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Chief Crazy Horse's Haircut

Last month Korczak Ziolkowski, a Boston-born sculptor, set off a first blast on Thunderbolt Mountain in South Dakota's Black Hills. This marked the start of Mr. Ziolkowski's project to create, in the manner of the near-by Mount Rushmore memorial, a colossal commemoration of Chief Crazy Horse, a Sioux tactician who led his winning warriors at the fatal and famous battle of the Little Big Horn. It was Chief Standing Horse of the Sioux tribe who suggested the memorial idea to Mr. Ziolkowski several years back.

The completed carving, which is to be 500 feet long and 400 feet wide, is to show Chief Crazy Horse riding into battle, with arm upraised and hair streaming in the wind. This streamlined style of hairdo in which it is proposed to externalize and eternalize Crazy Horse is arousing sharp criticism from local students of Indian history. Warriors of the Da-ko-tah tribes, they say, never went to battle or anywhere else with their hair so negligently dressed. They braided it or plaited it, and a real chief, who knew his stuff, added some narrow strips of tanned otter skin to his Black Hills barber shop job.

Mr. Ziolkowski, with model all made, is reported as defying his critics. He has bought his own Black Hill and he means to go ahead blasting, drilling and chiselling out a Chief Crazy Horse who will appear down the ages in wind-blown ferocity, sans braids, plaits or even bear grease. No Sioux residents of Custer, S. D., says Mr. Ziolkowski, have filed any tribal objections and he intends to have his hero's hair streaming vivaciously across a good bit of Thunderbolt Mountain. At that time, of course, it will be too late to make any change in Chief Crazy Horse's granitic haircut.