

Years ago I adopted my adopted brother's son, a four-year-old boy named John Growler; his father was dying of tuberculosis. I invited his mother, his mother's mother, and all his relatives who might have had a claim to him, to a feast. These discussed the matter among themselves and when all were satisfied that I might adopt the boy, one of the relatives expressed the sentiment of all in a short speech. The boy then stayed with us. We treated him the same as our own children. He died in the army at Hoboken, New Jersey in 1918. Had he lived he should have inherited from me just like my own children.

I always wanted a son; but here is what happened: When I was thirty years old I shot my first eagle, the only one I ever shot. I shot it on this side of Bullhead (Standing Rock Reservation) near Haystack Butte. I was going along one day when I noticed an eagle sitting up there on the butte. Just as he started to take flight I shot him. I shot him to get his feathers -- eagle feathers, as you may know, are valuable, the tail feathers more so than the wing feathers. The men in our locality heard that I had shot an eagle and came to my house. I gave a feather to each one of the men who had the reputation of being a brave man. (16) These were Running Horse, Crazy Bull, Red Feather, and Turns Holy.

Eagle feathers could be worn only by chiefs, sons of chiefs, councilmen and warriors. All others could wear feathers of other birds and wear them anywhere on the body, but not on the head. The chiefs wore only one feather and it was worn on the back of the head with the quill end stuck through two little braids of hair one above the other; the other end of the feather protruded above the head. Councilmen, sons of chiefs and warriors wore their feathers at angles on the side of their heads. If a warrior returned from a battle in which he had performed a brave deed, someone might hand him an eagle feather. He would stick this into his hair on the side of his head and in whatever manner it happened to be, well that would be his way of wearing it. Only one braid was made on the

(16) Eastman records that since the eagle is the most war-like and the most kingly of all birds and since its feathers are unlike any others, the Sioux used its feathers to signify bravery. (Loc. cit., pp. 143-5)