

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION  
Texas Technological College  
SHAMROCK, TX



Summer '67





# PALACES

## on the

# PRAIRIE

Life on the Nebraska prairie 100 years ago wasn't exactly a Sunday School picnic. Eking out an existence in a new land fraught with hardships and uncertainties required considerable ingenuity, perseverance, expediency . . . and plain old hard work. Luxuries were practically unknown.

No corner super market existed for the purchase of everyday necessities. In fact, town usually was several miles distant . . . and transportation in those days was slow at best. Few could have afforded the purchase of supplies even had they been available.

Thus the early pioneer learned to fend for himself with the materials at hand. Usually this meant using prairie sod for the construction of a home, prairie game for food, and "prairie coal" for fuel.

Establishment of a home posed the initial concern for the pioneer settler. The treeless terrain of much of Nebraska left little choice but the use of sod bricks . . . or "Nebraska Marble," as it became jokingly known. Usually, a ravine or hill was sought into which a dugout may be excavated, but where flat terrain prohibited this, a "soddie" was constructed.

The tough native sod was cut into strips 12 to 14 inches wide and four inches thick by about three feet in length. These sod bricks then were used to construct the walls to the desired height, after which cedar ridge logs 30 to 40 feet long were placed on the gables. Cedar poles served as rafters and fine willow brush was laid on top. More sod was added on top of this to serve as additional sealant.

A few homes in the pioneering days boasted board roofs, but most settlers were unable to afford such luxury.

Inside, the houses were plastered with clay, whitewashed, or papered with newspaper, the latter being an indication of prosperity. Since the dirt walls presented a rough surface unfit for papering, flour or grain sacks were first pegged to the wall. The paper was applied over these sacks, plastered there with a paste made from flour and water. A sheet was often hung over the ceiling to prevent dirt from sifting through the rooms.

Floors in the majority of the frontier soddies were earthen, sometimes covered with split logs, or wide, rough planks where such luxury could be afforded. Room partitions often con-

sisted of rag carpets or quilts while windows were covered with buffalo robes or blankets when glass was unobtainable.

Rustic though they were, they were seldom drab. Bright calico or lace curtains lent considerable atmosphere and potted plants added a dash of color and charm.

With no wood or coal available, pioneer families found the answer to their fuel problems on the prairies. Buffalo or cow chips, dried and hardened by exposure to the elements and known as "prairie coal" served their purpose well and warmed many a cold and weary body.

Lights for the pioneer families came from grease lamps which burned animal fat, or from candles which the women molded. Many found even these meager facilities to be out of their financial range and did what came naturally by retiring when darkness fell.

Life never was easy and was often monotonous on the prairie. But the crude "soddies" served a hardy people well in their chosen task of settling a new frontier.



# SOUTHWEST COLLECTION



Hills or ravines served as natural beginnings for the Nebraska pioneer's dugout hut. Prairie sod was used for finishing the hut and for enlarging it to accommodate a growing family. Horsedrawn wagon, above, holds new sod.



When the natural terrain was not conducive to dugout construction, homes were built of prairie sod bricks, humorously and affectionately referred to as "Nebraska marble." Board roofs were a luxury and were rarely found.



# NEBRASKA

One hundred years ago, the sum of twenty-five dollars — or “so much thereof as may be necessary” — was appropriated “out of any fund in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated by law” for the creation of an official seal of a brand-new state. The bill providing for this action was approved on June 15, 1867, by the Legislature

of the State of Nebraska, three and one-half months after admission as the nation’s 37th state.

Included in the design of this new seal were representative facets of practically every phase of the state’s resources, industry and culture. In fact, the design was dictated by the bill providing the seal: “The eastern

part of the circle to be represented by a steamboat ascending the Missouri River; the mechanic arts to be represented by a smith with hammer and anvil; in the foreground, agriculture to be represented by a settler’s cabin, sheaves of wheat and stalks of growing corn; in the background a train of cars heading towards the Rocky





# 100 YEARS OF PROGRESS

Mountains, and on the extreme west, the Rocky Mountains to be plainly in view . . .”

All these features have played tremendous roles in Nebraska's growth and development over the past century. All are present in the state with the exception of the Rocky Mountains . . . and they, too, played an important

part in its development. Gold discovered there in 1849 attracted countless thousands of get-rich-quick aspirants . . . and most of them had to travel across Nebraska, many choosing to settle there rather than brave the odds against attaining quick fortunes.

