

Date: Thursday, March 17, 1977 Paper: Oregonian (Portland, OR) Page: 37
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Death takes grandson of Chief Sitting Bull

Frank White Buffalo Man, who said he was the last surviving grandson of the great Sioux chief Sitting Bull, died Wednesday morning in his Milwaukie home. He was 73.

Born on the Sioux reservation in Standing Rock, S.D., Ta-Tanka-Ska, as he was known in Sioux, attended Oregon's Chemawa School during his teens.

With his family, he joined the traveling "Buffalo Bill" Wild West shows that crossed the country during the 1920s.

Some of his early life was spent working on the railroad and on ranches. In later years, he was associated with the Corn Palace theater in Mitchell, S.D.

In a 1971 interview, he recalled the changes that had occurred among Indians during his lifetime.

"I remember when we used to have to get a permit from the superintendent to leave the reservation to visit friends on other reservations. Now we have the freedom to migrate anyplace," he said.

He did not drink coffee or alcohol, nor did he smoke except for peace pipe ceremonial purposes. He was known throughout the Northwest as he participated in potlatch ceremonies and in demonstrations of Indian music and dancing.

He was especially proud of a University of Washington blanket with "flusky" insignia which he won during a "fancy dancing" pow-wow at the university held several years ago.

He is survived by his wife, the former Ruby Lang, who is a descendant of Chief Joseph, the Nez Perce leader.

Funeral services are pending.



FRANK WHITE BUFFALO MAN