

Tom took advantage of every opportunity to make something of himself. When he joined the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show he worked and performed under the name of White Cloud, by which he is known to-day. Among his many accomplishments was that of an acrobat, performing many outstanding physical feats. His early training in this field of activity came when he was a student at Wyandotte Indian School. After traveling with the Buffalo Bill Show for several seasons he then went to work for the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch Wild West Show and traveled extensively adding to his experience in the entertainment world. Following several seasons with the Miller Brothers, he then went to Hollywood and immediately went to work in the movies. One of the many movies he appeared in was "The Flaming Frontier". Of the many personalities he has personally known in his time were Sitting Bull, Annie Oakley, Will Rogers, Bob Baker, Monte Blue, Tom Mix, William S. Hart, etc. Speaking of the Miller Brothers, Joe, Zack and George, their ranch and enterprise will probably never again be equaled.

This old Indian tells that when he was a boy most of his home country was prairie land and many cattle grazed there. Cattlemen would lease grazing rights for their herds. He remembers when there were no fences in that country. Baxter Springs, Kansas was the cattle market center and he has seen many herds of cattle driven across the country to the Kansas shipping point. He says he remembers seeing buffalo on the prairie west of his home reservation. He tells of seeing Indian hunters riding across the prairies of long ago on hunting expeditions dressed in the native garments. Some of those hunters he saw carried decorated gun scabbards, wore a feather in their hair, and rode ponies with Indian symbols painted on them. He never saw one riding a saddle, although some did ride on a blanket to cushion again a horse's sharp backbone.

Although a tired old man now, unable to see, it is admirable that a traditional spirit is still very much alive. He tells that in his few remaining years he would like to build an Indian Village, typical of those he knew long ago. Such ambitions may be just dreams, but many of them do become realities. He also tells that when he dies he wants to be buried on Lookout Mountain where Buffalo Bill is at rest, or with his people in the Ottawa Tribal Cemetery.

Of his tribe he says that there are less than 600 remaining, scattered across the United States. One band of Ottawas still live on an island in Michigan.

Among his many experiences has been his work on television western pictures. He tells that he worked on many TV pictures with Ward Bond on the "Wagon Train" series. He was on the company's location in Texas when Ward Bond died at Dallas.

In his time and travels he has known many Indians who have made a name for themselves. Some of these are Jim Thorpe, Robert Starr, Tiny Toebuck, Levi brothers, Louis Heltzer, Don Eagle, and many more. Many people of Indian ancestry have excelled in the arts and professions such as Ballard the composer, Chouteau and Tallonier the ballerinas, LaPiecne the historian, Stone the sculptor, Tiger, Vann, Hill, of only a few recognized painters, and many many more who have helped the advancement of the Indian. Tom Whistler has added his bit.

Tom tells that when Buffalo Bill was a scout for the Union Army, it was he who killed Yellowhand. To those who knew, the ghost of Yellowhand followed the man called Buffalo Bill until he died. Until the last page of history is written, the whiteman will never be able to write an acceptable justification as to why he ever invaded the Indian country to kill, steal, massacre, and exert all means to completely wipe out a race of people.