you make in THE OLD SANTA FE TRAIL (which I am just now reading with extreme interest) that the scalps of the victims of Sand Creek were exhibited in Denver between the acts of a theatrical performance, but nowhere have I been able to find the actual account of this matter. It is not included in the testimony taken before the Military Investigating Committee, unless it comes in the last three pages of that report, which are missing from the document in the Library of Congress--where they make one read it under lock and key. I doubt if it is in those last three pages, however, as that part of the testimony is concerned with Chivington's affidavits and witnesses, and he would scarcely be likely to mention it.

Nor have I found the account of this incident in the "Rocky Mountain News--it is possible, however, that I missed it there, although I most carefully went over all the issues of the week in which the troops returned from Sand Creek and Chivington was so warmly welcomed. The News was completely prejudiced in the affair, and might have printed the item--again, even Byers might have gagged at that. And I admit that I have as yet been unable to read all the letters and articles written on Sand Creek, so it may have been published authentically in some other place.

Sand Creek is so hidden by the smoke of politics that it is almost impossible to find the truth behind the affair, and I am wondering if this matter of the scalps being displayed is a fact, or something told by someone who was on the side against Chivington. As I understand it, the Report of the Joint Special Committee was based on the testimony taken by the Military Investigating Committee--testimony which is embroidered with lies on both sides, but which, when all allowances are made for passion and prevarication, is still utterly damning to Chivington. But the tale of the scalps is not there--that is, of their being displayed in Denver at the theatre.

I am wondering if you are able to quote me chapter and verse for this incident. I have found no one in Colorado who can help me in the matter, for most of the people I have consulted haven't read as much as I have on it. The tale is simply accepted as truth; I want to know if it really happened.