

card

Photo in Campbell Coll.
Indian War Bonnet

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THE DENVER ART MUSEUM

CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING, CIVIC CENTER
AND CHAPPELL HOUSE, 1300 LOGAN STREET
DENVER, COLORADO

August 6, 1947

file
Indian's

Please Reply to
Chappell House, 1300 Logan Street
Denver 3, Colorado

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

Dear Professor Campbell:

We have recently acquired a remarkable Sioux war bonnet which was collected about 1865 at Fort Laramie. The bonnet was acquired by an Army freight wagon driver named Walker and remained in his family until this year. Both cap and trail are made of buffalo hide and the only trace of the white man are two tiny pieces of red strouding and a few old beads on a little medicine near the foot of the trail. The crown is made of wing feathers and the trail of tail feathers, both from a mature golden eagle. The brow band is a strip of buffalo skin with long hair.

The most interesting detail of the bonnet is the presence of four horns, one over the forehead, two on the sides and one at the back. The front horn is apparently the tip of a mountain sheep horn while the others are buffalo. Those over the ears have been nicely shaped by carving.

The presence of these horns combined with the time and place of collection naturally bring up speculations as to whether this headgear may have belonged to the Sioux of that period named "Four Horns". What I want to find out from you is the identification of this person. In your life of Sitting Bull you mention an uncle by that name. But McLaughlin and the Handbook of American Indians refer to Sitting Bull's father having had that name, or Sitting Bull himself as a young man.

Have you come across any traditions which might link this bonnet with an actual person and can you straighten me out as to whom the name belonged?

Very truly yours,

F. H. Douglas

F. H. Douglas, Curator
Dept. of Native Arts

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