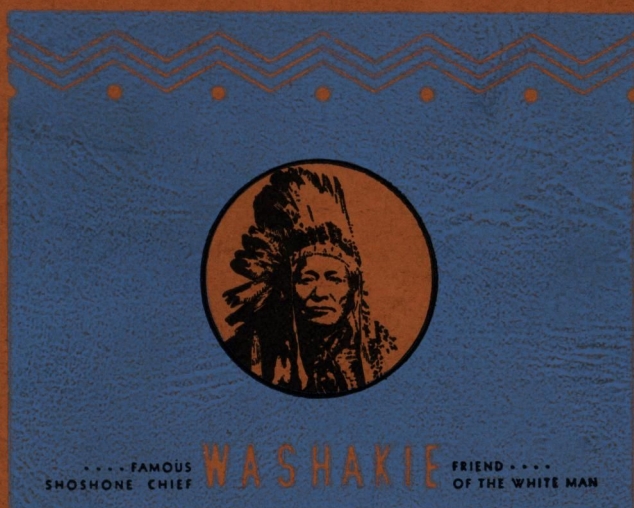


*Life of Chief Washakie  
and  
Shoshone Indians*

By—H. D. DEL MONTE



ILLUSTRATED BY MURALS IN THE  
NOBLE HOTEL DINING ROOM  
LANDER, WYOMING



## INTRODUCTION

A great deal of well deserved credit has been conceded our fearless pioneer leaders and military men for the part they played in the winning of the West, and too much praise cannot be given for their bravery and sacrifices. However, when the authentic early history of Wyoming is thoroughly analyzed, it is disclosed that the one individual who did most to bring about peace and security to the white settlers of this state, was an Indian Chief—Washakie, of the Shoshones; brave, intelligent and possessed of a wonderful physique.

From his first contact with the whites, Washakie accepted them as his friends, realizing even then that opposition to their coming would be useless. He was discerning enough to perceive that hostilities against these powerful new arrivals, who appeared countless in number, and possessed implements of war with which the Indians could not hope to cope, would result in the inevitable defeat of his people. Also that the United States Government could, if it saw fit, either take this newly settled land from the Indians by force at great sacrifice of life, or guaranty the Indians permanent peace and plenty on land set aside for their exclusive use.

Washakie's decision to cooperate and be loyal to our government was made early. His valued counsel and aid were in constant demand, and always freely given. His knowledge of Indian warfare and the bravery of his fighting men, made it possible for the United States Troops to subdue many of the hostile tribes. Hundreds of immigrants and many scouts owed their lives to his protection.

Acknowledgment of the numerous outstanding contributions made by Washakie to the welfare and protection of our early settlers, was made by Presidents Grant and Hayes, and all of the many Indian officials and scouts with whom he served.

In recording the following events in the life of Chief Washakie and the Shoshone Indian Tribe, and portraying these stories on the murals in the Indian Dining Room of the Noble Hotel, no effort has been spared to present them as nearly correct as possible in every detail.

In compiling this data, personal contact was made with members of Chief Washakie's family, and others who knew him intimately, both Indians and Whites; and thorough search made through official reports, government files and Indian Department records.

These original mural sketches in oil are the work of J. K. Ralston, Montana artist living in Billings. He is the son of pioneer parents and was raised on a cattle ranch just across the Missouri River from the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. Drawing from a store of knowledge built up through actual contact and association, his portrayal of Indian and western scenes is colorful and authentic.

The numbers in parenthesis shown throughout the stories, followed by title of paintings in caps, correspond to the numbered murals on the walls of the Indian Dining Room illustrating that particular event being described in the story.

