

"Like the others, he was riding his laden pack-horse and leading his war-horse by the lariat. His saddle he had made himself; it had only one cinch. On his saddle he carried pemmican and a wooden cup, and a war-bag contained his dress clothes. He had a four-point Northwest blanket, redd as blood, strapped to the cantle. In his belt on the left side he carried his knife in a sheath, but had no whetstone. His weapons consisted of a quiver containing his bow and forty arrows, and a lance. His father had made the iron points of those arrows from a frying pan." p.54.

White Bull, who was a nephew of Sitting Bull, lived and hunted, until his removal to the reservation, over Montana, parts of Wyoming and North Dakota.

It might be that many of the steel points were made by traders and used in commerce with the tribes. This is a very common belief in this section. It might arise from the fact that steel and the Indian are not commonly associated. Charles W. Russell, in "Trails Flowed Under", at page 26, speaking of cliffs over which the Indian were supposed to run buffalo, has his characteristic remark:

"I seen one of these places near the Teton River, where there's three feet of buffalo bones, about a hundred yards long under this cliff. Them days, the squaws stripped the meat with their knives, leaving the bones. At this place the whites gather arrow heads to this day. Them they find are stone, telling that it happened a long time ago. There are layers of buffalo hair and wool that looks like felt."

"Such places were called by the Blackfeet, "piscum." These places weren't used much, I don't think, after they got the horse-- they didn't need them. With a good horse under him, a bow and arrow with steel or iron points that the white traders brought, it was easy for an Injun to get meat."

The reason that I would not concur whole-heartedly in this opinion would be that there is considerable evidence that at least a portion of the points were made by the Indians themselves, and in addition I do not believe that a white trader would have produced a point bearing the marks of long and arduous labor, that is the filed point, the serrated shank for hafting, the form outlined by a chisel. He would have turned out a tailor made product and if the demand had warranted would have cast the points in ten thousand lots. He would have traded with cheaper goods that would have produced a higher return, for instance, rum and sugar.

Stanley Vestal in "Kit Carson", speaking of Fremont's First Expedition in 1842, writes: