



**Iron Hail, 88,** is survivor of Wounded Knee, where he lost wife, child, parents.



**Charles Kills The Enemy** remembers massacres of his ancestors, thinks assimilation of Indians is unjust.



**Agnes Eagle Hawk,** typical of older generation, is superstitious, mistrustful of white ways.

## Old Sioux hold to tribal customs, the speech and ways of their ancestors

As a social instrument, tents permit Indian families to attend school graduations, rodeos, tribal meetings and ceremonial dances at far-flung places over the reservation. When Sioux families receive a visit by relatives it is not at all uncommon for the visitors to set up a tent and stay until the food supply runs out.

Pine Ridge is run by two governments: the Agency, representing Washington and run by the Office of Indian Affairs under the Department of Interior, and the Tribal Council, a reservation self-government body elected by the Indians from the six districts into which Pine Ridge is divided. These districts were originated in the 1880's to facilitate the distribution of rations to Sioux bands. The form has been kept for administrative and political uses.

Although Indians have been United States citizens since 1924, they are still dependents of the Government. The Sioux vote in state and national elections and may write to South

Dakota's representatives in Congress if they have any complaints about the way the Agency is run. They also write letters to the President. They look upon the Agency as boss, for it handles their important affairs, land and money matters, schools and relief and benefits and loans.

The Tribal Council enjoys power in name only. It recommends programs and measures for the reservation and has a lesser hand in the management of tribal funds; it also makes domestic laws for the people.

### A Link With the Past

The Tribal Council is the people's own, and they use it as a political football, paying less attention to its law-making character and more to petty squabbles over its organization and personalities. Tribal Council meetings are held in the American Legion Hall in Pine Ridge town, usually in the basement, where the

acoustics are better for long speeches and delegates can doze on the benches and spit on the floor if they wish. The speeches go on desultorily for days, all in the Sioux tongue, a guttural language spoken with many sign-language gestures. At each regular session the Agent makes an address in English, with an interpreter to translate his remarks. The Sioux know English well enough, but this is done for form's sake. Lazy and dependent in all other respects, the Sioux is a stickler for political form. It seems to hold his last shred of dignity, harking back to powwows with blue-coated generals and emissaries of the Great White Father.

The Sioux tongue is spoken all over the reservation. Children learn it in their homes, and many hear English for the first time when they go to day school, often discarding it later when they run away or are graduated and no longer compelled to use it. Related to the language of other plains tribes, principally the Omaha and

Though they live in a house, the Eagle Hawks speak only Sioux, keep to the old ways. Nephew Tibbits (left) farms, speaks English, went to Pine Ridge schools.

Richard and Cora Good Soldier arrive for their pension checks. Indians think they are entitled to support from the Government.

