



*Baby picture of Charles Raymond (Rathbun) Woodard, aged two, in Burlington, Iowa, showing the curly hair that was to be his trademark for many years.*



*Charles Raymond (Rathbun) Woodard, aged 17, not long before he cut off the long, curly hair which he had worn since childhood.*



*Sioux Chief Red Cloud (1822-1909), long-time friend of Charles Raymond (Rathbun) Woodard, who gave him his Sioux nickname, "Pahahanska Okshila."*

A United States treaty in 1868 had set the Black Hills aside for the Sioux, and provided that no white persons could settle, occupy or even pass through the area without the Indians' consent. That promise, and the treaty, like many before, were soon broken. Gold was discovered in the Black Hills in 1874, and a flood of miners poured into the area, seeking their fortunes.

The Indians protested in vain, and outbursts of violence became common. The climax came in 1876, when a band of Sioux warriors, led by Chief Sitting Bull, wiped out a detachment of cavalry led by General George Custer at the Little Big Horn.

"Custer's Last Stand" set off a decade of violence, which culminated in the murder of Sitting Bull in 1890 by a government-paid Indian policeman. Sitting Bull was the most beloved and respected of the Sioux chieftains, and the outraged Indians swore revenge.

On Dec. 29, 1890, hundreds of Sioux — men, woman and children — were camped near Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota, when they were surrounded by federal troops and ordered to surrender. The Indians agreed, but objected when they were told to turn over their guns, which they needed for hunting. In the arguing and confusion, shots were fired, and a full-scale mass-

acre was begun. When it was over, more than 200 Indian men, women and children had been slaughtered. Dozens more, left lying in the fields, froze to death in a snowstorm that night. The Army lost 29 men.

Nellie and Raymond Woodard were at the nearby Rosebud Reservation on one of their selling trips when the massacre occurred. When Nellie heard the news, she took Raymond and set off immediately for Wounded Knee to see if she could help any of their Indian friends who had survived.

They found a scene of desolation and sadness. Soldiers and government workers had already begun the task of collecting the dead Indians and dumping them into open-pit graves. Nellie did what she could to treat the injured and console the survivors.

Young Raymond, then eight years old, never forgot the sights he saw that day, and in later years often told of the bitterness and bewilderment he had felt about the slaughter of his Indian friends. For the rest of his life, he was an ardent supporter of Indian rights, and maintained many friendships among the Indian tribes, especially the Sioux.

In a day when bigotry was the norm, he maintained a strong attitude of tolerance for all races. At one point, a young black basketball player visited

Chadron on an exhibition tour, and was pointedly ignored by most local citizens. Raymond's neighbors were appalled when he invited the young man to his home for dinner on several occasions.

Raymond had a long-term close relationship as a boy, a teen-ager and a young man with Red Cloud, one of the principal chiefs of the Oglala Teton Sioux. It was Red Cloud who had given him his Indian name, "Pahahanska-Okshila," by which Raymond was known to all his Indian friends.

Raymond frequently visited the reservations throughout his life, and spent many hours with Red Cloud until the chief's death in 1909 aged 87. The old Sioux was nearly blind in his later years, and Raymond used to roll home-made cigarettes for him. Red Cloud gave his young white friend many gifts, including a Silver Peace Medal awarded him by the U.S. Congress for his peace endeavors.

Raymond was a handsome, likeable boy, and was badly spoiled by his loving and indulgent mother, as well as his wealthy aunt Mary. Not surprisingly, he became somewhat of a problem in his teen years.

At one point, he ran away from home to join a traveling circus as a trick rider

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