



THE DAILY NEWS

FROM THE OLD HICKORY (FCF) CHAPTER
ON THE HORSE CREEK ALONG THE GREEN RIVER
THE-GRIZZLY-A-43.2 POUND-RAT-AND-THE-OUTHOUSE, DEC. 1862

It all started when ol' Blisters wuz sittin around the campfire one year back in '61 just a talking real big about how tough them indian tribes up in the hills wuz. Blisters claimed that the "manhood ceremony" for those Indians wuz to sneak up on a hibernating bear in the Winter and cut off some of his tail fur. Now there wuz a not-so-smart mountain man sitting at the campfire with ol' Blisters by the name of Scraggly Coyote. Scraggly had a nasty habit of drooling a lot and sneezing a lot, spreading drool everywhere every time he sneezed. Scraggly also had a habit of never changing his underwear, but just putting on a new pair when his old ones rotted away. Anyway, Scraggly was NOT impressed by this Indian manhood ceremony and, right there on the spot, claimed that he could do the same thing any time. Blisters knowed right then that there wuz gonna be trouble. Sure enough, somebody pipes up and says "I bet ya cain't do that!". I think it was an old mountain man named Mountain Bear that piped up...he's always causin trouble like that. Anyways, sure enough, ol' Scraggly Coyote decides that he's gotta prove that he can do it. Now Scraggly wasn't very old and wasn't smart enough to live too long, but he wasn't totally stupid. He knew of a blind grizzly bear that lived up in a nearby cave and he figured that there wasn't no way a blind bear could catch him, even if he did wake up. Now what Scraggly didn't figure on was that it wuzn't winter time. Instead, it wuz the middle of summer and bears wake up pretty fast in the middle of summer. Not thinking about this (not thinking much about anything, come to think of it), ol' Scraggly Coyote set off to git sum bear fur from the tail of the blind grizzly. Now this ol grizzly had lost both eyes in a big fight with a two- ton moose. The grizzly weighted almost two tons, so he wuzn't nothin to be sneezin' at. Anyway, old Scraggly sneaked up on the Grizzly right smack in the middle of the night, and sure enough cut off a bit of tail fur. Just at that moment, in a most tragical, sad, and miserable event, a little bit of drool from Scraggly accidentally fell off and hit that ol' Grizzly right on the nose.



Right then and there, Scraggly knowed there wuz gonna be trouble. Sure enough, that grizzly woke right up. You could tell because one of the grizzly's eye sockets

popped open. Now there weren't no eyeball in there, but it wuz still scary. Of course, Scraggly, being not completely stupid, had a backup plan. He pulls out his .54 cal black powder pistol, puts it right to the bears head, and pulls the trigger. Now of course, killin the bear wuzn't supposed to be part of the Indian manhood ceremony, and Scraggly figured right away he wuz gonna get a lot of teasin from the other Mountain men about this here fiasco.



(A fiasco is something that is REAL messed up.) Anyway, before ol' Scraggly could even turn around, somethin even more horrible happened. That .54 caliber lead ball just bounced right off that bear's head and hit Scraggly right in the foot. OWWWWWWWWWW!!!! Now there wuz REEL trouble. Scraggly was limpin on one foot and there wuz a REALLY mad almost two-ton Grizzly bear after him. Now the good news wuz that the bear wuz blind. The bad news that sort of makes the good news worthless wuz that Scraggly was bleeding a little and the bear could smell the trail of blood. Scraggly wuz runnin' like a wild man. It looked like four chickens running everywhere all at once. He wuz runnin in loops and zig-zags and some patterns without any names to throw the bear off the trail. Finally, he made it away from the bear and wuz safe. Now that wuzn't a bad story, wuz it?

It's almost the end of the story, but not quite. Just then, as Scraggly had lost the bear from his trail, he came across an old outhouse. Now this wuz a VERY old outhouse. It hadn't been taken care of. It wuz like some Ranger Kids wuz using it with no supervision. There was brown stuff runnin out from under the bottom of the door, and all the trees for 50 feet around the outhouse wuz dead. Anyway, when Scraggly saw the outhouse, he sort of got the urge to use the outhouse.... You know how that goes. He was a bit nervous about going into such a bad looking outhouse, but, being a respectable mountain man, didn't want to just go out in the open. Ol' Scraggly opened the door on the outhouse and what do you think he found? Yep, you probably guessed it. There wuz a 43.2 pound rat sittin

right there on the toilet doing his business. Now ol' Scraggly had to use the outhouse, and that rat was in the way. He gave the rat the signal to move aside so he could go. The rat just gave ol'



Scraggly a mean look that meant "I ain't movin'...you find another outhouse." Right then and there, Scraggly reached for his tomahawk.

There wuz a big fight.. It wuz looking bad for Scraggly, because the rat wuz on top, but finally Scraggly got the rat on the bottom and whacked off his head with his hawk. Finally, Scraggly could take a seat and do his business. What a relief!!! Just as he sat down, a giant spider jumped right on his face. The spider was livin' in the outhouse and didn't like Scraggly fur some reason. Maybe the spider didn't like Scraggly's rotten underwear.



Anyway, just about the time that Scraggly smashed the spider with his tomahawk, the bear caught up with Scraggly. Being blind, the bear didn't realize that Scraggly wuz inside an outhouse and just ran right over the outhouse. That outhouse wuz old and got smashed to pieces by that almost two-ton grizzly. Outhouse parts wuz everywhere. Brown stuff from the outhouse wuz everywhere. Scraggly wuz buried in a pile of outhouse rubble with the smashed spider and the 43.2 pound rat without the head. The brown stuff wuz covering everything. It wuz not a real good situation to be in. The good news wuz that all them confusing smells (headless rat, smashed spider, lots of brown stuff) confused the bear so bad he couldn't figure out where Scraggly wuz. Scraggly just snuck right out of there and got away.

There is an important moral lesson in this hear story... If you want to mess with a grizzly bear, make sure you go to the bathroom first. I (3Hats) guarantee this to be truly a story because I heard this story from Mountain Bear, who is completely responsible fur any spelling problems and grammatical errors with this hear story. That's my story and I am sickn to it.

