



ILLUSTRATED BY NICK EGGENHOFER

But since the Indians were the only ones who lived to tell the tale, their stories are our only reliable accounts of what really happened on that bloody field.

When my wife and I were adopted into the Sioux tribe a number of years ago, Chief One Bull conducted the ceremonies, and as part of the ritual, told of his part in

the Custer battle. In conducting ceremonies of this kind, the old man was required to recite some of his former exploits in battle, to recount his "coups." To such old-timers, the only honor worthy of mention was the coup—the touching of an enemy with the hand, a stick or something that was held in the hand— (Continued on page 43)