

# Death of 91-Year-Old California Author Recalls How He, as Young Army Lieutenant, Recorded for Posterity Famous Speech of a Great Indian Chief

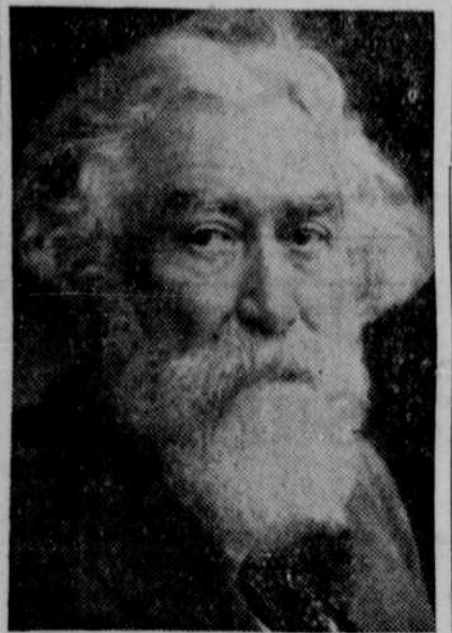
By ELMO SCOTT WATSON  
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

THE recent death of Col. Charles Erskine Scott Wood in California recalls one of the most dramatic incidents in American military history, for he was one of the chief actors in that drama. It was the surrender of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce Indians in the Bear Paw mountains of Montana on October 5, 1877, after his epic retreat of more than 1,000 miles which won for him a place among the great captains of all time.

Colonel Wood, then a young lieutenant on the staff of Gen. O. O. Howard, was present at the surrender, took down the Indian leader's "surrender speech" and it is to him that we are indebted for a complete and accurate text of what has become a classic of American oratory.

The story of the Nez Perce war of 1877 and of Chief Joseph's retreat is too familiar a tale to need repetition in all its details here. Its origin was the old, old story of a broken treaty, of white men covetous for Indian lands, of white aggression that brought about retaliation by the red man and then a call for troops to "put down an Indian uprising." In this case, however, the leader of the Nez Perces did not decide to try to defend his native soil by fighting the soldiers. Instead, he conceived the bold plan of fleeing with his people to Canada, fighting only if the troops barred his road.

Gen. O. O. Howard, commander of the Military Department of the Columbia, acted promptly when news of the killing of four settlers by a



C. E. S. WOOD

young Nez Perce warrior marked the opening of the "war." He began concentrating troops at all strategic points to surround the Nez Perce. The first engagement took place on June 17 when Captain Perry and a small body of troops attacked Joseph's camp in White Bird canyon. Displaying unexpected military skill, Joseph laid a trap for Perry and all but annihilated his command.

After this defeat General Howard took the field himself and the chase was on. Before it was ended the Nez Perce leader outwitted, outfought and outmarched the troops of Howard, Colonel Sturgis of the Seventh cavalry and several other detachments sent to intercept him. To realize the greatness of his achievement one has but to read this brief summary:

The Nez Perce leader was encumbered with women and children whom he refused to desert and allow them to fall into the hands of the soldiers, as he might have done several times to facilitate his flight. His fighting force never at any time exceeded 300 warriors. Yet with these handicaps he fought 11 engagements, five of them pitched battles, lost only one. In the other skirmishes he killed 126 and saved 140 of the 2,000 soldiers who were on his trail at one time or another with a loss of 151 killed and wounded of his own people.

After having left his pursuers far behind, he stopped 50 miles short of the Canadian line—in order to give his weary people a chance to rest. He did not know of the approach of Col. Nelson A. Miles and the Fifth Infantry until his camp in the Bear Paw mountains in Montana was attacked on the morning of September 30. For five days the Nez Perce leader and his little band, greatly outnumbered, withstood the soldiers' attacks.



THE SURRENDER OF CHIEF JOSEPH As depicted by Frederic Remington in General Miles' "Personal Recollections."

On October 4, General Howard with his two aides, Lieut. Guy Howard, his son, and Lieutenant Wood, accompanied by two friendly Nez Perces (both of whom had daughters in the hostile camp) and an interpreter, arrived in Miles' camp. The next day, these two Nez Perces, George and Captain John, entered the camp of the beleaguered Indians. They told the chief that General Howard was there with promises of good treatment and that his whole command was only two or three days behind him. With tears in their eyes they begged him to surrender because his was a lost cause and Joseph agreed.

