

Cody's cousins, the Bennets here, are very close friends of mine, and it was thro them that I was first selected to write Cody's last message,, Miss Hazel Olive Bennet in particular, of Denver. I knew, and know, all about the inside Cody family history, and my sympathies are all for Cody himself--with all his pardonable faults--(those that many another great man has had also) and never with Mrs. Cody. She was an anvil about his neck all his life from a month after he married her. I have read his own letters about some of that, remember, written at the time, many years ago.

Johnnie Baker was not "Cody's adopted son", either legally or even in Cody's inclination, but was only Cody's protegee. After Cody's lips were silent, that term rather grew, but was not dwelt on before his death. I know Baker, too, good fellow, but miles from being the Cody kind, or in Cody's class. Cody was a great man, Baker was a faithful attendant. And you know what advertising is, especially as the financial power that ruined Cody himself owns the Pahaska Teepe, and the profits there of, and Baker is in charge. And Cody himself was a past master at advertising, fully Barnum's equal. The superb skill with which he herded royalty into his circus stage coach amply proves all that.

There was some question, once, over his height. Cody was over six feet. I stand 5-11½ myself, and when he rose, straight as an Indian, to shake hands with me the last time, he stood taller than I do, I remember. He told me himself that he did not have an Indian wound on him. And I doubt very much--twas most likely "That damn liar Nate ^{Bantline}" advertising years ago, if Cody ever took a scalp, not even Yellowhand's, which by the way, I understand was not the correct name for that Chief. As for the scalp, knife, and even the rifle, in the mesuem, I might say something--But I won't. Better let them ride as they are. Also, there are other things--you will pardon me, I know?--that I do not, and will not speak of, except within the Cody circle. This is enough for History, anyway, and use any or all of this for that purpose, if you find occasion.

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Cody need to say with a smile