## PREFACE



Washakie, son of a Flat-head mother and Umatilla father, was born into the Flat-head Tribe in 1798, and lived with them until

he was about eight years of age. (1) IN AN ATTACK BY A BAND OF BLACKFEET, HIS FATHER PASEEGO WAS KILLED, and young Washakie, after a short chase, was stabbed in the back and left for dead. Later in the day his mother and two sisters who had evaded capture, located the unconscious boy and made their escape with him into the nearby wooded country, where the boy was nursed back to health. The family eventually found refuge with the friendly Lemhi tribe, and (2) UNDER THEIR PROTECTION WASHAKIE GREW TO MANHOOD.

He joined the Shoshones about 1830, and through his natural leadership and daring in battle, it was not long until he was the accepted leader of the younger group of fighters. In 1840 he was elected a sub-chief, and but four years later was (3) ACCLAIMED HEAD CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. The Shoshones at that time were divided into many small bands, assembling only upon call of their head chief. Washakie's first accomplishment as head chief of his tribe was to unite the several groups of Eastern Shoshones, over whom he assumed personal leadership.

He was a hard master, demanding absolute control over every activity of the tribe. In order to overcome the handicap of being, at that time, one of the smallest tribes in number of fighting men, (4) HE SET UP A SYSTEM OF MILITARY TRAINING, following as closely as possible the military tactics of the United States Army, to which he added his experience as an Indian fighter. The outcome was an efficient, well-disciplined fighting unit, which bested many of the stronger tribes in battle.

The name Washakie means raw hide rattle, but in later years, because of a pronounced scar across



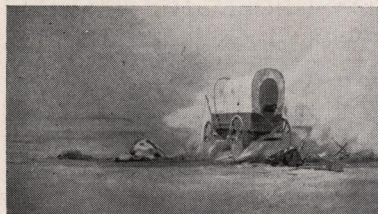
his left cheek, the result of an arrow wound received in battle with a band of Blackfeet, Washakie was generally known to the Indians as "White Haired Chief with Scarred Face."

Washakie held the respect and admiration of his people, not only as an able chieftain and a great leader in battle, but also as a mighty hunter. This was of tremendous importance to them, as their very existence depended upon their ability to take enough buffalo during the hunting season to feed, clothe, and house them through the long winter months. Unlike many other Indian leaders who would permit their tribesmen to frighten and scatter large herds of buffalo, Washakie after spotting his game, (5) WOULD MANIPULATE GREAT NUMBERS INTO A NATURAL TRAP AND KILL THEM AT WILL. He also had remarkable ability in stalking other game, and making his kill while on a high run.

For many years Washakie claimed the Lander Valley and surrounding Wind River country for his people as their tribal hunting grounds. As this region was rich in game and fish, with an abundance of excellent feed and fine mountain water, their claim was contested by many other tribes; resulting in a long period of almost constant warfare. To further complicate matters, (6) WHITE PIONEERS WERE ENTERING HIS DOMAIN UNDER THE PROTECTION OF UNITED STATES TROOPS.

Washakie realized early that the whites were far too powerful for Indian opposition, and that (7) UPON HIS ABILITY TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES TROOPS WOULD DEPEND THE FUTURE OF HIS TRIBE. Washakie's greatest ambition for his people was to obtain by treaty, absolute domain over their cherished Wind River Valley; with adequate protection against attack by the combined forces of their enemies. He therefore refused to permit the blood of a white person to be shed by any member of his tribe, and assisted the United States Troops on every occasion possible, when they found it necessary to do battle with his enemies.

## DEATH OF CHIEF WASHAKIE'S SON 1865



During the year 1864 the Cheyennes and Sioux had become leaders of the marauding tribes which, (8) THROUGH

THEIR WIDESPREAD DEPREDATIONS, WERE CREATING A REIGN OF TERROR AMONG THE WHITE SETTLERS AND EMIGRANTS IN WYOMING.

Although arch enemies of the Shoshones, (9) THE CHEYENNES AND SIOUX SENT ONE OF THEIR CHIEFS TO WAIT UPON WASHAKIE in the spring of 1865 in an endeavor to have the Shoshones join with them in ridding their land of the whites. However, Washakie stood firm, and steadfastly refused to permit his warriors to participate in any of the many horrible atrocities being committed. He further incited these tribes by declaring that it was his intention to assist the United States Troops in their efforts to quell this continued uprising.

