



*When I Was A Kid*

watercolor on paper, 1905, courtesy F.G. Renner Collection

## CHARLIE'S EARLY DAYS

This painting depicts Russell and Hoover on the old Indian trail which drops off Indian Hill into the South Fork of the Judith. Another interpretation places this as Hoover's shortcut over Kelly Peak, used to avoid the toll gate on the road to the Yogo mines. Jake Hoover supplied fresh meat to the miners and local ranchers.

Russell described the South Fork:

*"Shut off from the outside world, it was hunter's paradise, bounded by walls of mountains and containing miles of grassy open spaces, more green and beautiful than any man-made parks. These parks and mountains behind them swarmed with deer, elk, mountain sheep and bear, besides beaver and other fur-bearing animals. The creeks were alive with trout. Nature had surely done her best and no king of the old time could have claimed a more beautiful or bountiful domain."\**

\*(Charles M. Russell, *A Slice of Charlie Russell's Early Life*, The Roundup, 1918, p. 48-50.)

