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Custer's Massacre Re-Enacted Today in Celebration at Scene of Battle; First News Story Carried by Associated Press

(Associated Press Leased Wire.) HELENA, Mont., June 24—Fifty years have elapsed since Andrew J. Flak, Associated Press correspondent in the Little Horn town of Helena, first flashed to the world news of Gen. George A. Custer's crushing defeat at the battle of the Little Big Horn.

Yet today Flak's "scop" stands among the greatest newspaper "scops" in modern journalism. And, by a strange coincidence, the nation, through Flak's pen, first heard of a tragedy one hundred years to the day after the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Montana Published First Historians differ as to the paper which first published the story of Custer's battle, the semi-centennial observance of which started today at the Custer battlefield in southern Montana. Some credit the Helena Herald, others the Bozeman Times, although all now agree they both printed the news before the appearance, shortly after midnight of July 5, of an extra of the Bismark, N. D. Tribune. The Tribune sold for twenty-five cents and carried the story of the fight and a list of the casualties.

Twelve days passed from time Gen. Custer, in command of the Seventh cavalry left old Fort Lincoln, near Bismark, in search of the village of hostile Sioux, until word of his last stand reached Flak, and the outside world. Nine days passed from the date the battle before the word was broadcast through the medium of the press. A longer time would have elapsed but for the grit of Horace Countryman, a Yellowstone rancher, Indian fighter and scout, who rode 180 miles with but one change of horses to reach Helena about noon on July 4.

Tells Story to Fisk Countryman learned the story from "Muggins" Taylor, a scout from the Little Big Horn battlefield, who had died from exhaustion, reached Countryman's ranch house at Stillwater, Mont. Countryman volunteered to carry the news to Bozeman and rush it to Washington over the government wire. He arrived there only to find the wire down. There was nothing to do but continue the grueling ride to Helena.

Helena was celebrating Independence Day. Flak, ever alert for news, had strolled downtown. Sitting in his office, he was startled by the appearance of a dour, colored rider who spurred his maddened horse down the street, tumbled from the saddle and staggered into the building. It was Horace Countryman.

The exhausted courier gasped out the story of Custer's last stand. By the time he had concluded, Flak had written the thrilling recital in long hand. The story from his pen, quoting Horace Countryman, then went out to the Associated Press.

Movements of Battle

General Custer took personal command of troops C, E, F, and G. Major Reno was given troops A, G, and M. Captain Benteen, H, I, J, and K, and Captain McDouglas headed troop B, which acted as guard to the pack trains. The battle movement, reported by General Terry to the adjutant general on June 27, was in part as follows:

Began Attack On June 22: "At noon on June 22, Custer started with his whole regiment and a strong detachment of scouts and guides from the mouth of the Rosebud. Up the river he struck a heavy Indian trail, which he found to be the Little Big Horn. There he found a village of almost unexampled extent, and at once attacked. Major Reno with three companies was sent into the valley of the stream at a point where the trail struck it. Custer with five companies attempted to enter it about three miles lower down.

Reno forded the river and charged down the left bank, dismounted and fought on foot, overwhelmed by numbers, he was compelled to seek refuge on the bluff. As he crossed, Capt. Benteen, who with three companies was some two miles to the left of Reno when the action started, but who had been ordered by Custer to return, joined Reno.

United Force Surrounded "Capt. McDouglas, in the rear with a train of pack mules, also came up to Reno. Soon after the united force was nearly surrounded by Indians, many of whom, armed with rifles, occupied positions which commanded the ground on which there was no escape. Rifle pits were dug, and the fight maintained though with heavy loss from about 2:30 of the 25th until 6 o'clock of the 26th, when the Indians withdrew from the valley, taking with them their village.

Nothing Known of Custer "Of the movements of Custer, scarcely anything is known, for no soldier or officer who accompanied him was found alive. His trail from the point where Reno crossed the stream passed along and in the rear of the bluffs, on the right bank, for nearly three miles; then went down the bank of the river but at once diverged from it as if he had unsuccessfully attempted to cross; then turned upon itself, almost completed a circle and ended. It was marked by the remains of his men and the bodies of horses, some of them dropping along the path and others head-3-4 where halts appeared to have been made.

"There was abundant evidence that a gallant resistance was offered by the troops, but they were beset on all sides by over-powering numbers.

Gen. Terry Comes Up "At the mouth of the Rosebud I informed Custer that I should take a supply steamer for the west up the Yellowstone to Ferry Gap. The steamer reached Gen. Gibbons' troops, near the mouth of the Big Horn on the morning of the 24th, and at 4 p. m. all his men and animals were across the Yellowstone. The infantry made a march of 22 miles on June 25 in order that scouts might be sent into the valley of the Little Big Horn. The cavalry and battery were advanced on the morning of the 26th and discovered Indians,

with whiskey breath. Today bottle toting seems fashionable, and I have to have twenty extra loaves to stop drinking in alcoves.

