

FOLLOWING OLD TRAILS

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Following Old Trails by Arthur L. Stone

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ARTHUR L. STONE

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OLD TRAILS**

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BY

ARTHUR L. STONE

EDITOR, THE MISSOULIAN

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS



MISSOULA, MONTANA
MORTON JOHN ELROD

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PRESS OF
MISSOURIAN
PUBLISHING
COMPANY

MISSOURIAN
PUBLISHING

ST. LOUIS, MO.
1917

TO THE MONTANA PIONEERS

The men and women who blazed these trails—the finest type, I believe, of the western state-builders — this book is respectfully dedicated by

THE AUTHOR.

NEW YORK
THE CENTURY COMPANY
1917

THE
LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The plan of printing *Following Old Trails* in book form originated at a social gathering, when several persons suggested that the stories that had been running each Sunday in *The Missoulian* for almost a year were too valuable to be left in the files of a newspaper, and should be printed in some form that would make them accessible to the general reader, and place them permanently in libraries. So many volunteered to help in the cause that a letter was prepared and sent out to such persons as might be interested, asking for help. The response was ready and prompt. It seemed that many were of one mind, namely, that these historical descriptions of men, places and events should be saved and grouped together. In a short time it was seen that the public wanted the book, and the plan was perfected.

It would be unwise to select from the long list of advance subscribers the names of persons who have rendered help. Each contributed what he could afford. To all these kind friends most sincere appreciation is given.

Due credit for the illustrations is given with each. The *Daily Missoulian* has very kindly loaned several cuts of persons mentioned in the stories. Mr. E. S. Paxson, our talented home artist, has drawn special illustrations for the book. Photographs of two of his large paintings which were made for the Missoula county court house have been used, these paintings having been photographed by R. H. McKay.

I am glad to have been of service in placing these historical facts in this form. It has been a pleasure to assist the author, whose genial fellowship makes his friendship most valuable, as well as to do something for the community and the state.

MORTON J. ELROD,

University of Montana, November 22, 1913.

FOREWORD

The stories which make up this little book were written originally for *The Missoulian* and for a year constituted a feature of the Sunday edition. The suggestion that they be collected in permanent form came from friends who, I fear, have over-estimated their value. When it came to arranging these journeys over old Montana trails for book form, I realized more than ever that they bear evidence of the haste in which most of them were prepared. All were written under the high pressure of a daily-newspaper office and with no thought that they would ever be called back out of the old files. That they do appear, finally, in this volume is the result of the insistence of some of the friends who read them in newspaper form and had neglected to preserve those which pleased them. It has seemed best, therefore, to present them in the order of their newspaper appearance. This will account for what may seem like a failure to make a systematic arrangement of the stories. Some of these tales have been printed before in other form; some of them, as far as I know, were never in type until they appeared in *The Missoulian*. In consenting to their publication, I have not been unaware of their unworthiness as book material, but I have let them go in the hope that their publication may prove an incentive to the preservation, by abler pens than mine, of some of the intimate details and the personal side of the life of the men and women who, in Montana, hewed a magnificent commonwealth out of a wilderness. Every community has tales like these. They must be preserved soon or they will be lost forever. For the Montana pioneer, to whom this work is dedicated, is rapidly following that old trail over the Great Divide—the trail which leads but one way.

—A. L. S.

Missoula, Dec. 1, 1913.