

E. A. BRININSTOOL
BOX 1072, STATION C
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

November 9th, 1928.

Mr. W.S. Campbell
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Okla.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of the 3d, addressed to Col. Wheeler, has been referred to me to answer. Col. Wheeler has lived with me for the past six years or so, and I helped him prepare his book for publication--as I have done to many others, in addition to several of my own.

The Colonel never came in contact with Sitting Bull, but I can refer you to people who did and who can probably give you considerable information--if they will take the time to do it. You probably know how all these old-timers are when it comes to writing lengthy letters.

Dr. V.T. McGillicuddy, Hotel Claremont, Berkeley, Cal., is probably the best-posted white man alive today on the Indian situation of the 1876's. He saw much active service as an army surgeon, and was Agent on various reservations later, and I am very positive that he knew Sitting Bull--perhaps not as intimately as did ~~xxx~~ Jas McLaughlin (now dead) who was Agent at Standing Rock when Bull lived on Grand River. If you have not read McLaughlin's "My Friend, the Indian," you will find much about it referring to Sitting Bull, and a complete account of his killing. McGillicuddy saw much of the Sioux I am very positive. He is a fine man to know and talk with, and he is a very fine friend of mine.

Another man is Dr. A.R. Chapin, 118 West J Street, Ontario, Cal., who was a surgeon in the 8th Cavalry at the time Bull was shot and killed by the Indian police. The 8th Cavalry, as you doubtless know, followed in the wake of the Indian police when the latter bunch went to arrest the chief at his log cabin on Grand River, but were not to come on the scene unless there was a fight. They waited in some timber about a mile from Bull's cabin, and the fighting was practically over when they dashed up on the scene, several Indians being killed both among the hostiles and the police. Chapin was with the 8th on that occasion. He is also a very dear friend of mine.

These are the only two living men I know who may be able to tell you something of Bull. The attempt of Buffalo Bill to make the arrest was a joke. Chapin hilariously tells how they got Cody drunk at Fort Yates and got him in the officers' club and held him there until the commandant could wire Washington for an order refusing to let Cody butt in--which came the following morning. I have the whole story, and it is a scream. Any "Life of Sitting Bull" should include it. If Cody had been allowed to go to Bull's camp that day, his scalp would have decorated the old chief's tepee, notwithstanding his former intimacy with the chief in his wild west show.

I have numerous photos of "Old Sit." I guess I have about the best collection of old Indian photos extant, numbering around 800, covering many tribes and many scenes, from beef issues "on the hoof" to dances, ceremonials, council scenes etc.

If this information is of any use, you are welcome to it.

Sincerely yours,

E. A. Brininstool

I have a 10x12 photo of Bull addressed to a comrade of Ft. Yates.