A short time later, in answer to an urgent appeal from General Connor, (10) WASHAKIE RUSHED SEVERAL OF HIS BEST SCOUTS AHEAD TO HELP THE TROOPS TRACK DOWN THESE PLUNDERING TRIBES, and made preparation to follow with the balance of his fighting men. The news of this action tended to further infuriate the Cheyennes and Sioux, and in the early summer of 1865 they attacked the main body of the Shoshones, who (11) WERE THEN CAMPED ON THE SWEETWATER RIVER SOUTH OF LANDER.

While the battle was in progress, a small group of Sioux succeeded in driving off about 400 of the Shoshone horses. Chief Washakie immediately designated his eldest son Nau-nang-gai (Snow Bird) to lead a detachment of picked warriors in pursuit of the fleeing enemy, and endeavor to bring back the highly prized horses.



Young Washakie was first to mount, and while waiting for the others was severely reprimanded by Chief Washakie for his apparent delay in getting started. Making no reply and without hesitation, (12) THE BOY WHIPPED HIS MOUNT AND STARTED OFF ALONE AFTER THE HORSE-STEALING SIOUX.

At the crossing of Willow Creek, six miles distant, he caught up with eight of the Sioux Indians and engaged them in battle. Out-numbered, young Washakie had no chance of survival, and after killing two of the enemy, was over-powered and slain. His death was avenged later in the day by his comrades, who killed most of the Sioux raiding party, recapturing all of their own horses as well as taking those of the enemy.

The death of his favorite son was a tremendous loss to Chief Washakie, who realized that his unwarranted reprimand had sent the boy to his certain death. Indians who were present at the time (13) THE BOY'S BODY WAS RETURNED TO WASHAKIE, SHORN OF ITS SCALP, stated that within a few hours Washakie's hair had turned completely white.

## CROW HEART BUTTE BATTLE 1866



An important battle was fought within view of this large flat-top butte, between the Shoshones and Bannock Indians on one

side, and the Crow Indians on the other. It was a contest for possession of the prized hunting grounds of the Big Wind River Basin.

The tribes were so evenly matched, that as the battle continued into the fifth day it was apparent that neither side was able to gain an advantage, while many men were being lost. It was finally agreed that Chief Washakie and the Crow Chief Big Robber should fight a duel, and the tribe of the victorious Chief should have undisputed claim to the Wind River Valley. As both Chiefs were noted fighters and bitter enemies the contest was heralded as a great event.

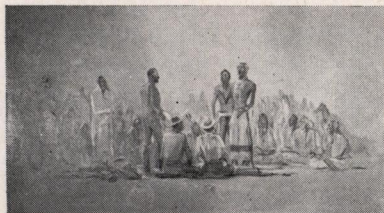
With their own lives, and the future of their tribes depending upon the outcome of this contest, (14) EACH CHIEF FOUGHT WITH ALL OF HIS SKILL AND CUNNING. Although excitement was at a high pitch, the members of each tribe looked on without interference, as they had agreed.

Washakie was the victor, and was so impressed with the bravery of the Crow Chief that he cut out the heart of his late antagonist and displayed it on the end of his lance at the dance of victory held by the Shoshone Tribe that night.

One of the Crow girls (Aha-why-per) captured during this battle was later to become the wife of Chief Washakie.



## TREATY OF 1868



In the early days of the West, many of our National Legislators were of the opinion that land in this newly settled country was

practically worthless and even begrudged the inadequate appropriations made for military protection of the pioneers. It was while in this frame of mind that they granted to Washakie under the treaty of July 2, 1863, practically all of the land over which his tribe roamed; a tract consisting of 44,672,000 acres, comprising parts of what is now the states of Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Wyoming.

