

Laying not far from the tree that wuz split in half, the beautiful Indian woman saw an animal that had never been seen before. The animal was moving sort of funny, probably confused by the explosion. Scraggly grabbed the animal, skinned it on the spot, and presented the fur to the

mighty Indian warrior, who wuz amazed. The mighty warrior had never seen such a fur, and had no choice but to allow Scraggly to marry his daughter. Besides, Scraggly didn't smell so bad any more, so the warrior decided it wasn't such a bad thing after all. Scraggly and the beautiful Indian woman, who later became known as "Granny" (actual name lost to history, or lack thereof) got married that Winter, and that amazing fur has been passed down for many generations in Scraggly's family. Billy Baptist has it now. Don't ya just love a great love story?

Mountain Bear, as always, is responsible for any misspelluns and grammatical errors in this here story.

God be with you,

3Hats