The scene which followed is described by Wood in a letter which has never before been published. It follows:

"The surrender was October 5, 1877. Joseph rode up the hill near to sunset to where we were—Howard, Miles, Chapman, the interpreter, Oscar Long, adjutant to Miles, Guy Howard, the general's son and aide de camp, and myself. I was aide de camp, also adjutant general in the field—in charge of records, etc.

"Three or four men on foot hung around Joseph, clinging to his knees and saddle blanket. All were bareheaded. Joseph's hair hung in two braids on each side of his face. He wore a blanket—I do not remember the color, but I would say gray with a black stripe and I would say it was girdled about his waist but carried up and around his shoulders. Under his blanket he wore a woolen shirt open at the throat, a dark color—I am inclined to think it was army blue. He wore moccasins and leggings. His rifle was across the pommel in front of him. When he dismounted he picked up his rifle, pulled his blanket closer around him and walked toward General Howard and offered him the rifle. Howard waved him toward Miles. He then walked to Miles and began his speech."

The text of that historic speech as given by Colonel Wood follows:

"Tell General Howard I know his heart. What he told me before—I have it in my heart. I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed. Looking Glass is dead. Too-hul-hul-suit is dead. It is the young men now who say 'yes' and 'no' (vote in the council). He who led on the young men (Ollicut, his brother) is dead. It is cold and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing to death. My people—some of them—have run away to the hills and have no blankets, no food. No one knows where they are—perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children and see how many of them I can find; maybe I shall find them among the dead. Hear me, my chiefs, my heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever!"

The above version of the "surrender speech" is the one given in an article "Chief Joseph, the Nez Perce" by Colonel Wood which appeared in the Century magazine for May, 1884. It has often been reprinted with considerable variation in the text but we have Colonel Wood's assertion (in Chester A. Fee's "Chief Joseph—The Biography of a Great Indian") that this is the correct one. In the letter, previously quoted, he says: "Neither General Miles nor anyone else knows Joseph's long surrender speech accurately except myself. No one was interested to take it down. Oscar Long, Miles' regimental adjutant, was there to take it down but did not. No one was told to take it

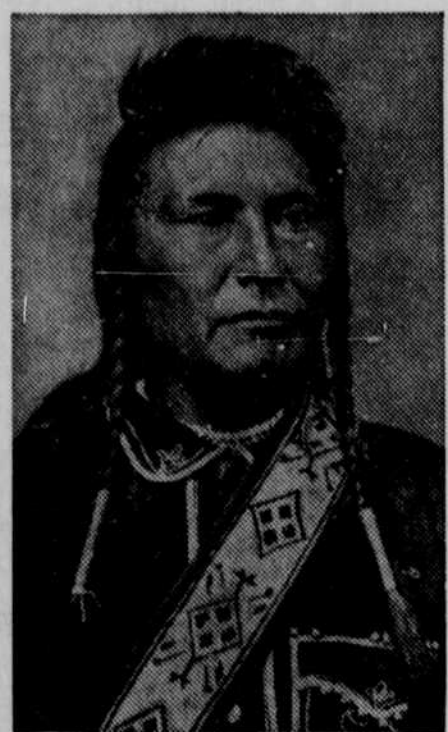
down. I was not told. The speeches of Indians were not considered important. I took it for my own benefit as a literary item."

And thus it was that the young lieutenant who took down this speech as a "literary item" preserved for posterity this pathetic utterance of a heartbroken Indian patriot. It has often been compared with the historic speech of Chief Logan of the Cayugas, which became widely known through being printed in the McGuffey Readers and which was a favorite "piece to be spoken" by several generations of American schoolboys.

Wood was born in Erie, Pa., February 20, 1852, the son of William Maxwell Scott, who was the first surgeon-general of the United States navy. Educated at Erie academy and Baltimore city college he was appointed to the United States Military academy at West Point at the age of 18 by President Grant. He was graduated in 1874 and soon after receiving his commission as a second lieutenant was assigned to duty at Fort Bidwell in northeastern California.

By 1877 he was a first lieutenant and on the staff of General Howard. Detailed to act as military escort to a civilian explorer in Alaska, he was in that country when word came of the outbreak of the Nez Perce war. The same mail that brought him word that his regiment was ordered into the field also brought him permission to stay on for the exploration of Alaska but he elected to join his regiment. Thus, as aide to General Howard, he participated in the long, stern chase after the fleeing Nez Perces.

The Nez Perce campaign, however, was not his only Indian war service. The next year he served on Howard's staff in the Bannock and Plute campaign in Idaho which was nearly as strenuous and dangerous as that of 1877. For a year or so he was stationed at Fort Vancouver across the river from Portland, Ore., and while there he resolved to quit the army and study law. Before resigning from the army he was made adjutant at the military academy at West Point and while there began studying law, re-



CHIEF JOSEPH

ceiving his law degree from Columbia university and being admitted to the bar in 1884.

