CUSTERS LAST FIGHT

BUFFALO BILL FROM TRUE TALES OF THE PLAINS

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NY series of stories of Indian war would be incomplete withcampaign of 1876 against the northern Sioux and their allies from the south, the Sioux and Cheyennes, an affair known as the Custer campaign. The catastrophe that overwhelmed the gallant General Custer and his brave command was an episode that will live forever in Indian history.

In the summer of 1874 General Sheridan sent two expeditions into what was known as the northern country. He sent General Custer with the Seventh cavalry from Fort Abraham Lincoln to scout in the north and northwest of the Black Hills and to return post. At the same time he sent Colonel Anson Mills from the department of the Platte, leaving the Union Paexpedition to scout the Sweetwater Horn mountain country and to return by way of the Powder river country back to his department. I was sent to The two commands, one under Custer and one under Mills, came within communicating distance in eastern Wyoming, on the Powder river, the two commanding officers and scouts meeting and holding a consultation. This country was then comparatively unknown, termined on. except to the scouts, hunters and trap-

Independence Rock, on the Sweetwater ridge. The command was keeping in river, where he made a supply camp and left his wagons. General Custer continued on through the Black Hills, exploring it in every hole and corner, and then returned to Fort Abraham Lincoln. This meeting of the two commanders was the last time I ever saw the general. It was on Custer's expedition through the Black Hills that the old timers' assertions of its wealth in gold were confirmed and practical- lage. ly demonstrated. Therefore, although out invaders of this section (many of the first being arrested by the mili-Indians and their allies listened to the harangues of Sitting Bull and other medicine men to prepare to go on the warpath, to gather their best horses and secure all the ammunition and long range rifles they could.

General Sheridan, in view of the situation and the gathering of warriors in the northwest, commenced massing the United States troops in



The scouts reported to General Custer that they had seen tepecs.

the different departments adjacent. General Alfred Terry, who was in command of the department of Dakota and the station at Fort Snelling, was to send the troops in his department to Fort Abraham Lincoln, to take the field from there under the command of General George A. Custer. General John Gibbon, who was in command of the department of Montana, was to take command of the troops in his department, move down the Yellowstone and form a junction with them. General George A. Crook, in command of the department of the Platte, was ordered to take the troops from his department and proceed north by the way of Fort Laramie, Fort Fetterman, old Fort Reno, old Fort Phil Kearny. This latter command was the one I accompanied. It might be mentioned here that during the preparations certain scandals in the construction department of the government, both for army and Indian supplies, had attracted congressional attention and national Custer. A messenger to Benteen from Interest, threatening to besmirch per- Custer, ordering him to "come on quick

sonages closely connected with the out giving an account of the powers existing. The investigation coming on, Custer was ordered to Washington to give testimony. This testimony adhered so strictly to the truth that it brought him into disfavor, and when he returned to his post he found that the command of the main expedition was taken from him and that he was assigned to his command. To a soldier with his record, to a man of his sensitiveness, this humiliation was deeply felt, and, no doubt, was one of the many causes that warped his judgment at a time when it was most needed. General through the Black Hills back to his Terry showed his sympathy and confidence in him after the Indian trail was discovered, when he ordered him to take his regiment, with ten days' cific railroad at Rawlins, Wyo., on an rations, ammunition and private scouts, along with Charlie Reynolds, country, the Big Horn basin and Big Bloody Knife and others, and take the trail and follow it. He struck the trail and followed it at a rapid pace on the 23d and 24th of July. At this point guide Colonel Anson Mills' expedition. the trail left the Rosebud and headed toward the Little Big Horn. As the march had been very rapid, the horses were tired and camp was made, while preparations to start by 2 o'clock in the morning to cross the divide which separated the two streams was de-

At 2 o'clock the regiment was again on the move, with the scouts ahead, Mills marched from Rawlins to and by daylight they had crossed the the ravine or canyons out of sight and moving as quietly as possible. The scouts in advance came back and reported to General Custer that they had seen tepees, or Indian lodges, which was true; but, as it afterward turned out, the tepees which the scouts had seen were three or four tepees that had been put up for smallpox patients away from the main Indian vil-

General Custer divided his command the government's intention was to keep into three parts, taking five companies himself, Major Reno with five companles and Colonel Benteen with two tary), the efforts were a failure, for companies, to bring up the rear with the rush became so great as to render the pack train. Major Reno was orstriking the Little Big Horn at what he supposed would be the lower end of the Indian village, while Reno was to strike it from the upper end. Custer was to work up the river and Reno down, while Reno was to keep on coming down the river until he joined with Custer, and Benteen was to follow up with the pack train.