However, at the close of the Civil War, glowing reports were coming in of the apparent unlimited resources of the West. The urgent need of a trans-continental railroad was obvious. Authorized by act of Congress, a race of construction started between the Union Pacific, going west out of Omaha, and the Central Pacific, east from San Francisco.

This contest between the two railroads meant more than the glory of achieving a tremendous engineering feat under the constant threat of hostile Indians and the challenge of a rugged, uncharted country. In this instance to have was to hold, making speed the essence of success; as the length of road completed by each when they met was to be considered the property of that railroad.

Under the land-grant to the Union Pacific railroad, the Government had obligated itself to clear title to right-of-way across many miles of Indian territory, including a strip of land 40 miles wide and 400 miles long running right through the heart of the Shoshone domain granted under the Treaty of 1863.

Having pledged possession of this land to the Shoshones, the Government found itself in a very embarrassing position. In an endeavor to remedy this situation, Congress passed the Indian Peace Commission Act of July 20, 1867.

On July 3, 1868, (15) GENERAL C. C. AUGUR ACTING FOR THIS COMMISSION, ASSISTED BY INTERPRETER J. VAN ALLEN CARTER, MET WITH CHIEF WASHAKIE AND HIS COUNCIL AT FORT BRIDGER TO AGREE UPON ACCEPTABLE TERMS FOR A NEW TREATY, and to determine upon the definite boundary descriptions of the new reservation to be set aside for the Shoshone Tribe.

In lieu of the vast reservation held by the Shoshones under the former treaty of 1863, Washakie was granted his favorite Wind River Valley, containing in itself 3,054,182 acres, an area almost as large as the state of Connecticut.

Although only a very small part of the original Shoshone grant, this wonderful valley included some of Wyoming's finest agricultural lands, as well as hunting and fishing grounds prized by many Indian tribes.

General Augur endeavored to explain as thoroughly as possible the meaning of the boundary descriptions as shown in the treaty now being offered by the U. S. Government, telling how latitude and longitude were determined by the sun and stars. Washakie listened attentively and showed great respect of the white man's learning. However, no amount of persuasion could win him over, and the meeting closed with the following remark by Chief Washakie: "Some day I hope to learn more about the sun and stars, at the time we shall all meet up there, but for the present I prefer to have the boundaries shown by our familiar rivers and mountains."

The final official draft of the treaty shows these boundary descriptions as requested by Chief Washakie.



## WASHAKIE'S CHALLENGE AS CHIEF 1869



Following the signing of the Treaty of 1868, Washakie informed the members of his tribe that it was his intention to avoid, if honorably possible, any further bat-

tle with enemy tribes, and settle on their newly acquired reservation as soon as the government carried out its part of the agreement.

To Washakie this guarantee meant a future of peace and security for his people with undisputed possession of the Lander Valley Country, a dream long cherished by them all. The Government spokesman had acknowledged that the intent of this treaty was not only to reimburse the members of the Shoshone tribe for having deprived them of their natural pursuit of livelihood, but also as a reward for their friendly attitude toward the white settlers, and the many sacrifices made in fighting side by side with United States Troops.

The treaty called for the setting up for their use and benefit alone, under adequate military protection, a model farming community; and supplying them with everything necessary to permit them the opportunity of becoming self sustaining under their new mode of life. This included instructors qualified to teach the most modern farming methods, school teachers, a physician, carpenter, miller, engineer, blacksmith, and other personnel necessary for their education and well being, all under the supervision of a competent and acceptable Indian Agent. School buildings, sawmill, grist mill, blacksmith shop and other necessary buildings were to be constructed at once; and adequate supplies in the way of food, clothing, seed, and farm implements were to be distributed as soon as members of the tribe settled on their newly acquired reservation. Truly an Indian Utopia, if fulfilled.

Unmindful of what the carrying out of the provisions of this treaty would mean to all other mem-

bers of the tribe, agitation for a new leader was started by a few of the younger warriors who were still imbued with the spirit of adventure and lust for battle.

