


and
GLADYS and REGINALD



Laubin 

S.B.

INTERPRETATIVE INDIAN DANCERS

Colchester, Conn.
May 7, 1935

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

Dear Mr. Campbell:

While we were at Pine Ridge last fall we met two Indians, half-brothers, who claim to be Sitting Bull's sons. One is John Sitting Bull and the other is Little Soldier. John Sitting Bull is deaf and dumb and is called "Deefy", for short.

My knowledge of sign talk is somewhat limited, but I managed to talk a little with Deefy. Through an interpreter I got a little story from Little Soldier. He says his mother was Four Blankets and his brother's mother was Nation Sees Her (Oyate Wanyakapiwin) and that their father was Sitting Bull. He said they came to Oglala shortly after Sitting Bull was killed and have stayed there. Little Soldier is now sixty-six years old and Deefy is sixty-eight. He told me that his father had a wound in his left arm from a Flat Head arrow and limped a little from a Crow bullet wound in the foot.

Little Soldier went up to Grand River last summer to see One Bull.

Did you run across these two "boys" in your search for information on Sitting Bull? I asked Frank about them but he did not seem to know them well and said they were not Sitting Bull's sons. Neither of these "boys" took part in any wars, so I can see why old-timers would not rate them very high, even if they are Sitting Bull's sons. No one even mentioned them to me while at Standing Rock.

Their story interested me very much, especially since John Sitting Bull is deaf and dumb. I would like to check up on them, but I "steered clear" of all the agents while out there, as I did not want the Indians to regard me as any kind of government man.

Here is another question I would like to ask, if you don't mind. After Sitting Bull was made head chief of the northern Sioux, did he then have the right to wear the hair-shirt? of the hereditary chiefs? As I understand it, the ordinary war-shirt might be decorated with hair over the shoulders but not on the sleeves. Is that right? *YLO*

I am inclosing a couple of snapshots, one of John Sitting Bull and me, the other of Little Solsier.

Sincerely yours,

Reginald Laubin