

# Sitting Bull But Crafty Coward,

Red Tomahawk's Own Story Of Sioux Chieftain's Death Recounts That Death Mute Son Gave Signal For Fatal Attack On Police

## Messiah Fanaticism His Strength

Sitting Bull the coward, Sitting Bull the fanatic, Sitting Bull the crafty medicine man who brewed trouble for the whites is revealed in this enthralling story by Mrs. W. K. Williams, Washburn club woman and author of many Indian tales.

From the lips of Red Tomahawk, Indian policeman who fired the fatal shot into Sitting Bull's body just 41 years ago this week, comes this story. Red Tomahawk told it to Mrs. Williams prior to his death early last autumn.

Here's the epic of Indian police courage.

By Mrs. W. K. Williams

Sitting Bull was a Sioux Indian chief, born at Willow Creek, Dakota, and was a youth with more cunning than soldiery instinct, a strange combination of fanatic and savage in his

later years was deemed something of a bluff and a coward. At the age of 14 years, he killed and scalped his first enemy. Even as a young man he showed enmity toward the whites.

During the Civil war, he led the massacre of the whites in Iowa and Minnesota and was driven to Big

Horn country and the Yellowstone by the U. S. troops, where he made a pretense of treating with the government but was engaged in warfare continually with the whites or friendly Indians.

It was his band that exterminated General Custer and his men at the Battle of Little Big Horn. While Sitting Bull did not take actual part in the battle, he was nearby, "making medicine" and afterwards declared the Indian victory to be



Mrs. Williams

### He, Red Tomahawk



Red Tomahawk, who failed to get the gold medal promised him for his part in the arrest and death of Sitting Bull. Red Tomahawk lived to a ripe old age, dying at his home on the Standing Rock Indian reservation this past autumn.



Sitting Bull, Indian medicine

of Bull's Head, he selected six men. He put me in charge of them. He said, 'It shall be your business to take Sitting Bull. Let every thing go but get him. Hold him then and do not let him get away. Do not allow his friends to take him away from you. If you have to die, that is a good place to die.'

"Then we all knew. We got ready and started for Sitting Bull's camp. We crossed the Grand river then. Then, when we crossed, we sent a courier to find the police at Oak creek. Another was sent to Carrigan's place. He had one police with him. His name was Looking Elk. These messengers started. We thought we had seen them for the last time then.

"Carrigan found us about four o'clock in the morning. Then we cut up the white cloth and tied it on each policeman. We sent the wife of Bull Head in her wagon with Carrigan and the De Rocky Brain brothers, to Fort Yates. They got there alright the next day. After that we started again. We reached the house of Grey Eagle.

### Lamp Flickers Out Twice While Grey Eagle Prays

"Two of his sisters were the wives of Sitting Bull. It was too early yet to attack the camp. We waited there for a while. We placed guards out watching for us. We warmed in the house. Then Little Eagle prayed for us. When he was praying the lamp light went out. He lit it again. He prayed some more. The light went out again. Then I went outside to see what was the matter about that. It was a strange thing.

"I asked the guards if they had heard anything, or felt anything wrong. Then they told it. 'There were horses tramping towards us. Coming in our direction.' We stayed still then. We waited. This was about five in the morning. Then we could see the shapes of horses. We stayed still yet. A man cried out, 'this is Eagle Man coming with six policemen.' We were glad about that.

### We Start For Hostile Camp, I Prayed Again

"Then we got all ready again. We started for the hostile camp. Bull Head and Shave Head rode side by side. They led out. I came then. At the Grand river crossing there is a high hill there. By that hill we stopped. Bull Head said, 'we are close now. Get off our horses.' We got off and stood there waiting. Then I made a prayer there in the dark. Then we walked the horses from the hill. When we were close, we mounted again. We rode very fast. We charged there among the lodges. We did not yell, but the horses made much noise. They were excited. When we got to the log

We chased the hostiles from about it, and into the timber. We did not follow them into the trees.