The mechanical arts represented by the smithy and his anvil contribute

heavily to the state's economic wealth, but the settler's cabin denoting the importance of agriculture actually tells a double story. Farming and ranching have remained through the years the backbone of the state's economy, and the settler's cabin serves as a fitting symbol of the early history and a shrine to the early pioneer who helped





to make the agricultural picture so rosy today.

Railroads, as in most other western states, played an all-important role in the development of Nebraska. The Union Pacific, first transcontinental railroad in America, started in Omaha and traversed the state, following trails earlier struck by the buffalo, gold seekers, the Pony Express and the lumbering stagecoach.

Throughout 1967, Nebraska is observing her birthday and looking back over 100 years of progress. Much has happened during that time.

The state derived its name, quite naturally and appropriately, from its early inhabitants — the Indians — and its principal river, the Platte. The Omaha tribe called the stream Ni-bthaskai; the Oto word was Ni-brathke. Both words carried the same literal meaning of "flat water." Translated from the French "la riviere Plate," the present name of Platte River is derived.

The Platte, referred by many today as the "inch deep and a mile wide" river, runs the entire width of the state, flowing gently through thousands of acres of rich farmland before emptying into the mighty Missouri near Omaha. Its valley afforded a natural passage for early travelers and settlers, and brought Nebraska its important role in exploring and settling of the West.

As a part of the original Louisiana Purchase, Nebraska at the turn of the nineteenth century was a vast unknown territory. President Thomas Jefferson in an attempt to learn something of the new region, charged Meriwether Lewis and William Clark with gathering information and in 1804, the explorer pair began their famous expedition. One of the stops they made on their way up the Missouri was at a point on the west bank of the river which they named Council Bluffs. It was at this point that they held the first council between representatives of the U. S. government and the Oto and Missouri Indians west of the river.

Fort Atkinson became the first U. S. military post west of the Missouri when it was constructed on the Coun-



TOP: This 1870 photograph shows a village of Pawnee Indians near Loup Fork, Nebraska. The Pawnee Tribe once inhabited the region between the Arkansas River and the Platte River.

MIDDLE: In Nebraska as in other western states, the fate of a town was often decided by the location of a railroad. Shown here is Engine #7 of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad. This photograph was taken about 1887 at Broken Bow in Custer County, Nebraska.

BOTTOM: Threshing by horse power was typical at the turn of the century in Nebraska. This photograph was taken in Buffalo County in 1905. Foreground shows path worn by horses.



cil Bluffs site.

Fur trade was an important feature of Nebraska's early history and in 1810, a fur trading post was established on the west bank of the Missouri near the present site of Bellevue. In 1823, a trading post was operated about six miles below Fort Calhoun.

Traders, missionaries, and soldiers sent to keep order among the Indians and to protect American interests from the encroachment of British fur traders comprised the civilized population of the territory for a great many years. Then gold was discovered in California and thousands began to pour across the state by way of the overland trails. Some historians have estimated that between 1840 and 1866, more than two and one-half million persons crossed the state in wagons.

Whether the lure of gold dimmed as they plodded slowly westward or the lush verdancy of the fertile plains became irresistible, many decided to go no further than Nebraska and settled among the Indians. The territory was not opened to legal settlement until passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, and in 1862 Congress passed the Homestead Act which lent further impetus to widespread settlement.

The seat of government for the Nebraska Territory was established at Omaha, but when Nebraska became a state on March 1, 1867, a board of three commissioners was chosen to select a new capital site. They chose a location in Lancaster county, laid out a city, and named it Lincoln in honor of the Great Emancipator.

Nebraska's principal resource is its abundance of fertile soil, a commodity that has made it one of the leading producers of agricultural crops in the nation. But it wasn't always easy for the early settler, most of whom were engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Many agrarian settlers, perhaps disillusioned by the abundance of rainfall and the consequent fertility of the eastern part of the state, found conditions considerably more trying as they moved westward. From an elevation of some 500 feet along the east side, the terrain gradually but steadily

rises to more than 5,000 feet along the western border. At the same time, rainfall amounts decrease steadily from east to west.

