

melted snow rushed down in the mountain streams, a big flood overflowed the river. The pile of driftwood near Raccoon's camp dammed up the water and made the river overflow.

The great flood of water knocked down the stone trees. When the floodwater left, the stone trees were buried underneath sand and soil and rocks. Many animals were buried with them.

The trees and the bones of the animals still lie where Coyote sent the flood. Trees are buried in rock. Deer, raccoons, cougars, and many animals not seen in our country today lie buried there in the clay.

## LEGENDS OF STEAMBOAT ROCK

*Steamboat Rock, 800 feet high and 2½ miles long, stands in the dry channel, the dry coulee, of the Columbia River in central Washington. Its layers of basalt look like the decks of a huge steamboat. Geologists think that thousands of years ago, when the river ran through a channel now called the Grand Coulee, Steamboat Rock stood between two tremendous waterfalls, each of them 800 feet high and 2 miles wide.*

*The first of the following stories, obviously of recent origin, is a revised old tale, was related by Peter Noyes, a Colville. The others were pieced together from fragments remembered by several people living together.*

In the days of the animal people, the Columbia River used to flow through the Grand Coulee. Coyote had a big steamboat then. One summer he came up from the coast in his boat, bringing many plants for the people here needed for food.

When he got up the river to where the Grand Coulee is now, something—I forget what—made him very angry. He left his big boat in the river and went over to the place where Coulee Dam is now. There he struck a high rock with his stone hammer, and split it. The water rushed through the opening, and the river turned north. So Coyote caused the river to leave its old channel and flow through its present one.

His boat was left in the dry channel. Jack Rabbit sat watching from the coulee wall, and laughed at Coyote. So Coyote turned him into stone. You can see him sitting there today, at the left of Steamboat Rock when you go there from here.

The plants Coyote brought with him still grow on Steamboat Rock—currants and wild onions, kouse and other roots.

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