

# The *Cougar Bob Review*

## Road Trip Up Lochsa River Renews Friendships

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*"We are wealthy in our Friends."  
-Cougar Bob.*

A fella's reaching his 81st Birthday is worth fanfare. Or at least a quick road trip up the Lochsa River.

On a multi-purpose journey in mid-August, Cougar Bob Campbell and Babe (a.k.a. BJ, Bet, Betty, or The Wife), motored to Lewiston, ID, on to Missoula, MT, via the Lochsa River Hwy, and back to Post Falls, ID. The Lochsa route held many memories for Bob. As engineer tech with the Bureau of Public Roads (BPR) in the 1950's, he and the crew retraced the original 1939 survey for paving. Every creek on the River prompted another Lochsa story from Bob for Babe to write.

Book signings also marked the trip--in Lewiston and Missoula. Buyers of the book Babe wrote about Cougar Bob want and got his signature on the book.


Another key feature, revisiting sites and friends from earlier days, gave a Birthday salute the Campbell's will treasure forever.



In Missoula, the Campbell's found Woody & Gracie Bentham. As local key fans of the Lolo, MT, softball team with many Lochsa BPR players in the 1950's, they hollered. They yelled, rooted and cheered the home team to the championship. cont. page 2

## Cougar Bob Bags Tasty Five-Point Buck



Bob, at Bonners Ferry, ID, shows the Whitetail deer he took on the Sweet Ranch. It required his one quick running shot through the heart with his 30.06. Then came lots of friend-like help with deer dress-out from the Sweets. 

## Jackson Snags 170-pounder in Selway River




Dale Jackson knows how to fish. "He's a fishing fanatic, more like it," says Bob. about his boss on the Bureau of Public Roads Lochsa River highway survey.

On this day, as the men fished together, Jackson hooked a whopper of a steelhead and fought him up near the bank. Just when he had the fish almost whipped, Jackson bellowed, "Campbell, get in there and pull that fish out!"

As Bob wrestled the 25 lb fish in the water, the in-jaw hook snagged his hand. Deep. Wouldn't come out. "Jackson had the fish and me on a tight line," Bob remembers, "and he wasn't giving any slack. Even when the steelhead and I were on the bank, he reeled in both of us."

Bob clung to the fish with his torn hand, while Jackson forced the hook on through it. He cut the hook barb with his side-cutting pliers and pulled out the hook to free Bob.

"You can still see the rip in my hand." Bob points to a 3" scar on the heel of his left thumb, as to a trophy--the one that didn't get away. 

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Long time no see--possibly thirty years. Don Campbell, right, visits with his cousin Cougar Bob Campbell & B.J. at their Missoula Hastings book signing. Cousin Colin & Kathy Campbell and other clan members & friends also stopped by to cheer on the book author and hero. The reunited relatives talked fast in an effort to catch up on Campbell family news. Kathy brought her repository of Campbell history to share.



Rona Meske and Cougar Bob swap yarns during *Close Calls* book signing at Black Sheep Sporting Goods. While in Lewiston area, Campbell's also visited with Tammie Loe, and with BPR friends, Earl & Lucille Pepper. ☉



Jesse and Bonnie Mask, from across the Washington border, on recent visit to Campbell's in Post Falls, brought stories. They reminisced on Jesse's & his father, Slim's, hunting adventures with Bob on the Lochsa, & near Sandpoint, ID.

## No Time For Shooting

On Gold Mountain near Homestead Gulch, Slim Mask and Jesse, his young teen, planned to chase a deer out to their neighbor, Bob Campbell, on a runaway.

"Sure enough," Bob remembers, "a little forked horn buck came pounding up the hill on the trail. He ran right by me." Not wanting to lose track of the deer, he laid his rifle down on a stump and ran after him.

Right away, the buck saw that it couldn't outrun Bob uphill, turned and confronted him. Bob stopped and faced the deer as it charged, head down.

"He was out to get me," says Bob. "I pulled out my hunting knife, bulldogged the deer by the antlers and cut his throat."

Jesse and Slim arrived a little later and asked him why he didn't shoot that buck.

Explained Bob, "I didn't have time!" ☉



## CLOSE CALLS e-book Released

**CLOSE CALLS:**  
*The True Tales of Cougar Bob*  
by B.J. Campbell

is available now in electronic format from Powell's Books, Portland, OR

<http://www.powells.com/biblio?isbn=978-1-936178-60-5>

PDF pages, acquired from the source, accommodate photos and graphics. Readable on Computer, Tablet/iPad.

Approx. price: \$6.50.

Paperback book on hand at Gray Dog Press, [www.graydogpress.com](http://www.graydogpress.com)

and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

or your favorite local bookstore.  
\$14.95.

AudioBook is in work.

*May your new year  
be memorable  
in all the best ways!  
by Cougar Bob*

**We have this hope  
as an anchor for the soul,  
firm and secure.**

Hebrews 6:19