Still, the mettle of most who came early withstood the test of time and helped to establish an agricultural pattern compatible to the differential in climate and soil conditions. Eastern areas with the greater rainfall were devoted to general farming and livestock feeding practices while the more arid western portion — including the state's fabled Sandhills — featured more cattle grazing and dry farming. Where needed, irrigation has effected a profound improvement in crop production.

Nebraska's Sandhills are legendary. Twenty north-central counties comprising more than 13 million acres of endless, rolling sandhills provide cattlemen with some of the finest grassland in the West. Moreover, the vast expanse of sand tends to serve as a gigantic sponge, soaking up rainfall and depositing it in one of the largest known underground water reservoirs in the nation.

Once considered taboo because of an unfounded belief that the Hills contained no water, the area later became a veritable paradise for cattlemen when — quite by accident — vast numbers of crystal-clear lakes were found to dot the expanse. Now, it also has become a haven for fishermen.

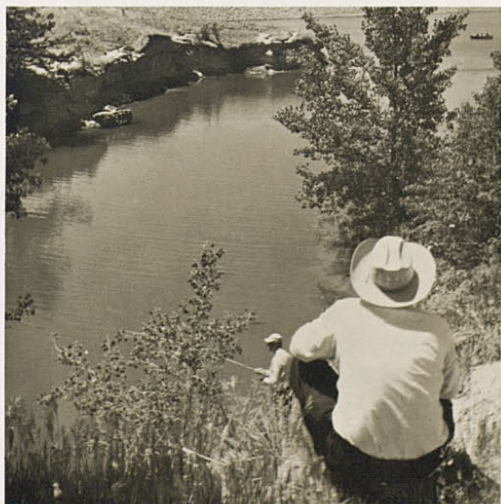
The true picture of the Sandhills

was revealed when in 1879 a rancher attempted to rescue some 6,000 cattle stampeded into the area by a March blizzard. A dozen cowboys, braving the unknown, emerged about a month later with 3,000 more cattle than had drifted in. Most were cattle belonging to the rancher and which had earlier wandered off into the hills. The remainder were wild, unbranded stock.

While agriculture has played a dominant role in its history, ranking it among the top food producing states in the nation and earning for it the title of "Beef State," Nebraska is not without its manufacturing. Most of the state's industry, though, stems from its high agricultural production and includes flour mills, creameries and dairies, and food processing plants. The world's largest stockyards are at Omaha.

Tourism is playing an increasingly important role in Nebraska's economy, too. Rich in historical lore and scenic features, the state offers much for its visitors. Plans are on the drawing board for better interpretation of these historic sites and recreation facilities by the state's Game Forestation and Parks Commission.

Millions of visitors will be out to see for themselves what Nebraska has to offer for diversion during this Centennial Year. Buffs of Indian and historical lore, water sports, and natural beauty aren't likely to be disappointed.



Man-made lakes and reservoirs throughout much of Nebraska provide sports and recreation for tourist and resident alike. Harlan County Reservoir, pictured on pages 4 and 5, provide water for the Franklin canal. It is shown emerging from the dam in the foreground.



# FORT ROBINSON

*(where the ACTION was)*



If, through witchcraft or some thaumaturgic powers, one could endow the giant cottonwood trees at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, with vocal chords, the tales they could tell would outdo even a Hollywood producer's wildest dream. For certain, they could relate exciting accounts from one of the nation's most colorful eras—a period in which the Indian wars waxed hottest.

Fort Robinson seemed destined from its inception to become one of the West's most important frontier outposts. And unlike many frontier forts, Robinson was to extend its usefulness into two additional wars.

Its beginning came at a time of intense anxiety concerning the Indians of the northwest plains. A treaty signed in 1868 had guaranteed food and supplies to the Sioux and other

tribes in exchange for lands ceded to the United States. These annuity commodities were issued the Oglala Sioux at the Red Cloud Agency on the Platte River in Wyoming near the Nebraska line.

By mid-1873, upwards of 13,000 Indians, mostly of the Sioux bands, lived at the agency and received issue goods. Among them was a small faction friendly to the white man. The majority, depending upon the circumstances of the moment, wavered between friendliness and hostility.

