



Bear

bronze 3/7 cast by Roman Bronze Works, Inc. 5x7x3-3/4, no date,
courtesy C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, Montana

A GRIZZLY ENCOUNTER...

Hank Winters and his partner Bed-Rock Jim were prospecting in the Big Snowy Mountains when their camp was raided by a bear. Winters decided he would have the bear's hide and the following morning started to trail the animal. Hank tells the story:

“I plunge into the brush looking for trouble and it ain't long till I find it. I hear a roar like all hells turned loose an that bear's on me before I can bat an eye. I fire one shot but I'm so rattled he goes wild. Before I can throw in another cartridge, he knocks the gun loose from my hand and his claws tear my right sleeve from the shoulder down, cutting my arm plumb to the bone. Just as everything is turning black, I hear Bed Rocks winchester an the way he throws lead shows he ain't no stranger to a gun. When I come to, I ain't got rags enough on to pad a crutch.”*

*(Frederic G. Renner, *Charles M. Russell*, Abradale Press, 1974, p. 234.)

