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S.B.  
Custer

7402 Bay Parkway  
Brooklyn, New York  
October 9, 1939

Mr. Walter S. Campbell,  
Department of English  
University of Oklahoma  
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Campbell:

I am writing you again with reference to an article written and published by the late Chief Buffalo Child Long Lance, Blackfeet Blood Indian, entitled "The Secret of the Sioux." I am quite interested in the yarn as it was written by an Indian -- and as you will recollect, I am working on a compilation of the writings in English by Indians.

I had read, and referred to quite often, your volume, "Sitting Bull." I have just finished reading Long Lance's article and was astonished at the contradictory facts therein in relation to your work. Under the assumption that, as yet, you haven't read his work which was published in the June, 1927, issue of Cosmopolitan Magazine, I shall endeavor to give you herewith the highlights of the Long Lance yarn which concerns itself with the Custer Massacre and the killing of Sitting Bull in 1890.

Long Lance, according to his article, went up to a reservation in Manitoba, Canada, and learned from Pakadoshen, once Sitting Bull's "chief aide-de-camp", of Custer and Sitting Bull's death.

First, Long Lance claims the fact that Sitting Bull met Custer in 1859 at West Point, while Custer was in his second year as a cadet at the Academy, and thereupon the Chief called Custer his Weh-hunka-wanzi (Blood Brother)! You wrote in your work on the Sioux chief that they had never met, a fact which I believe in quite readily. I wonder where Long Lance got his story of Sitting Bull's meeting with Long Hair. What is your opinion of this? Second, Pakadoshen made no mention of Major Reno's attack against the Sioux before Custer's appearance. Third, and most important, Pakadoshen claims that Sitting Bull ordered his warriors to spare Custer; and according to Pakadoshen, this they did, and Custer was the last man to stand. Pakadoshen: "When his officers started to fall Custer got down behind a dead horse and started to fire at us that way. He had his long hair pushed up under his hat. We made believe we did not see him, and went on killing the others..... Just as we finished all the killing and were going to make the peace sign to Custer, and then go out and get him, we saw him stand up and peer hard all over the battlefields, with one of his hands shading his eyes. Lots of smoke and dust everywhere, and he was trying to see if there were any live Blue Coats left. When he realized he alone was alive, he put his gun against his body and pulled the trigger. He was dead right away. Sitting Bull went up to where he lay and stooped down and picked up his pistol and looked at it; and then he strapped it around himself and came back." An astonishing yarn, if true!