Still another faction consisting principally of the northern Sioux, expressed open hostility toward whites. These Oglala warriors, including the already famed Crazy Horse, were continuously being pursued by cavalry patrols from Fort Laramie.

Since the Platte River location of

the Red Cloud Agency was outside the ceded hunting territory defined by the treaty of 1868, the government desired to relocate it on the permanent Dakota reservation. The Oglala stubbornly refused to move, but in the summer of 1873 when many Indians were away on a buffalo hunt, the agency was moved northward to a new site on the White River near its confluence with Soldier Creek.

Summer and fall passed in relative quiet, but with winter came the start of trouble that soon was to blossom into full-scale Indian war. Objections by most of the Indians to a headcount of their people, jealousies and petty bickerings of various chiefs and ambitious young warriors, and governmental misunderstanding of the complexities of Indian social organization tended to foster one crisis after





another at Red Cloud Agency.

Military authorities had discussed stationing troops at the Agency as early as mid-January 1874, but the move was opposed by Gen. P. H. Sheridan on the belief such action would result in open war. But in early February, a large hostile war party shot up the unfinished stockade at the Agency and left on a raiding expedition. On February 6, they killed Edward Gray, a teamster headed for the Agency with freight, and on February 9, a hostile Miniconjou warrior shot and killed Frank Appleton, acting agent at Red Cloud.

It also was on February 9 that a large war party attacked three soldiers from Fort Laramie, killing Lt. Levi H. Robinson for whom Fort Robinson eventually was named.

Soon after Appleton's death, author-

ities at Red Cloud Agency requested troops be sent, a request that gave birth to a military operation known as the Sioux Expedition . . . and sounded the death knell for the Grant Peace Policy.

The Expedition got underway when eight infantry and four cavalry companies marched from Fort D. A. Russell in Wyoming Territory to Fort Laramie, braving 38-below-zero cold and heavy snows. At Laramie, four more companies of cavalry were added. The 547 cavalymen left Fort Laramie on March 2, 1874, and reached Red Cloud Agency on March 5; a battalion of infantrymen left on March 3 and arrived at the Agency on March 7. Upon arrival, the troops found the hostile factions of Indians had left for a new camp on nearby Hat Creek.

Four companies of infantry and one of cavalry remained at Red Cloud Agency and the remainder of the troops proceeded on to Spotted Tail Agency where they established Camp Sheridan. On March 29, 1874, the name of Camp Red Cloud Agency was officially changed to Camp Robinson.

While the Indians living at Spotted Tail Agency resigned themselves to the presence of soldiers, Camp Robinson was experiencing an all-together different reaction. Even the friendly faction began to show signs of hostility while a sullen attitude toward the presence of troops seemed to permeate through the ranks of Red Cloud Agency Indians. Still, the troops were able to put down the minor skirmishes that could have turned into major crises.



By spring, it had become evident to camp authorities that Camp Robinson was located too close to the Red Cloud Agency. Daily contact invited friction between soldier and warrior. So in May 1874, authorities moved Camp Robinson 1½ miles west to the confluence of Soldier Creek and the White River. It was at this location that the permanent post was later constructed.

Although it would be difficult to pinpoint a single incident that set off full-scale war with the hostiles, the discovery of gold in the Black Hills probably played as large a part as any other lone event. The Hills, an area guaranteed to the Indians by treaty, became the prime target of greedy whites after gold was discovered by the Custer Expedition in 1874. Despite the efforts of troops to keep them out, miners poured into the forbidden territory in droves, further aggravating the legal owners into desperate deeds of action.

An attempt by the Allison Commission to purchase the Black Hills from the Sioux in treaty conference in September, 1875, actually lit the fuse on the powder keg. Both Red Cloud and Spotted Tail, Sioux chiefs for whom the agency posts had been named, were scheduled to speak before the assemblage in favor of selling the Hills. But as Red Cloud rose to his feet, Little Big Man, another Sioux chief of considerable prestige, also stepped forward, armed to the teeth. His threat "to shoot the first Indian who spoke in favor of ceding the Black Hills to the white man" sent the commissioners scurrying to the safety of Camp Robinson . . . and assured a campaign of all-out war.

Gen. George Crook, the army's top Indian fighting strategist, was brought in to direct the coming campaign. After a delay for laying in reinforcements, the campaign got underway with an attack on a hostile camp on the Little Powder River on March 17, 1876. Neither side could claim a clear-cut victory, but the die had been cast — the war had begun.

