

ELKHART DAILY TRUTH

ELKHART, INDIANA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

August 10, 1948.

Prof. W.S. Campbell,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Okla.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

While at Custer battlefield last summer (I have a story on the subject in the Aug. 8 Sunday magazine section of the Denver POST), I encountered 87-year-old Dennis Moran of Lake Andes, So. Dak., who had papers to show that he served in a detachment of Sioux scouts in the US army from 1880 to 1882, under command of Col. Townsend, 11th infantry. Moran showed me, among other of his souvenirs, a copy of the picture which I enclose. I had seen lots of western pix in my time, but had never seen this one, and I got the old man to let me have a negative made. Since then, I have been trying to run the picture down and identify those in it.

My research leads me to believe it was taken June 4, 1875, in the Interior dept. inner court, at Washington, by the operator of the Patent Office. Contemporary newspaper accounts say that this delegation, headed by Spotted Tail and Red Cloud, was photographed that day. Red Cloud wanted \$25 to get in the "official" picture, and was left out. Later, the Patent Office operator got some of the chiefs and white men to pose for a second picture, and they kidded Red Cloud into joining the group. I believe the center figure in the front row is Red Cloud.

On the back of the picture enclosed, I have indicated in black pencil the names as I believe they go. The red pencil notations are by Mr. Robinson of the South Dakota state historical society. I showed this picture to Henry Standing Bear, Wm. Spotted Crow, Frank Goings and others at Pine Ridge, and they had little success in identifying the persons in it. The Smithsonian Inst. had no knowledge of the picture. Elmo Scott Watson of Chicago, of whom you probably know, never saw it. Mari Sandoz has a faint recollection of having seen it somewhere, but can't tell where.

The horns on the warbonnet of Indian No. 13 appear to have been retouched, as by an engraver.

Perhaps you know all about this picture. I would greatly appreciate your comments on it, and on the identifications I have made as well as any you might add. I tried to sell the picture, and a story I have written about it, to the Denver Post and Minneapolis Tribune Sunday editors, but they weren't interested. I wonder who might be? I promised to give Dennis Moran any proceeds from its sale, and I would like to make good with the old man.

(over, please)