As near as we know, Reno struck the Indians a little before Custer did, and, of course, be, as well as Custer, was surprised at the immense size of the village. There were ten times more Indians in this village than was indicated by the Indian trall which they had been following up the Rosebud. It is a fact that the Indians whom they were following had just at this point and at this time joined the main band of Indians in camp on the Little Big Horn. The principal chiefs among the Indians, of course, were Sitting Bull. Gall, Crazy Horse, Rain-in-the-Face. Little Big Man, Grass and many others.

At first the Indians were taken completely by surprise, for they were so numerous that they had falled to keep scouts out at the usual distance, and Reno's attack was the first that they saw of the soldiers. Reno, instead of charging, held back when he saw the immense numbers in front-his heart, indeed, failed him, and, abandoning audacity, which is the true motto of the cavalryman, though he failed to recognize it at this time, he dismounted to fight on foot. In his first charge he was repulsed, and, as near as I have been able to learn, it was only a weak one, not on account of his officers or men, but it was the lack of faith and confidence in himself that took away the vim and dash that the charge should have had.

Reno, in looking over the situation. preferred defense in preference to attack. He recrossed the Little Big Horn and took up a position on a hill, where he dilly dallied around until the Indians, taking courage at his apparent weakness, made the fight on him all the fiercer. Most of the men that he lost were lost while crossing the Little Big Horn in retreat, so as to

get into the bluffs on the east side. Major Reno, although having a good civil war record, through his indecision in the emergency on this occasion seemed to have completely lost soldierly intelligence. The Indians, as was afterward learned, were completely taken by surprise, and the great war chief, Gall, personally directed the attack on Reno and was making preparations to surround him on the hill, evidently unaware of Custer's proximfty on the other side of the village. This shows what could have been done had Reno charged onward and kept this greatest of the war chiefs occupled instead of thus permitting him to leave a few men to threaten Reno, while he concentrated his warriors or the other side of the village against

and bring the packs," had caused that gallant officer to hasten, but, overtaking Reno, who outranked him, he was ordered to join his demoralized forces and was compelled to obey. The latter thought that the two commands combined, which numbered 400 men, would soon take measures to get into ernment affairs. The little municipali action. But the appeals of such officers as Benteen, Welr, French and others to lead on were without avail.

The last seen of Custer as he stated into the ever to be remembered battle of the Little Big Horn was when he went over the ridge and waved his hat in salute to the other commands. Custer, making a wide detour to fall on the rear of the village, or what he thought was the rear, immediately struck a very strong band of Indians led by Chief Gall.

They had crossed the river at a point where they were concealed by a large ravine and got on Custer's flank, and so astute had been Chief Gall's arrangements that he found himself attacked in front and on all sides. Custer's first charge was successful until he saw the immensity of the village. church sets about its work free of debt



They all died in the proper military formation.

mile back from the Little Big Horn, Custer decided to take this as a standpoint. He sounded the recall and tried to make this hill. He had to turn his back while doing so. The Indians are dians, being so elated at killing so many of his men from the Little Big Horn up to the hill and the failure of Reno to attract the Indians continual- ald. ly coming down the Little Big Horn, almost all the fighting Indians conceptrated on Custer and fought him to

Fighting desperately to gain a point higher up, no doubt, he was, however, compelled to dismount his men and act on the defensive. Unable to advance or retreat and probably unwilling to do so, he must have based his actions on the diversion that the other commands would make. Steadfastly believing this from later Indian accounts, they fought coolly, hoping and expecting for re-enforcements which never came, but succeeded in keeping up the fight for some time. The Indians, well armed and in overwhelming numbers, circling and riding at speed, kept up a continuous and effective fire, while skirmishers and marksmen crawled through the grass, picking off officers. In the meanwhile firearms below, and notwithstanding that Benteen, Weir, French and others continued their appeals and that the echoing volleys cried for assistance he remained there until all was silent, the Indians eventually killing Custer and every one of his gallant band. Reno was kept annoyed by the savages until the arrival of General Terry and Gibbon's command, while on the second day the Indians set fire to the grasses to cover their movements with smoke and drew off. Afterward a visit to the battle scene told the story of Custer's last battle, showing that every one had at least done his duty and, though defeated, was not disgraced. They all dled in the proper military formation. every officer at his post and every man in line. Custer's body was found, and, although all the others were mutilated or scalped, his body seemed to have been untouched except by his death wounds, this being a tribute from the savage foe to his courage and gallantry. His brother, Captain Tom, and his brother-in-law, Captain Calhoun, with a nephew, were among the slain. making an unusual family affliction. The bodies of all the officers were found, with the exception of Dr. Lord, Lieutenants Porter, Harrington and Sturgles and some ten men. The latter's fate has never been known whether they were captured and tortured or whether their bodies had been thrown into the quicksands near the bed of the Little Big Horn, it is not clear, the only certainty being that they were dead. Two hundred and