General Crook, preparing for the summer campaign, designed a plan to trap the hostiles. His command of

1,774 men met Chief Crazy Horse on June 17, 1876, in the Battle of Rosebud Creek and while the general claimed victory when the Indians left the field, his failure to pursue them proved a costly tactical miscalculation. Crazy Horse promptly led his "defeated" group of hostiles toward the Little Big Horn where, eight days later on June 25, he joined Sitting Bull and Black Moon to administer one of the soundest defeats ever suf-

General Crook remained in the field throughout the summer, returning to Camp Robinson in late October after exhausting his supplies. He went from there to Fort Laramie and Col. Ranald Mackenzie took over command of Robinson where he began in earnest to bring his forces to full strength for coming campaigns.

In the meantime — in September, 1876 — the successful purchase of the Black Hills had been negotiated by a



TOP: This blacksmith shop is where General Custer is said to have imbibed with his non-commissioned officers. Some historians dismiss the rumor, preferring to believe that Custer never drank. BOTTOM: Beyond this view of the original parade grounds are

fered by a U. S. military command — the utter annihilation of Custer's forces.

This and other major Indian victories brought an end to the Grant Peace Policy and on July 22, 1876, control of the Indian agencies was transferred from the Department of the Interior to the War Department. Lt. O. Elting of Camp Robinson became the acting agent at Red Cloud Agency.

new commission with the treaty being signed at Red Cloud Agency.

Victories by Crook, Mackenzie and General Miles throughout the winter had begun to take their toll on the ranks of the hostile forces and by spring, 1877, the end of the Sioux War obviously was in sight. In April, a thousand Sioux led by Touch the Clouds surrendered at Spotted Tail Agency and Chief Dull Knife brought his battered Cheyenne forces in to



Camp Robinson. Word soon reached authorities that Crazy Horse was coming in and on May 6, 1877, the wily chief and 889 followers surrendered at Camp Robinson.

Four months later — on Sept. 5, 1877 — Crazy Horse was dead, the victim of a military guard's bayonet . . . and the mistrust of his contemporaries. And while his untimely death created a few moments of uneasiness among both friendly and hostile In-

in August 1877 following their surrender at Camp Robinson. Diseases for which they held no natural immunity and a severe lack of food brought them untold suffering and prompted their request to return north. Denied this request, they took matters into their own hands and fled from Fort Reno, fighting their way back toward Camp Robinson . . . and eventual recapture by military troops.

Told they would have to return to

Cheyenne warriors opened fire on the guards and many escaped to the surrounding hills. On January 22, the last had been killed or captured, closing out more than two weeks of intense hand-to-hand combat and for all practical purposes, bringing an end to Indian hostilities in Northwest Nebraska.

With the end of the Indian troubles came a new beginning for Fort Robinson. Easier to supply by rail, it soon replaced Fort Laramie as the top military post in the area. Expansion of facilities began in 1887, resulting in a change in its function to a regimental headquarters cavalry post.

Following the final bloody skirmish in the war with the Sioux, known as the Battle of Wounded Knee in December, 1890, and precipitated by the Indians' restlessness and discouragement with their existence on the reservation, life for Fort Robinson troopers settled into normal routine. But the outbreak of war with Spain stripped the post of troops and the garrison was reduced to a minimum.

Fort Robinson became a Quartermaster Remount Depot in 1919 following World War I, developing into the world's largest such station. Activities along these lines were continued and expanded in the early stages of World War II, and in October 1942, it became a training site for dogs in the K-9 Corps. A Prisoner of War camp was established there in March, 1943.

The post was declared surplus by the War Department at the conclusion of World War II and the property turned over to the U. S. Department of Agriculture which conducted an extensive beef research program.

Tourists today may visit Fort Robinson and sleep in quarters once occupied by such famous military names as Mackenzie, Sheridan, Crook, Miles, Custer and countless others. Outside, they may hear the wind rustling through cottonwoods that stood in the days of Crazy Horse, Dull Knife, Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, Little Big Man and many more brave leaders of the redmen.