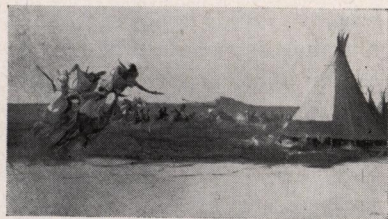
In the spring of 1869, Washakie heard rumblings of their dissatisfaction, and assertions that he was no longer the brave and fearless fighter of past years; that age and contact with the white man had thinned his fighting blood, and he had become too civilized to scalp his enemies.

Washakie said nothing when he learned of this, but placing a sub-chief in charge, left camp at once. Upon his return he called all of his braves into council, and informed them that he had learned of the desire of a few to replace him with a chief more brave and daring. (16) HOLDING UP BEFORE THEM SEVEN ENEMY SCALPS, HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE, ALONE, HAD TAKEN THESE TROPHIES OF WAR, and if there was one amongst them who could better this accomplishment, let him do so and claim his place as leader.

This ended the agitation to replace Washakie as Chief of the Shoshone tribe, and until his death in 1900, he retained unquestioned authority.



## TROUT CREEK BATTLE 1872



The Sioux and Cheyennes finally persuaded the strong Arapahoe tribe to join with them in an endeavor to wipe out the Shoshones, their common enemy.

Each tribe alone numbered more fighting men than the Shoshones.

Year after year the Shoshones had been pursued, only to successfully outwit their foe, and safely make the protection of the Wind River Mountains.

The wiley leadership of Washakie and the daring and bravery of his men was a constant flaunt to these enemy tribes.

In the early spring of 1872, the Shoshones were taken by surprise by the combined forces of these three tribes, and advance scouts brought back word that they had been cut off from their usual retreat into the mountains.

Trapped in the valley, and realizing that this was to be a battle upon which would depend the survival of his tribe, Chief Washakie had his people cross Trout Creek to higher ground and set up their lodges in a giant circle in preparation for the attack.

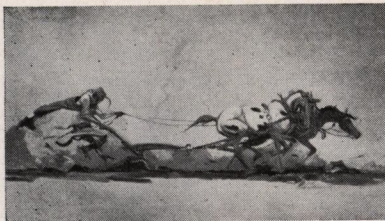
He then ordered trenches to be dug inside each tepee, around the lower edge, sufficiently deep so that only the heads and enough of the bodies of his fighting men were above ground to permit them to shoot between the ground and the bottom of the tepee. The enemy, coming over a nearby ridge at dawn, observed the apparently hopeless plight of this small village, and were filled with confidence that their long hoped-for time to wipe out the Shoshone tribe had come. Gathering their forces they circled for the kill. Unseen by the attacking forces (17) THE SHOSHONES FIRED UNDER THEIR LODGES FROM THEIR BURIED POSITIONS AND BUT FEW OF THEM WERE HIT, while the invaders lost many men.

Several more charges were made, each receiving the same reception. When Washakie felt that he was no longer too heavily outnumbered, and noting the confusion in the enemy ranks caused by their ever increasing losses, he mounted his warriors and led them in attack. After a fierce running battle, the three enemy tribes were driven out of the Wind River country, sustaining heavy losses in both men and horses.

Upon examination of the Shoshone tepees after the battle, they were found to be peppered with holes made by enemy bullets and arrows, many of which would surely have found their mark had the Shoshone warriors not been firing from their entrenched positions.



## MOVING OF CAMP BROWN TO FORT WASHAKIE 1873



Camp Brown, part of which was situated on the present site of the Noble Hotel in the town of Lander, was ordered moved 16 miles

north on the Shoshone Indian Reservation, June 26, 1871. However, the transfer of troops and moving of buildings was not completed until early in 1873. Several years later, by military order dated December 30, 1878, the Camp was renamed Fort Washakie. The community remaining at old Camp Brown was known as Push Root until 1883, when it was officially named after General Lander—soldier, explorer, and pioneer builder of the Lander cut off, first road in the West constructed by the Government. The Shoshone Indian name for Lander is Wan-ze-gara (Where Antelope stay).

