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The Bear

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Michelle Fitzgerald
Layton, Utah
November 30, 2018

Title: The Bear

Genre: Legends- Human Condition- Legends about animals

Informant:

Michelle Fitzgerald is my mother. She was born and raised in Kaysville, Utah, as a member of the LDS church. She attended and graduated BYU, where she met my dad. She is a stay-at-home mom, and enjoys crafts of all kinds.

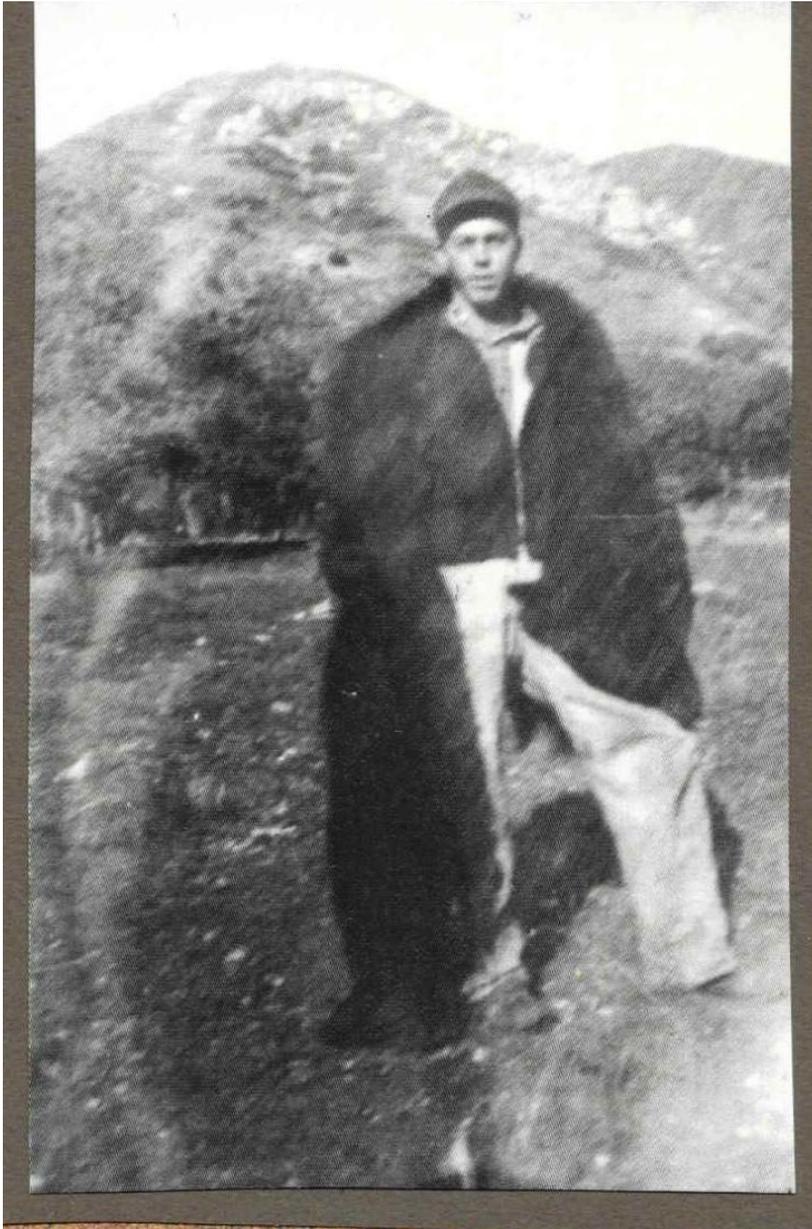
Context:

This story is lean on details, because Frank was not interested in non-objective descriptive terms.

Text:

"My father's family the Butler's were all great hunters. Probably out of necessity during the depression. My great grandfather broke his back in a mining accident and was never able to hold a full-time job after that. There is a family story documented by newspaper article of how he and my grandfather Frank shot a bear up Spanish Fork Canyon. Not only do I know this is a true story because of the article, but also because the decades later, while my husband and I were staying with my grandmother we found the carefully saved their skin. In a drawer with the bullet hole still visible but in less than prime condition- it smelled! After all it had been at least 50+ years."

The newspaper article and accompanying photo of Frank wrapped in the hide:



Deer Hunters Bag Bear And Cougar

Joseph Men Find two
Deer Killed by Predators
Near Mill Creek

Stories of deer hunting spiced with bear and cougar hunting were recounted by several hunters here this week.

Frank Butler, an employe at the Winget-Cook ice cream parlor, and his father, C. L. Butler of Springville, had the thrill of shooting a large brown bear in Hobble Creek canyon, above Springville.

The bear was estimated to weigh between 400 and 500 pounds. The men did not measure the pelt, but, pictured on one of them, it made a luxurious neck piece that reached to finger tip length on one side and draped onto the floor on the other.

Asked about the hunt the elder Mr. Butler said, "Well, it was the biggest thrill I ever had—of course we were on the safe side of the mountain."

Frank and his father were accompanied by Pierce Butler and three friends from Salt Lake.

Texture:

This story is presented with an air of humor- the corroborating evidence is emphasized, and there is a definite sense that without it everyone would assume it was a tall tale.

Brittany Fitzgerald

USU

English 2210

Professor McNeill

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