

Birney Montana
August 27, 1955

*See also
tape recorder*

Mr. W. S. Campbell
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear M. Campbell:

It was certainly nice to get to see you during the All American Indian Days in Sheridan, and I enjoyed our visit very much. Though we talked for about four hours, it seemed like just a few minutes. There are of course many more things about history that I like to talk over with you and I certainly hope that you will be back for the next All American Indian Days.

Under separate cover I am sending you a map of Big Horn County on which I have marked the route of the Indian War party from their village below the forks of Reno Creek to the upper bend of the Rosebud where they fought the soldiers of General Crook.

As you will see from the map, the Indians went up the South fork of Reno Creek to the divide and then down Corral Creek to the Rosebud. When they reached the mouth of Indian Creek, they left the Rosebud and cut across the hills to the upper bend of the Rosebud where the battle took place.

You will note that the route of the War party wasn't the shortest by any means. The Indians could have gone through the Wolf Mountains- Rosebud Mountains on some maps- directly to the place where General Crook was in camp- a much shorter distance. When I asked them why they took the longer route they gave the following reason: When they first discovered the soldiers they were on the extreme head of the South prong of the Rosebud- about six miles above the place where the battle took place. As the Indians reasoned that the Soldiers would march on down the Rosebud they took the longer route in order to be in position to intercept them.

I intend to go over the Rosebud battle field in the very near future to take some more pictures. In case I get some good ones I will send you some prints. With best wishes

Yours respectfully,

Charles B. Erlanson
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