If only those trees could talk!



the original officers' quarters. Constructed of adobe, they more recently have been framed and rented to tourists visiting the area. ABOVE: This former barracks building on the grounds of Fort Robinson has been renovated and is now a hotel and restaurant.

dian ranks, their failure to react violently lent added proof that the Sioux War was all but over.

Minor skirmishes with Indians broke out occasionally, but for the most part, life at Camp Robinson remained relatively normal. The post was renamed Fort Robinson in January, 1878.

One of the fort's final roles in the Indian wars came in early 1879. The Cheyennes under Chief Dull Knife had been moved to Indian Territory

Indian Territory, Dull Knife replied they would be killed rather than go back to the reservation. And when an attempt was made to starve them into submission, the Cheyennes decided to try to escape. On January 9, 1879, the Cheyenne Outbreak began, precipitating one of the major battles of the Indian Wars.

Using the few guns they had managed to secretly retain when they surrendered the previous October, the



# Crazy horse wa

Crazy Horse, gallant and sagacious leader of the Oglala Sioux, may have been one of the most misunderstood men of his time. Considerable mystery and speculation surround his life, especially the final months. Even his death, also shrouded in an aura of shame and uncertain detail, must go down as one of the tragic moments in Western history.

But despite any or all elements of uncertainty, few will deny he was one of the chief military geniuses of the Plains Indians.

Crazy Horse was born in what now is South Dakota, probably in 1842. While his early life and training were much the same as that of any other boy of the Sioux tribe, his unusual ability in the buffalo hunt and his bravery in war were quickly discernible. His appearance, too, was different. Light brown hair and a much lighter complexion than his fellow tribesmen set him apart, and despite a quiet and reserved countenance, his leadership qualities were apparent at a young age.

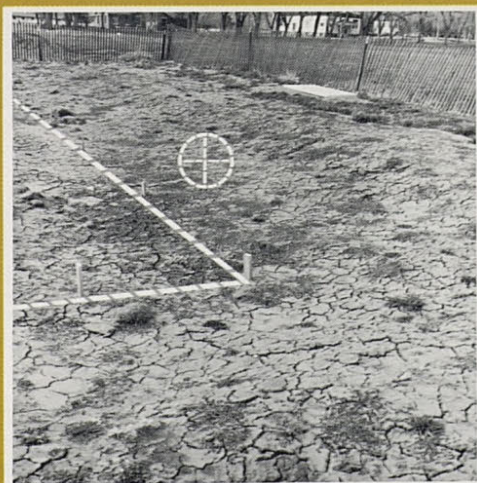
This unusual leadership quality was given a chance to exert itself in the mid-1870s. Gold was discovered in the Black Hills of the Dakotas — territory guaranteed the Sioux by treaty in 1868 — and in the war that followed the Indians' attempt to keep greedy whites from the territory, Crazy Horse received ample opportunity to prove his mettle as a great war chief. While he had distinguished himself at the Fetterman Massacre at Fort Kearny 10 years earlier, he found himself in a position of command when the Sioux War began in 1876.



Excavation work at the south side of the original Fort Robinson parade ground has uncovered the foundation of the guardhouse where Crazy Horse met his untimely death. The outline in the photo at left marks the foundation, and the "X" in the right photo above indicates the spot outside the guardhouse door where the famous Oglala chief is believed



# Wasn't so CRAZY



to have received his fatal wounds. No known photograph of Crazy Horse is available. Historians report that while many attempted to obtain a photograph of the chief, their scalps invariably wound up on the well-adorned scalp shirt shown in the center photo above.

Any doubt as to his strategic genius should have been dispelled by U. S. military leaders when Crazy Horse met and defeated General Crook in the Battle of Rosebud Creek. The general, thinking his forces had defeated the hostile group when they left the battlefield, fell back to headquarters for reinforcements. But the wily Crazy Horse, sensing that discretion was the better part of valor, marched northward to join the forces of Chief Sitting Bull.

Eight days later, on June 25, 1876, these "defeated" hostile forces helped to annihilate Custer's command on the Little Big Horn River in Montana. Many historians credit Sitting Bull with the victory, but few report the fact that the strategy used so successfully was planned by Crazy Horse.

Despite these clear-cut victories over the white man, Crazy Horse joined other Indian chiefs in the realization that their cause was hopeless. The white man was too strong . . . and too numerous. After a winter of continuous harassment by General Crook, many of the chiefs elected to surrender.