NEXT WEEK:- "AN ARMORY MAN'S CLOSE CALL"

twelve bodies were buried on the hill.

the losses to the regiment being in

two days 265 killed and 52 wounded, 50

per cent of the command!

A Good Word for Howard.

A good word, well put in for Howard, in the management of their local government affairs. The little municipalities for this reason are vastly better governed than the big ones. A correspondent at Howard, Centre county, asks us to mark the contrast between that little rural hamlet of less than 1000 inhabitants and the tangle of affairs in have been running wet had not their inhabitants and the tangle of affairs in have been running yet had not their the larger, wiser, richer and more con-flight been suddenly halted by a black ceited towns and cities of the State and bear rushing at them from the opposite country. At a recent audit of the Howard finances the borough treasurer showed a balance in hand of \$987.34; there was \$124.85 unexpended in the gaining. Just as they neared the clearterbalancing indebtedness. Not a bad financial showing. The courageous, helpful spirit of the little community a well, from which, almost dead, they was illustrated a few days ago. A new church had been erected and furnished bear. The house was burned to ashes. at a cost of \$5000. When it was ready for dedication \$1225 was needed. That amount was contributed at the first service in the new building, and the own regiment simply, while General He saw that it was a city instead of a and ready to make war upon sin with Terry was ordered to take supreme village. There being a high hill a half unincumbered energy.

man cars will be required to go to the creasing in capacity after this time. dining car at the request of any passenger at any time and bring therefrom coffee or tea, which he will deliver to the passenger absolutely, free, the rail-

or cure for headache, so prevalent among Pennsylvania volunteers. travelers.

Drinks are to be served at any time during the day, even though meals are not being served at this time in the car, and the privilege will cease only when the car closes for the night.

Easter on April 11th.

Easter this year will fall on Sunday, April 11th. Easter is a movable feast, because it falls on different dates in different years. It is kept on the Sunday next after the fourteenth day of the Paschal Moon; the Paschal Moon being that moon of which the fourteenth (approximately the full moon) occurs on or next after the 21st of March. Hence Easter cannot occur earlier than March 22nd (when the fourteenth day of the Paschal Moon is Saturday, March 21,) nor later than April 25 (when the four-teenth day of Paschal Moon is Sunday,

Trusty Boy "Gets There."

Jokn Russ, of Altoona, was arrested by Chief of Police Wands and sent back to the Mountain City where he is wanted by Klein and Schleisner for stealing \$200. Young Russ enterod the service of Klein and Schleisner about a week it impracticable to arrest it. This brought about irritation on the part of the Indians. During '75 and '76 the whole Dakota nation, the most powerful Indians and their allies, listened. stead of going to the bank he came to Tyrone and has been having a royal time the past two days.—Tyrone Her-

Buying Coal Land.

We learn that the Messrs. Sommerville, of, Winburne, have purchased several hundred acres of good coal near Mahaffey, and will in the near future begin the development of the same. These gentlemen are practical coal men. with years of experience back of them, and will no doubt make a success of these new operations. The Sommervilles were formelry from Bellefonte.

Lutheran Reunion.

The Lutheran reunion which is always one of the greatest denominational gatherings in this section of the state each year, will be held at Rolling Green Park, midway between Sunbury and Selinsgrove, Thursday, July 22. This is one of the largest annual gatherings in Central Pennsylvania and has been organized for 19 years.

Free Tuition.

Governor Stuart has signed the Nor-Reno was still lying on the hill, al- mal School Deficiency Bill which pro-Normal schools. This will be cheering news to the thousands of young people throughout the state, who are in attendance at these institutions of learing.