Transfer of these troops to the reservation was made not only to have them in a position to serve more of the whites, but also to better protect the friendly Shoshone Indians living in that vicinity, from tribes hostile to them.

For years Chief Washakie had insisted that his people would be unable to lay down their arms and till the soil until they were assured ample protection against enemy tribes; and urged that a sufficient number of cavalymen be stationed nearby for that purpose.

The arrival of these troops therefore caused much joy and rejoicing on the Shoshone Reservation; and in appreciation of this significant event, Chief Washakie ordered a great ceremonial dance and celebration to be held at the time (18) THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES WAS FIRST RAISED AT ITS NEW LOCATION.

Now that fear of attack was removed, the Indians were urged to commence farming under Mr. Fin. G. Burnett, the instructor brought in for that purpose. However, they still hesitated to break up their land for fear that in doing so, all of their grass lands would eventually disappear, resulting

in the loss of their wild game. It was not until Washakie himself plowed the first furrow and a few others were persuaded to follow, that the ice was broken.

The first day of plowing was a veritable circus for both whites and Indians, as few of the Indians had previously seen a plow and none of their ponies had ever felt harness. (19) REFUSING TO DISCARD THEIR BLANKETS, THE INDIANS WOULD HOLD THE ENDS IN THEIR TEETH, TRY TO GUIDE THE PLOW WITH ONE HAND AND CONTROL A PAIR OF BADLY FRIGHTENED HORSES WITH THE OTHER. However, when repairs had been made to harness, plows and Indians, and the runaway ponies brought back and subdued, the first converts learned fast, and others soon followed.

After harvesting the few crops from the first year's planting, the advantage of growing their own food was demonstrated and a definite farm program started on the reservation.



## BATES BATTLE 1874



The famous Bates Battle took place in the Big Horn Mountains July 4, 1874, between a large band of roaming hostile Arapahoes, and a force com-

posed of Company "B" 2nd U. S. Cavalry under the command of Captain Bates, 20 enlisted Shoshone Indian Scouts under Lieutenant Robert H. Young of the 4th Infantry, 167 Shoshone Indian braves led by Chief Washakie, and a few citizens from Camp Brown.

The Arapahoes, long time enemies of the Shoshones, had been causing a great deal of trouble by their attacks on white settlers of the Lander Valley, having taken a number of lives and stolen and destroyed considerable property.

Chief Washakie responded at once to Captain Bates' appeal for help in running down and punishing the Arapahoes, and picked from his tribe the best of his fighting men.

As this was to be Captain Bates' first encounter with hostile Indians, he entrusted all plans of attack entirely to Chief Washakie.

The expedition started from Camp Brown July 1, 1874, traveling only at night. During the night of July 3, after a march of nearly 120 miles, (20) WASHAKIE CAME UPON THE ARAP-AHOE CAMP LOCATED IN A GORGE AT THE BASE OF A HIGH BLUFF IN THE BIG HORN MOUNTAINS. The attack started at daybreak the morning of July 4th.

The Arapahoes had chosen a poor location for their camp, and were taken completely by surprise. The fierce battle which ensued lasted about four hours. So savage was the fighting that the ammunition of both sides was nearly exhausted, and the Arapahoe Village, composed of 115 lodges, was entirely wiped out. More than 200 head of horses were

taken by the Shoshones, who displayed exceptional bravery throughout the battle. When Lieutenant Young fell, badly wounded, Washakie and a few of his men, along with Scout Cosgrove, rushed out under heavy fire and saved him from falling into the hands of the enemy.

Through the able leadership of Chief Washakie, the losses sustained by the troops and the Shoshone Indians were very small, while the defeat of the Arapahoes was so complete that their power as a marauding tribe was broken forever.



