

SITTING BULL'S SKILL WITH BOW AND ARROW

By One Bull

When Hunkesni -- Slow, (pet name of Sitting Bull) was a boy about ten years old, his parents were living on the banks of Grand River, which was thickly wooded with tall cotton, elm and oak trees. Birds were numerous in the woods. It was spring and the boys would take their bows and arrows going to the woods, shooting birds, squirrels and rabbits.

An arrow maker offered to give a bow and some arrows to the boy who killed the bird with the prettiest plumage. Every body knew this arrow-maker -- Village Center, and admired his work. So the next day was set for the contest. All the contestants reported in person to the Arrow-maker, who instructed them that when they got their bird to produce them so that he would pass upon them. It was a gala spring day. The songs of birds seemed to sound better than ever before. Boys were seen going into the forests near the camp.

Hunkesni with several playmates, likewise registered by appearing in person to the arrow maker and soon disappeared in the woods. His ambition was to kill an oriole that looks like of ball of fire when flying from one tree top to another for this bird usually stays up the topmost part of the tallest trees and one of the hardest birds to kill with bow and arrow.

Hunkesni and companions reached the river bottom and proceeded to scout the forest for the bird with the prettiest plumage. Just as they reached the edge of the forest, they met two boys -- Red Bow and Black Bird shooting upward to the top of a tall cotton tree. The boy, Black Bird was a notorious bully in the camp. Hunkesni asked them what they were doing. Black Bird told Hunkesni that he was trying to shoot a very pretty bird which was perching on the highest branch and that his prize arrow, instead of alighting on the ground, fell on a limb of the tree and was still up in the tree. Black Bird offered to give one of his best arrows to the