

Mrs. J. C. Jensen and Mrs. W. R. Holbrook will entertain the Presbyterian Ladies Aid at the church parlors on Thursday afternoon, Jan. 30.

Attorney Julius Skaug of Mo-bridge attended to legal matters in the city Tuesday. He was en route to Hettinger where he will spend several days in attendance at the session of the Adams county court.

PIONEER KEPT SITTING BULL DEATH WATCH

Here's another story about Sitting Bull, famous Indian chieftan, who caused so much havoc on the Standing Rock Indian reservation and throughout the west some 40 years ago.

Albert Bloom, Platteville, Wis., claims that he has good reason to know Sitting Bull is dead and buried. He took care of the corpse the night after Red Tomahawk had dispatched Sitting Bull, a last yell of defiance to white men gurgling in the old warrior's throat at he fell. Red Tomahawk was the Indian who inducted Queen Marie of Rumania into the Sioux tribe.

Mr. Bloom, now engaged as a salesman in southwestern Wisconsin, had 13 years of life far from peaceful. He enlisted in the United States army at St. Paul in 1888, receiving his fourth and last honorable discharge in 1902. The four discharge papers are treasured in his lock box in a Platteville bank. One has distinguished service on it.

The papers show Mr. Bloom was wounded at the battle of El Saney, Cuba, in the Spanish-American war and fought in a number of engagements in the Phillipines under Captain Rowan—the Captain Rowan who “carried the message to Garcia.” Previous to that, Bloom had seen seven years service against the Sioux in the Dakotas.

He was in Troop F, Eighth United States cavalry at Fort Yates, Standing Rock reservation, North Dakota, in 1890 when Sitting Bull and his band of renegades set afire the “Messiah Craze.” The old chief and 150 followers, sullen with hate toward the whites, were camped on the Grand river, remote from the rest of the Sioux on the reservation.

They wouldn't mix with them and even refused to come to the agency for rations. Then, Sitting Bull turned the missionaries' talk of the Messiah to good purpose. Pretending to be a convert, he told his followers the Messiah was coming to turn white men into buffalo and restore their hunting grounds to the red men. To hasten the coming of the Messiah, ghost dances were started and kept up by Sitting Bull and his band. They danced until they dropped from exhaustion.

After a time, the government decided to put an end to the ghost dancing by arresting Sitting Bull. Forty Indian police were ordered to the Grand river to bring Sitting Bull to the agency. The Indian police took Sitting Bull captive but no sooner had he mounted a pony than he burst into yells to awaken his band.

In the struggle that followed, the Indian police were so far outnumbered they took refuge in Sitting Bull's cabin but not before Red Tomahawk had silenced Sitting Bull forever. He dragged his body into the cabin with him. A siege of several hours ensued. Things were going badly for the Indian police when one of their number managed to get out of the cabin, capture a pony and summon help from the fort.

A short distance from the camp he met Troop F, sent from the fort to join the Indian police. Bloom was in the troop which numbered 50.

“The Indian yelled to us,” Mr. Bloom relates, “Hurry! hurry! Indian police killed. Sitting Bull dead.”

“Captain Facht ordered the Indian to ride onto the fort for reinforcements. Then he commanded us to dismount and advance on foot. About 20 soldiers were left with the horses. The rest of us charged down the hill. We opened fire with a howitzer and quickly had the Indians running. A number were killed and five taken prisoners. We found we had come none too soon. The Indian police had only one round of ammunition left.”

Troop F returned to the fort with the dead and wounded Indian police and the body of Sitting Bull.

It was Private Bloom who was chosen to stand guard over Sitting Bull's body that night, Dec. 16, 1890.

“I had a hard time,” he said, “keeping off the Indians friendly to the whites, who wanted Sitting Bull's corpse for a celebration.”

The next morning prisoners from the fort guard house were detailed to dig a grave in the corner of the fort grounds.

“There we buried Sitting Bull,” said Bloom.

Bloom has not heard in years of any of the 30 members of Troop F who were his comrades in the rescue of the Indian police and wonders if he is the sole survivor.

Bridge Soundings Made

Soundings are now being made for the new bridge across the Missouri river at Fort Yates. Construction work will begin in the early spring.

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hour of 10 o'clock A. M. the 27th day of January 1930