"Unless we can educate Young America to look down on bottle-carrying, as it did ten years ago, bottle toting and better will be eliminated. Banning, today, is as free from sensalism as nandahaking, if separated from liquor. But with strong drink added, it is a menace."

REAL ESTATE TRADE IS COMPLETED TODAY. A real estate trade involving two residences was completed today. E. K. McLendon, who recently acquired the Edward Morgan property on Chadwick street, exchanging the residence and one lot for the residence belonging to S. E. Memminger, located on Reservoir Avenue. Mr. McLendon is holding the Memminger property and a lot adjoining the Morgan property for speculative purposes. Mr. Memminger is moving to the Morgan residence to make his home.

MEMORIAL TO COHANS IS HIS NEW CHICAGO THEATRE (Associated Press Leased Wire.) CHICAGO, June 23—Behind the footlights of the Olympic theatre here, the Four Cohans, Jerry and Helen and their children, George M. and Josephine first found themselves headlined on a vaudeville bill.

On the roof garden of the old Masonic temple here they appeared at a salary of \$1,000 a week when that was unprecedented pay for a vaudeville quartet.

And here, at the Colonial theatre, eighteen years ago, the certain case of "Lily Johnny Jones," one of the greatest of George M. Cohans' hits.

These three events, landmarks in the life of the actor-author-producer, dictated his choice of Chicago as a site for the theatre built by him as a memorial to his famous family. It has opened as The Four Cohans. It was built with his own money and is the only theatre he is operating now. It stands on the site of the old Cohan grand, which he leased 14 years ago for his first venture as a producer in Chicago.

When Cohan acquired the Grand in 1912 he opened it with "Officer 666" in whose cast was a likeable young comedian named Douglas Fairbanks. There were subsequent successes. Cohan played last over him in the playhouse in "Broadway Jones" the year after he took over the house.

They proved to be Crows who had been with Custer. They brought the first intelligence of the battle. "The infantry immediately moved on but our columns were driven back by Indians who in increasing numbers were seen hovering in Gen. Gibbons' front. The column halted for the night after a 39 mile march at a point about 11 miles in a straight line above the stream.

The First News Story

The story of Custer's last stand, as told by Horace Countryman nine days later and first dispatched by Flak to the Associated Press, follows:

"General Custer found the Indian camp of about 2000 lodges on the Little Big Horn and immediately attacked them. Custer took five companies and charged the thickest portion of the camp. The Indians poured a murderous fire from all directions, while the greater portion fought on horseback.

"Custer, his two brothers, nephew and brother-in-law were killed. Not one of the detachment escaped. Two hundred and seven men are buried in one grave and the dead are roughly estimated at 300.

"The Indians surrounded Reno's command and held them one day in the hills, cut off from water, until Gibbons' column came in sight, when they broke camp in the night and fled. The Seventh fought like tigers and were only overcome by the large force of Indians, whose loss cannot be estimated as they took off and cached most of their dead.

"The remainder of the Seventh cavalry and Gibbons' command are returning to the mouth of the Little Big Horn where a steamboat lies. The Indians got all the arms of the dead soldiers. The whole of Custer's forces died at the head of their column.

"The Indian camp was from three to four miles long and was twenty miles up the Little Big Horn from its source. The Indians actually pulled men off their horses in some instances, I give this as Taylor told me as he was over the field after the fight."

DEER THROWS THYME, BUT TOO HEAVY TO CLAIM THE TITLE (Associated Press Leased Wire.) PORTLAND, June 24—Ira Dorn, Salt Lake grappler, took two falls from Ted Thyme of Portland in one of the most spectacular bouts of the season last night. Thyme was a victim of his headlocks, the first fall which was taken in 31 minutes, 50 seconds.

Thyme succeeded in gaining the second fall with a croch hold in 18 minutes, 50 seconds. It was another croch hold in the third session that gave him his chance to pin Thyme.

For the first time, ringside weighing in was witnessed by the fans. Thyme weighed 174 and Dorn 182. Being seven pounds over the light heavyweight limit, Dorn could not claim the championship through his victory.

In the preliminary Jimmy Anderson and Bob Meyers wrestled 20 minutes to a draw.

Both events Sallor Jack Woods of the Roseburg armory next Monday night. Woods is here training intensely for the battle, which promises to be the best of its kind ever seen here.

