

Zahn

June 23, 1955

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D7 words

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Judge Frank Zahn  
Fort Yates, North Dakota

Dear Frank:

I am taking off soon from here and am hoping to see you at Sheridan in August. I won't be able to make Fort Yates this summer, after all.

A friend of mind is anxious to get the Sioux word for that cradle made with two sticks and beaded sack in which the Indian women used to carry their small babies. Please give me the Sioux word for that and the exact translation of the Sioux. Some white folks call such a baby holder a baby board, but I have always wondered if that is the correct translation.

Also, how would you translate this, Pte san hunka? I was told that this meant Buffalo White Leader or Chief White Bull or Lazy White Bull. Please give me the correct translation of this, and where does the lazy come in?

I think you should write a piece about Indian names giving correct translations and the false translations that some of the names have received. I think this would be very interesting and possibly might sell to some magazine.

I remember you told me how you were given the job of going through the rolls to check and change some Indian names so that they would be more acceptable to the white taste. I may be wrong but I think you would be doing a service to the white reader as well as to the understanding of the Indian. If you want to show me what you have written when you get it done I shall be glad to look at it and give you my advice. As you may know I teach writing and it may be that I could suggest something helpful.

With kindest regards to your wife,

Yours cordially,

W. S. CAMPBELL  
(Stanley Vestal)