

January 17, 1957

Indian

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Willie Turtle, Cheyenne Indian, called today and told stories he heard recently from his old mother, Exie (?) Little Calf.

He asked her who killed Custer, but at first she did not tell him. Finally, she agreed since all the parties were dead. She said, "It was not a Cheyenne. It was not an Arapaho. It was not a Sioux. It was a captive of the Cheyennes, Yellow Nose, a Ute. Before the Custer fight, he had a fight with the soldiers and was wounded, shot in the chest. He had five wounds. He was a small man, but powerful, a medicine man. When he was wounded and the Indians went to care for him, he said 'Keep away, don't touch me, I will take care of myself.' He laid his hand on the earth and put earth on his wounds, on his face and on his back, and healed himself.

At the Custer fight, he told the Cheyennes 'Wait, I will circle four times toward the enemy. If they do not kill me, the fourth time you must all charge.' So he circled toward the enemy. The first time he made a small circle at a distance, the second time a larger circle still at some distance, the third time he almost touched General Custer, and the fourth time he struck and killed Custer. Then all the Cheyennes charged. After that, there was no shooting, but clubbing and killing with blows.

After the Custer fight, a Cheyenne chief put on General Custer's uniform and the other warriors dressed in the uniforms of his staff and soldiers, mounted cavalry horses, heading for the place where the women and children had run to to hide from the troops. They were frightened when they saw these men in blue uniforms coming until they saw that it was their own warriors in the blue coats. After seeing them, nobody wished to fight with the Cheyenne."