When the Buffalo Were First Seen Passing Through the Bitterroot

by Eneas Pierre

It was a long long time ago when my father’s grandparents saw a cloud of dust. They thought it might be another tribe on a war party coming toward them.
Two scouts were sent out to see what it was. When they returned they said, "No, they're animals. There are lots of them. We don't know how many thousands there are."
The buffalo came and went through where Missoula is now. They went down the Bitterroot Valley then east over Skalkaho Pass.
People killed some of the buffalo. They found them to be good to eat.
They hunted buffalo every year after that. It was like they were chasing after the buffalo. They would kill all they needed until their parfleches were filled. The women would let the men know when they had enough. After that they would move back from the plains where they hunted buffalo.