



## *Chapter III*

### DECEMBER, 1889: LOWER ELVIA

The first week of December was a busy one for the Press Exploring Expedition. On December 4 the men moved their provisions — which included tents, covers, and canvas sheets — to Edmond S. Meany's ranch,<sup>1</sup> where it would be easier to assemble and pack the stores with some degree of organization. Christie secured additional supplies, such as ammunition, rubber boots, oilskin, blankets, and fishing tackle — the last item Christie considered a necessity in order that he could enjoy his favorite sport.

Christie spent that evening briefing Captain Barnes on the work and plans of the expedition. Then, on Thursday, December 5, the men assembled at the ranch to pack the supplies, and Christie completed purchase of the stores, wired St. Paul, Minnesota, for snowshoes, and tried unsuccessfully to find some dogs. That afternoon the expedition members posed for a group portrait. (See p. 29.)

Thus, by December 7, 1889, all the necessary arrangements had been completed, and everything stood in readiness. At the last minute a gentleman advised the group "to pack nothing but pemmican and a liberal sprinkling of flour," but this suggestion was ignored. Then during the last interview with Bailey, Frazier, and

<sup>1</sup>The ranch — which had a single dwelling plus a workshop or woodshed — consisted of about one acre of land on Ninth Avenue N.E. and Tenth Avenue N.E. (now Roosevelt Way), midway between Fortieth and Forty-first. This location — near the northern terminus of the University Bridge today — was a long way from the center of Seattle in 1890.