The spring of 1877 saw the beginning of the end of the Sioux War. In April, Chief Touch the Clouds surrendered one thousand hostile Sioux forces and Chief Dull Knife brought in his Cheyenne warriors.

Crazy Horse held out until May when he found he could no longer flee the pursuing hordes of pony soldiers. Food for his people and his ponies had become unobtainable and sufferings unbearable. So on May 6, 1877, the once-proud chief led his





This marker, erected to commemorate the death of Crazy Horse, rests on the south side of the original Fort Robinson parade ground, several feet from the exact spot located in the enclosed area in the immediate background.

889 followers to Camp Robinson, Nebraska, for surrender.

The subdued chief spent the summer of 1877 on the reservation where restlessness and dissatisfaction began to breed the germs of distrust. Crazy Horse still was a wild Indian, used to a free life unencumbered by regimentation and confinement. His actions became a source of suspicion on the part of military authorities.

This suspicion was heightened by an incident that ultimately led to the chief's demise. Whether the incident was the result of an honest mistake or a purposeful and deliberate attempt to discredit Crazy Horse's honor will probably remain eternally open to debate.

The Army, involved with new In-

dian troubles in the outbreak of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce tribe, sought scouts for their new campaign. At first Crazy Horse opposed the enlistment of Sioux warriors, arguing they would be used to fight Sitting Bull rather than the Nez Perce. Assured that such would not be the case, the chief finally agreed to the Army's request, but Frank Grouard, acting as interpreter, came up with an error in translation that for all practical purposes sealed the doom of Crazy Horse.

Grouard, who had lived for years in the camps of Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse and later led soldiers in campaigns against the Sioux, reported in his translation that Crazy Horse said he "would fight until not a white man was left." This further deepened the

distrust among military leaders and lent reinforcement to the rumor that the chief was planning to murder General Crook and take to the war-path again.

General Crook had no alternative in light of such rumors than to order Crazy Horse's arrest. A cavalry battalion was sent to apprehend him, but once again the chief slipped from their grasp and fled to the camp of his friend Touch the Clouds at Spotted Tail Agency. Later en route to nearby Camp Sheridan, Crazy Horse was met by Lt. J. M. Lee, two Indian Agency officials, and an interpreter who immediately attempted to correct the mistranslation made by Grouard.

Assured by Lt. Lee that he would not be harmed, Crazy Horse agreed





This close-up of the marker shown on the preceding page reveals a slight deviation in spelling. Some say Ogallala, others claim it is Oglala.

to return the following day to Camp Robinson so his case could be heard by military authorities. But General Crook's orders for the apprehension of the chief held precedence over any other arrangement and Crazy Horse was ordered imprisoned.

Under pretext of being led to a talk with the commanding officer, the chief was escorted to the guardhouse. Seeing the barred windows and apparently sensing what was intended, he suddenly drew a concealed knife and attempted to fashion an escape.

Little Big Man, a long-time personal enemy, grabbed the knife and was injured in the fracas. Then while struggling to free himself from the grasp of those who would restrain him, Crazy Horse felt the sharp steel

of a guard's bayonet thrust into his back. Taken next door to the adjutant's office, Crazy Horse died shortly before midnight on September 5, 1877.

Witnessing this ignoble deed were thousands of both friendly and hostile Indians, crowded into every available space around the guardhouse. That the hostiles still close to their chief did not attack in revenge remains one of the era's biggest puzzles. Some maintain that warriors friendly to the white man prevented such action. Others claimed Crazy Horse had lost his influence over his people, the victim of petty bickering and jealousies.

But a gallant chief was dead, ironically struck down from behind by the cold steel that had failed to conquer him in face-to-face combat.



*"Dedicated to the Progress  
of the Great Southwest  
and Rocky Mountain Area."*

#### COVER STORY

Like a lighthouse upon a vast sea of treeless and unplotted prairie, this prominent landmark in western Nebraska served as a beacon for travelers in the mid-nineteenth century who followed the Oregon and Mormon Trails in their treks westward. Known as Scotts Bluff, it rose from the flat lands to guide those who sought new homes in Oregon, gold in California, or a religious haven in Utah, and stands today as a memorial to those who helped to settle a new frontier.

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