## THE ARAPAHOS MOVE IN 1878



Shortly after one o'clock on March 18, 1878, Indian Agent James I. Patten was summoned from his noon-day meal by a greatly excited

Shoshone Sub-Chief. Hurrying the agent across the parade grounds, he pointed to the distant approach of a small group of Arapahoe Indians under military escort. (21) **ANGERED SHOSHONES WERE ALL ABOUT WITH RIFLES POISED; AND BLOODSHED SEEMED INEVITABLE.** In his report of the situation Agent Patten stated "Everything considered, it is remarkable that trouble was averted."

This unannounced Arapahoe committee proved to be Chief Black Coal and ten of his young men, under military escort. They were part of a group of over 900 Northern Arapahoe Indians which had been ordered transferred from the Red Cloud Agency in Nebraska, to Camp Brown, now located on the Shoshone Indian Reservation; in open disregard of the persistent refusal of Chief Washakie to agree to share his reservation with these life-long enemies of his people. The balance of the Arapahoe party had remained behind in camp while their chief and his escort had gone on ahead to find out from Agent Patten just where the Government intended them to locate.

It was a tense moment when this party was escorted on to the Agency grounds, where about 100 Shoshone lodges were camped waiting to receive their allotment of supplies. Trouble was averted, only because of the fact that their leader Chief Washakie was at that time away from the agency, being camped on the Big Wind River several miles distant.

Fearful that some of the more aggressive Shoshones might incite an outbreak at any moment, Agent Patten immediately sent for Chief Washakie, and telegraphed the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington, D. C., suggesting

that speedy action be taken to place the Arapahoes on a reservation of their own. As soon as Chief Washakie arrived at the agency the following morning, a conference was called. Only after insistence by Agent Patten, that the Arapahoes were physically unable to travel further, and giving Chief Washakie absolute assurance that it was the wish of the Great Father (President Hayes) that the Arapahoes be permitted to remain on the Shoshone Indian Reservation only until they recovered sufficiently to be moved to a reservation of their own, did Washakie agree to permit them to stay.

As the Shoshone tribe had moved closer to the mountains in order to hunt the rapidly disappearing game, the Arapahoes, numbering 938 persons, were temporarily located on the reservation's most productive land, further down the valley.

The few months following the arrival of the Arapahoes, was a most severe challenge to the authority and control of Chief Washakie over his tribe, as it was necessary for him to be constantly on the alert in order to hold his people in check. The foisting upon them by the government of their traditional enemy, if for only a short period, was not merely a breach of the treaty of 1868, but also a most dangerous move. Although a definite pledge was given Chief Washakie that additional provisions would be furnished for the Arapahoes, they continued to share in the meager supplies intended for the Shoshones.

It was apparent to Chief Washakie by July that the government was procrastinating in the matter of removing the Arapahoes, and he appealed to Governor John W. Hoyt, of Wyoming, to meet with both the Arapahoe and Shoshone Tribal Councils, so that he might receive first-hand information on the prevailing conditions. Then, if possible, to intercede with the United States Government in their behalf by demanding the removal of the Arapahoes to another location before winter set in. And also endeavor to obtain for them, additional supplies sufficient for the needs of both tribes as long as the Arapahoes remained on the Reservation.

As each tribe refused to associate with the other, it was necessary to call two meetings. The first conference was held with Chief Washakie and his council, and a later meeting with Black Coal, Chief of the Arapahoes, and his group. Governor Hoyt,



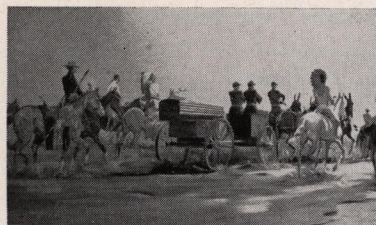
in his report, stated that he had never before been so greatly impressed and deeply moved as he was while Chief Washakie presented to him the plight of his people. And remarked that his sympathy was so profound that many times during the meeting tears came to his eyes.