"Policeman Hawkman Number One was shot dead that time. About this time it was a little grey sky. I ran to the stable. I found one of Sitting Bull's horses with a saddle on it.

"I gave this horse to Hawkman Number Two and told him to ride to the Cavalry at Oak Creek Crossing place. When he rode through the camp he was shot at but he made his escape all right.

### Brother-in-law Of Sitting Bull Helps

"After he was gone, I went again to the log house and took Hawk Man Number Two's rifle and gave it to Grey Eagle. He was a brother-in-law of Sitting Bull. He was not a policeman. He was a volunteer who helped us. He did not have a rifle. Just then two hostiles started to charge us.

"We fired at them. We seemed to miss them both. But just then One Feather killed one of them. We got back to the house. Then from the house we saw a wounded policeman. He was in the trees. He would get up and fall down. He was shot in the foot.

Two police went out and brought him in then. Then Swift Hawk, shot down by the stable, raised his head. We thought he was dead. We got him in then.

"Then the horses of the cavalry came into sight. They shot two times at the house. These exploded close by and killed one of our own horses. I tied my white cloth to my rifle and waved it at them. I held it up high.

The second shot then came from the cannon. We jumped behind the house. Many of our horses were shot and wounded and loose then. But I caught a horse and started toward the cavalry with Iron Thunder. When I got to the soldiers, I was mad.

"I said, 'go down there. We have him.' The women and children were on the high hills then. The soldiers shot the cannon at them. I stopped that. I said, 'don't fight women.' There is a good fight in the camp. If you want to fight, go there.' I was very mad.

### Soldiers and Police Drive Away Hostiles

"Then the cavalry started to the camp on foot. Someone led their horses down after them. They passed the Lance Pole. They wanted to take it.

"I told them, 'no, leave it where it is.' The hostiles were firing from the edge of the woods then. But that was it much. A group of soldiers and myself then drove the hostiles

across the river. We fed the soldiers horses then.

"We looked over the camp. I found an old woman at a lodge that she was scared. She was singing death song. I said, 'do not fear. We carried her to Sitting Bull's by the log house.

"We went through a house. There were several women sitting on the mattress. We found two men under the mattress. We took their knives away from them and let them go.

"When we were eating some soldiers' crackers and meat, the hostiles returned against us. Then Standing Elk came out with a white flag and a pole. He was a hostile Indian. We told him to come in. We fed him. He was scared.

"He wanted to get his family. Standing Elk, the white officer of the cavalry said, 'alright, tell them to come back. Be not afraid.' Policeman Strong Arm was killed after Hawk Man Number One was shot.

"Then we loaded the dead into wagons of the army. We pulled some dead hostiles into the house. Then came One Bull and his wagons.

"I saw him at Four Mile Creek during my ride. He called out, 'can't I come in?' I said, 'No, the police are mad now. They will kill you. Go get your wife and go to Fort Yates.' Some of the police shot at him, but he got away.

### No Medal For Police; 'I Want To Tell Story'

"In the evening of that day we had got to Oak Creek. We had to get Bull Head, Shave Head and other wounded to Fort Yates. After we left Oak Creek it was very dark. It was dangerous to travel on account of the hostiles. But High Eagle, who is also called Lone Man, rode ahead of the wagons. I came behind to watch. We traveled toward Fort Yates then.

"After a while we met two men. One of them was Farabault and the other was Wells. These two men then took the lead place. High Eagle came back and rode with me. When we came to Four Mile Creek, we met another arm. Fire Heart it was. He was an older man.

"He rode with High Eagle and myself after that. We met the infantry as they walked. They kept on toward Grand River and the cavalry there. We got to Fort Yates and the soldier doctor tried to make Bull Head and Shave Head live. But they died. Stone Man was dead for a long time.

"But he came back. A hostile had struck him with a stone hammer. Swift Hawk still lives and has a big lump on his head. I still live. I am old now. I wanted to tell all this before I died.

"I never received the gold medal. The government forgot about that. Maybe they would have sent it if I had been killed."