Returning to Portland, he soon became the outstanding admiralty lawyer of the Pacific coast and continued its practice until 1889 when he retired to devote himself to a career as a writer and painter, winning success and fame in both fields before his death at the age of 91.

## Star Dust

STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO  
By VIRGINIA VALE  
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

FIBBER McGEE is plenty sore these days—in the muscles, not the temper. Here's the reason. The RKO picture, "Heavenly Days," which he and Molly are making, includes a dream fantasy in which Fibber, as a typical American citizen, enters the U. S. senate chamber and swims around 15 feet above the floor. It's done with invisible piano wires—which accounts for the sore muscles.

Now that K. T. Stevens has achieved screen stature with her dramatic lead in the William Cameron Menzies production, "Address Unknown," at Columbia, she can claim the distinction of being the



K. T. STEVENS

only Hollywood star who still lives in the house where she was born. K. T. is the daughter of producer-director Sam Wood, and still lives with her parents in the family manse in Hollywood.

One night recently 70 soldiers were having fun in a New York night club. One thought he recognized a big, buxom blonde in the audience. "Miss Tucker," he said, "the boys would sure get a thrill if you'd sing 'Some of These Days' for them. We're on our last furlough, heading overseas." She sang, she wrote "Sophie Tucker" on menus for them. Didn't want to disappoint the boys by explaining that she's Lulu Bates, practically a double for Miss Tucker, a well-known blues singer who's starring now on NBC's "All Time Hit Parade."

Barry Wood, singer and master of ceremonies on "The Million Dollar Band," doesn't have too much time for his farm these days. He's been entertaining wounded servicemen at the Halloran and St. Albans hospitals, near New York.

Incidentally, that's a fine idea Barry has—that of giving war savings stamps as tips. It is one that is being widely copied in radio circles.

Something new has been added to Webster's dictionary; the new edition will include the word "puppetoon," according to word recently received by Paramount. If you're a movie-goer you know it well; it's derived from "puppet" and "cartoon," and is the registered trademark of those short subjects produced by George Pal. "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street," picturization of the novel of the same name, is the latest in the series of Technicolor Puppetoons produced by Pal for Paramount.

Helen Mack, who's appearing in "And Now Tomorrow" with Loretta Young and Alan Ladd, has been nicknamed "Droopy Helen" by her friends because she plays so many emotional roles. She began training for roles like that back in the days when she studied acting in a New York children's theater school, where she had some classmates destined to be well known—Helen Chandler, Ruby Keeler and Gene Raymond among them.

The movies' own Margaret Sullivan, returning to the New York stage to star with Elliot Nugent in the highly successful "The Voice of the Turtle," juggles three different careers expertly—the stage, the screen, and hardest of all, that of a good wife and mother. . . . It was thrilling to sit in the audience one night recently and find that, when people murmured "Isn't it wonderful that he's here?" and stood up to stare, it was Lieutenant Commander Robert Montgomery whom they meant. A huskier looking Robert Montgomery than in his picture-making days, looking very handsome in uniform.

ODDS AND ENDS—Wallace Beery's brother Noah is slated for a role in Wally's new picture, "Gold Town." . . . Betty Winkler, "Joyce Jordan, M. D.," star, has given a pint of blood once every four months since Pearl Harbor. . . . Betty Hutton wrecked five studio rocking horses while recording her "Rocking Horse" specialty song in Paramount's "For the Angels Sing." . . . Humphrey Bogart and his wife, Mayo Methot, are making a short at Warner's, "A Report From the Front," for the American Red Cross; it includes comment on their recent 10,000-mile USO entertainment tour of North African and Italian war fronts.

## TO YOUR Good Health

by DR. JAMES W. BARTON  
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

DENTISTRY AND DIET

It is known that there is not one person in a thousand who has perfect teeth—that is, absolutely free from decay. Thus when we read of a whole town without a single toothache—Hereford, Deaf Smith county, Texas—and of an institution in Philadelphia—St. Vincent's Home for Mothers and Children Under Four—where no decayed teeth have been found in any of the children examined during the last five years, we naturally want to know the reason.

In the Journal of the American Dental Association, Anna de Planter Boves, M.A., Harrisburg, chief division of nutrition, Pennsylvania department of health, states that studies at Pennsylvania State college and University of Pennsylvania dental school prove that diet is the big factor in preventing tooth decay.

