

her when this Dr. Elkins wasn't around. He went out to some kind of doings up in the mountains--at Moccasin Lake--with his wife and would be gone all day, so I took that opportunity to go out and see this woman. I bought some meat and things to eat. I went out there and introduced myself to her. "Well," she says, "You're my relation. Your mother and I were cousins." I don't know how far or how near, it's always sister and brother--no cousin. I said, "What I want to know is, I heard you were there at Custer's last fight with the Siouxs and Cheyennes." "Yeah," she said. "I was only 18 years old. I had a little nephew and a little niece and my mother." Her fahter had died, she said. "My two brothers went and joined the fight." "But an old man came around," she said--a crier--announcer--to publicize for the day. "And he told us, "All you women--you Arapaho women--" there were very few of us here. "You know this, fight's going on now. It's taking place. You see young men getting ready with their weapons--their spears, their shields. So you girls--you womenfolks--you girls, get your mothers together, and aunts and grandmas and the children of the men that's fighting, and go out to this little knoll up here where the pines are. Don't go to the foot of the mountains, because there's wild animals there, but go near the camp. Just so you're under concealment of the pines. Make yourselves some places where you can spend the night. Take your food up there, your buffalo hides, robes. No telling how long this fight's going to last! So we all packed up what meats we had and fruits and dishes and buffalo robes. We went up there and stuck up poles, windbreaks. Then we saw the men start out. Pretty soon we saw dust. All these men had spears and lances. All painted up. Pretty soon we heard the guns just like that (Jess claps his hands rapidly). Pretty soon we see a army horse run out. There was no rider. Pretty soon we see Indian pony run out. No rider. Pretty soon we see two or three horses come out--some young man chasing them. Big army horses. It lasted till the evening," she said. "Finally it started to stop. Way in the evening the men started to come home, some of them leading two or three horses--army horses.