SUSPECT HELD HERE HAS LONG PRISON RECORD Jack Smith, picked up here on Monday and held until yesterday for investigation is Charles Cassidy, alias Arthur Emery, alias John Brown, a frequent offender in the state of Washington, according to word received from Seattle today. Smith was picked up on a charge of peddling without a license, having been apprehended in the act of endeavoring to sell a fountain pen, several new pens being found sewed in the lining of his coat.

As he answered in a general way, the description of the man suspected of the game murder, and as his coat bore a Seattle mark, his fingerprints were sent to the Seattle authorities. As they did not wire back an order to hold him he was released from custody yesterday.

This morning Chief of Police Kelly received a letter stating that the man was arrested January 6, 1924, for a violation of the Harrison act, and served three months in the county jail.

On March 28, 1923, he was arrested charged with burglary in the second degree and was sentenced to serve from six months to 15 years in the penitentiary and was paroled March 15, 1924.

In October 1924, he was arrested again after breaking a window in a store and stealing clothing, and was returned to the penitentiary as a parole violator.

There is nothing to indicate that he is wasted at the present time, according to Chief of Police Ketch.

COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE 3 BILLS INVOLVING TAXES

(Associated Press Leased Wire.) SALEM, Ore., June 24—Attorney General Van Winkle is preparing tentative drafts of three legislative bills that will be submitted Monday to a sub-committee of the state tax investigating committee, which will meet in Salem. The bills are drafted according to a program of the committee which involves an increase in the assessed valuation of property, largely through more thorough assessment of industrial properties.

One of the measures being prepared would limit the millage taxes allowed state institutions of higher learning, which, it is believed, would increase to an unwarranted amount when the state assessed valuation is increased. The limit has not yet been decided on.

Another measure would limit to the 1926 basis the amount of bonded indebtedness allowed by law for the same reason as in the case of the millage taxes.

The third measure would change the assessment date from March 1 to January 1.

AMERICAN LEGION PRIZE TO BE HELD THIS EVENING

The annual American Legion picnic is to be held this evening with the members of the Umpqua Post and legion auxiliary participating. The picnic will be held in Umpqua Park, where balling, games and contests will be enjoyed until a late hour, when a freed chicken supper will be served on the banks of the river.

GYMNASIUMS PROHIBITION WRUOKING CLEAN DANCING

CHICAGO, June 23—Prohibition threatens to wreck clean public dancing. In the belief of J. Louis Gynon, for years a pillar of the city's largest ballroom, "annual" dances and proprietor of the city's largest ballroom.

"It cost me \$20,000 last year for extra guards to keep hip-flasks out of my ballroom," Gynon said, "and it will cost me \$25,000 this year."

"All we had to do before prohibition to maintain decency was to refuse admission to persons



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More Than 2,000 Home Shareholders

Big Game Hunter, War Veteran and Adventurer Now in City



Australian who has served in two wars and has led a life of adventure now appearing at Antlers Theatre.

venture, with experience in two wars, he is able to draw many tales of dexterity and danger. His early childhood was spent in Australia, where he mastered the Australian whip, becoming so skillful in its use that he is now able to offer one of the most unique acts to be seen upon the stage. Col. Lindsay was instructor in the use of the whip for Tommie Fairbank in the latter's famous picture "Don Q."

When he graduated from the University of Melbourne he had his first real taste of adventure, leading a party that explored some of the remote parts of Australia. During the first war he fought with the Australian bushmen, and then turned his attention to big game hunting in East Africa.

During the World War he served with the Australian forces, distinguishing himself in several engagements of that war.

WORKMEN ENTER MUSEUMS FREE

ROME, June 24—Workmen of Italy are granted free admission to all the art galleries and museums, under an order of the General Directorate of Art Galleries and Museums. The permission, however, holds good only when the workmen are in groups and accompanied by authorized guides who can explain the things seen.

FORD CAR STOLEN

A Ford car belonging to W. Peckley was stolen yesterday from Main street in the rear of the Postoffice National Bank. The car was driven to the city by Mrs. Vesta Peckley and was evidently taken some time during yesterday afternoon. After completing her duties at Carr's Store, where she is employed, Mrs. Peckley found that her machine had been taken. She immediately notified the officers, who found the car a short time later abandoned on Blue Hill. It had been driven until the gasoline was exhausted and had then been left to the birds.

If you want to buy or sell use the News-Register Classified Ads. They bring results and the cost is within the reach of all.

Col. Fred Lindsay, now appearing in an Australian whip crackling in at the Antlers Theatre, has been a speaker at club meetings and at other group gatherings. He is a man of many parts and has led a life of adventure. He is a man of many parts and has led a life of adventure. He is a man of many parts and has led a life of adventure.