Referring to Hereford, Texas, it is pointed out that analyses of foods grown there "show an astonishingly high content of phosphorus, one of the most vital of all soil minerals. Wheat, the chief food product, contained 600 per cent more than normal. Carrots contained 50 per cent more, cabbage and lettuce, 60 per cent. The calcium (lime) contents of foods also was high."

We are apt to think that people with high incomes have better diets than those with low incomes, but this is not always true. The studies proved that most of the private patients whose diets were studied not only had good incomes but were college graduates. Moreover, they were interested in their health and teeth as evidenced by their quarterly and semiannual visits to their dentists. "Yet the mineral content (phosphorus, calcium) for one week was actually lower than those of clinic patients who ate more oatmeal, potatoes, beans and cabbage."

Referring to St. Vincent's Home for Mothers and Children Under Four, "each child receives a full quart of milk plus what is used in cooking, and four teaspoonfuls of cod liver oil a day; which insures liberal intakes of calcium, phosphorus and vitamins A and D."

The fact that certain foods—dairy products, fruits and green vegetables—prevent decay of teeth does not mean that brushing the teeth regularly prevents decay of the "surface" of the tooth, the hard enamel, which forms the "outer" protection. While we think of diet as assuring the "inner" protection, studies show that diet is also a factor in preserving the enamel also.

### Albumin Is Not Sure Sign of Nephritis

When albumin is found in the urine of an army recruit or one seeking life insurance, he is rejected because this is considered a definite sign of inflammation of the kidneys, that is, nephritis or Bright's disease. However, when a recruit is rejected, he may consult the family physician who is as much surprised as the recruit because he was always a strong youth and never sick.

After examining the urine of the recruit he also finds albumin so immediately advises bed rest. After a short period of rest he finds the urine free of albumin and informs the recruit that his kidneys are normal, the albumin appearing only when on his feet, not when he is lying down. This is called orthostatic albuminuria.

In Military Surgeon, Drs. Hugh H. Young, John S. Haines and Charles L. Prince, Baltimore, state the importance of the recognition of this harmless condition by medical examiners. These physicians studied 64 cases of orthostatic albuminuria at Johns Hopkins hospital. They found no evidence of true nephritis and their urine was frequently found free of albumin. Their studies show definitely that orthostatic albuminuria is a harmless condition which disappears generally in adult life.

QUESTION BOX  
Q.—Can I enjoy good health after an operation for fibroid tumors, or will I be an invalid?  
A.—You will be all right after the operation. The fibroid tumors are not cancer and can be removed readily.  
Q.—What is pruritis?  
A.—Pruritis is just the name given to itching. It can be caused by foods, general diseases, nervousness and other causes.

## Wood's 'Heavenly Discourse' Won Him World Fame as an Author

Colonel Wood became world famous for a book of satirical essays which were published under the title of "Heavenly Discourse." He was also a gifted poet. Typical of his verse is:

NIGHT AND THE DESERT  
(From "Poems From the Ranges," 1929.)  
Flocks of stars across the night fly over.  
The moon floats down to lovely, lucculent death

On the dark mountain—a child unto its mother,  
I lay my head upon the lap of earth.  
She it was who bore me—and when all dwindled  
She will give to me—her child—another birth.  
Straight are her dumb, relentless lips to others  
But I can hear their soothing through the night,  
"Be hushed, my child—you too shall join the flight."

In the vast stillness a small cuckoo-owl  
Flutes from his burrow to the lagging moon.  
As a fly upon a window-pane, my soul  
Feels its littleness in the cosmic bowl  
And clings to the sure bosom; knowing soon  
It will take care of me. Space wheels on  
Toward the firm, indomitable peaks of dawn.

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### ASK ME ANOTHER?

A General Quiz

#### The Questions

1. What is the average tonnage of a U. S. battleship?
2. Pocahontas was the daughter of what Indian chief?
3. What are the four strings on a violin?
4. In geology the era of modern life is known as what?
5. How long has Queen Wilhelmina been queen of the Netherlands?
6. How many Latin American republics are there?
7. Glacier National park in northwestern Montana comprises how many square miles?
8. Who designed the Statue of Liberty?

#### The Answers

1. Thirty thousand tons.
2. Powhatan.
3. G D A E.
4. The Cenozoic era.
5. Since 1890.
6. Twenty.
7. Glacier National park consists of 1,538 square miles.
8. Frederic Bartholdi, a Frenchman.

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Olivia de HAVILLAND  
star of the Warner Bros. picture, "Strawberry Blonde," recommends Calox Tooth Powder for teeth that shine.  
CALOX TOOTH POWDER

## How To Relieve Bronchitis

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CREOMULSION for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis



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