> An honest man may be the noblest work of God, but the political boss finds a dishonest one more useful.

Doctors

say take Cod Liver Oil-they undoubtedly mean Scott's Emulsion.

It would be just as sensible for them to prescribe Quinine in its crude form as to prescribe Cod Liver Oil in its natural state. In

Scott's **Emulsion**

the oil is emulsified and made easy to take-easy to digest and easy to be absorbed in to the body-and is the most natural and useful fatty food to feed and nourish the wasted body that is known in medicine today.

Nothing can be found to take its place. If you are run-down you should take it.

Send this advertisement, together with name of paper in which it appears, your address and four cents to cover postage, and we will send you a "Complete Handy Atlas of the Workl." SCOTT & BOWNE, 409 Pearl St., New York

From Bullfrog To Find Bear.

Mrs. Maud Pepoon, wife of Henry is found in Monday's Philadelphia Record. We copy: Home rule is the best rule under all circumstances when the taxpayers and electors can be prevailed her usual custom, but, instead of finding upon to take a direct personal interest the customary collection of small change,

poor fund; there were also uncollected ing they noticed their house was on fire, probably due to the overturning of a probably due to the overturning of a

The frog escaped.

New Silk Mill.

The Susquehanna Silk Mill Co., of Sunbury, will soon break ground for a large mill at Lewistown. The only re-Pennsy Passengers to Get Coffee Free. quirement from the citizens, known, is the building of a siding from the main line of the Philadelphia and Erie Rail-The Pennsylvania Railroad has de- road at Hale street to the mill site, cided to distribute tea, coffee, or both, which will cost about \$3,600. The new to Pullman passengers on all trains to mill will be one of the most substantial. which there is attached a dining car. up-to-date structures in the country and The Pullman people have been notified will employ 200 females and 150 males that hereafter the porters of the Pull-during the first two years, steadily in-

road company furnishing the tea or guards of honor when the body of President Lincoln lay in state in Independ-Pittsburg officers of the road deny ence Hall, Philadelphia, died recently that it is anything like a local option at his home in Bellwood. Only two of movement, but say it has been found the guard of honor now survive. The that tea or coffee is a good preventive deceased was a member of the 187th

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No matter how long it has been gray orfaded. Promotes a luxuriant growth of healthy hair. Stops its falling out, and positively removes Dandruff. Keeps hair soft and glossy. Refuse all substitutes. 21/2 times as much in \$1.00 as 50c. size. Is Not a Dye. \$1 and 50c. bottles, at druggists Send 2: for free book "The Care of the Hair." Philo Hay Spec. Co., Newark, N. J.

Hay's Harlina Soap cures Pimples, red. rough and chapped hands, and all skin dis-eas-a. Keeps skin fine and soft. 25c. druggists. Send 2c for free book "The Care of the Skin."

Two Ways of Doing

In days agone, a builder dealt with a dozen different supply houses. He bought his brick and stone here, lumber there, glass elsewhere, and nails and bolts round the corner. A building that didn't "jibe" was.

the usual result, but no one person could be blamed for it or held responsible. In THESE days Mr. Builder does

it differently. He makes his plans. orders everything from one complete supply house, and when the material comes, IT SUITS.

And you are here now, today, with the B. L. Co .- not yesterday with

Bellefonte Lumber Co.

Sore Throat

If every mother could realize the danger that lurks behind every case of Wisdom sore throat, she wouldn't rest until she has effected

a cure every time a child has it. Your family physician will verify the statement that it is a positive fact that every child with sore throat is in immediate danger of contracting Croup, Quinsy, Tonsilitis or Diphtheria, and is not removed from that danger until the throat is cured. Think of it!

Liniments or outward application of medicines do not and cannot cure the ailment, though they may offer temporary relief. Neither can you cure sore throat with a cough syrup or a cold cure.

To cure, you must get at the seat of the disease, removing the cause. Noth-ing does that so quickly, safely and surely as TONSILINE. A single dose of TONSILINE taken upon the first appearance of sore throat may save long weeks of sickness, great expense, worry, even death.

TONSILINE is the stitch in time.

Use a little sore throat wisdom and buy a bottle of TONSILINE today. You may

TONSILINE is the standard sore throat remedy-best known and most effective and most used. Look for the long necked fellow on the 25 or 50 cent sized bottle when you go to the drug store to get it. The Tonsiline Co., Canton, Ohio.



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