

Life

(Birds)

Sioux

May 8, 1943.

Editor,
LIFE,
New York.

Dear Sir:

Picture

In your ~~LETTERS~~ TO THE EDITOR section, page 100, issue for May 10, I note that George B. Dolliver lets his little girl play with a sandhill crane. I think he is taking a long chance.

Chief White Bull, of the Sioux, nephew of Sitting Bull, told me that his people always warned their children, when playing on the river banks and sandbars, not to let cranes get near them. The Sioux say they will attack children, and will peck out their eyes.

The Greek poet Homer refers to this trait of cranes also, in the passage referring to the war between the cranes and the pygmies, repeated in Milton's punning lines:

That small infantry, warred on by cranes...

If the ancient Greeks and the Sioux Indians both found this trait in the cranes, it must be characteristic. I hope the little girl comes to no harm.

Yours sincerely,

W.S. CAMPBELL