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I MEASURED THE FREE LAND cut

The U. S. General Land Office was the governmental agency
~~I joined the surveying forces of the U.S. General Land Office in~~
designated by law to to survey the public lands of the United States.
~~the early 1900's. They were engaged in dividing into townships and~~
And it was the surveying force of this organization I joined in 1905
~~sections the vast areas of public lands of the west.~~ This work
to work in Wyoming.
was largely in the remote and unsettled sections of the country. The
crews lived in tents and depended upon wagon and pack-horse trans-
portation for supplies and equipment.

I started in as an assistant on one of the field parties and
gradually worked up through the ranks to instrument man, party chief
and into more responsible positions.

With the exception of the three years 1908-1910 when I was on
canal and tunnel construction for irrigation companies, I was con-
tinuously employed at marking land boundaries for the next forty odd
years. Much of this time was spent in the mountainous sections of
Wyoming and Montana, which brought us in close contact with the bear,
wolves and other wild animals of the forest. Our camps were usually
established in the back country and as we tramped daily through the
thick brush and timber it was inevitable that we would have an occ-
asional encounter with some of these beasts.

Some of these mixups developed into real exciting times, such as
being charged and treed by grizzly bears, followed by timber wolves,
stalked by mountain lions and even having our path blocked by a ^{buffalo} ~~bull~~
^{bull} ~~buffalo~~. Some of the less dangerous, though quite annoying, incidents
rang^{ed} from numerous raids on the cook tent by bears, to having our
horses driven off by Indians.