

CRAZY HORSE (Ta Sunka Witko)

Crazy Horse was one of the most famous of the Sioux chiefs and an outstanding warrior, a member of the Oglala Sioux. He distinguished himself early and soon made such a reputation that when the Sioux decided to attack Fort Phil Kearney in Wyoming, which was guarding the Bozeman Trail to Montana, Crazy Horse was chosen to lead the Oglala detachment. In the party were other Sioux tribes, and a large number of Cheyennes. They laid an ambush for the troops on the Little Piney. When the soldiers had marched into the trap, they rushed them from all sides and within forty minutes destroyed Colonel Fetterman's whole command on what is now called Massacre Hill. This was one of the most dramatic disasters on the frontier, as the little fort was scantily garrisoned.

Having been so successful in the winter of '66, the Sioux attacked again the following summer. This time their ambush failed, but they waged a three-hour fight against a party of 20-odd white men, soldiers and woodcutters, who had taken refuge in a corral made of wagon boxes set on the ground. This Wagon Box Fight, as it is called, was a draw, and when the relief party approached, Crazy Horse called off his Oglala and the other Sioux and Cheyennes departed with them.

~~Between~~ Between his fights with white men, Crazy Horse fought many battles with Indian enemies. He was not very big and was rather quiet, but had a great reputation as a fighter and a patriot. When Custer explored the Black Hills, the sacred mountains of the Sioux, and told the world of the gold deposits there, white men swarmed in and occupied the Hills. This brought on the forced sale of the Hills by the tame reservation Indians and caused hostility among the wild bands. When they were ordered to the agency, they would not come in, and troops were sent to round them up. Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull were the leaders of the wild bands.

Crazy Horse was a leader of the battle of the Rosebud, when the Sioux and Cheyennes defeated General Crook, and when Custer attacked their camp on the Little