

Stories of Black wolves still remembered by resident

By JOSEPH OATES, JR.

Many years ago my mother Lilly Mark Oates was living on the Koyukuk River in Alaska and had a lot of exciting experiences with wolves which led her to dislike them the rest of her life.

During the cold winter days the wolves would come around and frighten the people that they would leave their guns on the ground and climb up the trees and stay there until the wolves went away.

These wolves were black and grey. The black wolves were the meanest of all the species of wolves. The wolves cannot stand the smell of human beings so is told by the Indians.

My mother had twelve dogs tied up in the yard and when the wolves came she untied them and put them in her porch so the wolves would not get to them and kill them.

The snow was so high these wolves would climb onto the roof of the cabin and run back and forth on the roof. She had to lock my brother Tim and sister Rose in a big old fashion trunk. She took a hammer and broke up the kitchen table and nailed the boards to the windows. Then she took some old clothing and tied them to a stick, then she made a hole in the log cabin and light the rags and poked the stick out through the hole. The wolves would smell the burning of the old clothing and run away. These wolves would kill you if they ever got hold of you. People say wolves do not attack you but my mother always said wolves attacked people.

My mother told me this story for many years. Do you see any reason why we should protect the wolves?