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Westview Wins Award

Westview Staff

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The famed war bonnet had been made for him by White Buffalo Bull in 1860. It was one of a kind and was made from a dream Roman Nose had while he was fasting. In the dream he had seen a serpent with a single horn in the middle of its forehead, and a long tail. When White Buffalo Bull had finished with the bonnet, it was a work of art, made without an iron tool of any kind. There was a single horn in the forehead and forty black and red feathers reaching almost to the ground even when Roman Nose was seated on his pony.

As the battle raged, a runner was sent to Roman Nose. He was told that the fight was not going well and that many of his warriors had been killed. They were waiting for him to come and lead them. Some of his friends urged him to go through with the special purification ceremony to restore his medicine before going to the fight, but Roman Nose said there was not time. Putting on his sacred medicine paint he donned his war bonnet and mounted his pony. Riding to a hill overlooking the island he sat looking over the scene. At sight of him his warriors stopped their fighting to see what he was going to do. A good friend, Tangle Hair, and three more of his friends went to meet him. When they arrived they all dismounted and sat down for a talk. Roman Nose told them of his fears and said that he would probably be killed. While they were talking White Contrary rode up. "Here is the great Roman Nose, our fearless leader, the man we depend on. Here he sits safe from the bullets while his warriors die for him."

26

At his words Roman Nose laughed. "The old man is right, and I will die here, today." Mounting his pony, he rode down the hill and toward the island. As he rode he was followed by his warriors, some three hundred. As Roman Nose rode near the scouts hidden in the grass, they opened fire and a bullet struck him in the small of his back just above the hips. Mortally wounded, he managed to stay on his pony and ride with his friends back to the village. Here he dismounted and lay down on his back. His friends remained with him and they talked until he died at dawn the next morning. After his death Roman Nose's squaw took down her tepee and used the poles to make a scaffold to hold his body. Wrapping the body in buffalo robes it was lifted to the scaffold and tied there. His personal belongings were placed beside him. With this done his squaw then slashed her wrist in mourning.

The fight continued for two days then a relief column of soldiers were seen coming from Fort Wallace. With the death of their leader Roman Nose they had lost their will to fight and the Cheyenne retreated into the surrounding hills. The timely arrival of the troops was brought about by Jack Stillwell and another scout who had gone for help shortly after the fight began.

Roman Nose was, no doubt, one of the most famous leaders of the Northern Cheyenne and was most noted for the fight at Beecher's Island, of which he had very little to do with. The site of the fight was known as Beecher's Island, named for Lt. Beecher who also died there.



PHOTO BY DIANNE JOHNSON

Receiving the award from Sentinel Chamber of Commerce Secretary-Treasurer Jane Rogers were Assistant Editor Ted Pyle, SOSU President Dr. Leonard Campbell, Assistant Editor Dr. Christopher Gould, Editor-in-Chief Dr. Robin Montgomery, Staff Writer Donita Lucas Shields, and Managing Editor Dr. Leroy Thomas.

Westview Wins Award

WESTVIEW has received one of six certificates of recognition given by the Oklahoma-Kansas Oil and Gas Association for its contributions to public awareness of the state's oil and gas heritage.

Accepting the award were Dr. Robin Montgomery, WESTVIEW's editor-in-chief; Dr. Leroy Thomas, managing editor; Dr. Christopher Gould, assistant editor; Professor Ted Pyle; SOSU President Dr. Leonard Campbell, and Donita Shields, Elk City, who wrote one of the award-winning articles.

The journal, which is published quarterly by SOSU, was nominated for the award by the Sentinel Chamber of Commerce.

Making the presentation was Jane Rogers, secretary-treasurer of Sentinel's chamber.

The competition was an official Diamond Jubilee project.

*(from the WEATHERFORD DAILY NEWS
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