Governor Hoyt acted at once, and although his appeal for the removal of the Arapahoes went unheeded, additional supplies for both tribes were immediately sent to the Indian Agent.

Year after year, supported by the several Shoshone Indian Agents without exception, and many interested whites, Washakie repeated his demand that the government keep its promise to remove the Arapahoes; but to no avail. As time went on the Indian Department considered the Arapahoes on equal terms with the Shoshones in all matters pertaining to the Reservation, and it was not until, by act of Congress approved March 3, 1927, long after Chief Washakie and the members of his council had died, that the Government permitted the case to come before its courts.

In 1938, through the untiring efforts of George M. Tunison, Attorney for the Shoshone Tribe, the Supreme Court of the United States awarded the Shoshone tribe the amount of \$4,453,000.00 in lieu of encroachment by the Arapahoes.

## FINALE



The Bates Battle of 1874 was the last Indian battle of importance fought in the vicinity of Lander, and Washakie spent the

remainder of his days as counselor to his people.

With the definite knowledge that the Indians could not stem the advance of the white settlers, who were now coming West in ever increasing numbers, and realizing that his people were no longer free to roam and hunt at will, and depend for their prosperity and survival upon their ability as warriors; Chief Washakie persistently urged them to accept these inescapable facts, and take advantage of the offer of the United States Government to protect and teach them to become self-sufficient through agriculture and stock-raising.

Until his death in 1900, Chief Washakie was a close friend of the Reverend John Roberts who had come to the reservation as an Episcopal missionary, February 10, 1883. In 1945, at the age of 93, Dr. Roberts is still ministering to the Shoshone Indians.

Although Chief Washakie had accepted the Christian faith many years before, and had urged the members of his tribe to follow the teachings of Dr. Roberts, it was not until January 25, 1897, realizing his time on earth was nearing an end, that (22) HE ASKED DR. ROBERTS TO COME TO HIS MOUNTAIN CABIN SO THAT HE MIGHT BE BAPTIZED. Chief Washakie was then in his 99th year, and although not physically active, his mind was alert and his memory exceptionally keen.

The next time Chief Washakie sent for Dr. Roberts was the evening of February 19, 1900, the day before his death. Being too weak to talk, he used the Indian sign language by which he requested Dr. Roberts to deliver a message for him to his many white friends near and far, telling them that always they had been true friends and now that he was dying, he wished to shake hands with



them for the last time, through his friend Dr. Roberts.

On February 23, 1900, Chief Washakie was buried in the old Military Cemetery at Fort Washakie. He was accorded the full military honors of a Captain, the only military funeral known to have been given an Indian Chief. The funeral was in charge of Lieutenant Clough Overton, Commander at Fort Washakie, and the escort was furnished by Troop E First Cavalry.

(23) THE FLAG DRAPED COFFIN STRAPPED ON AN IMPROVISED CAISSON LED A PROCESSION OF NEARLY TWO MILES IN LENGTH.

Assisting the Reverend John Roberts in the services conducted at the grave was Episcopal Minister, Dr. Sherman Coolidge, a full blood Arapahoe Indian, who along with several hundred members of his tribe, had come to pay homage to the man who had done most to humiliate them in defeat - - - a fitting tribute to a great leader.



"WHERE RAILS END AND TRAILS BEGIN"

# NOBLE HOTEL

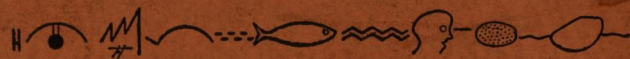
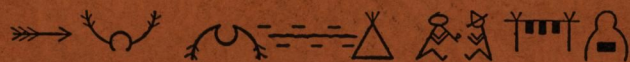
THE SOUTHERN GATEWAY TO YELLOWSTONE AND TETON-NATIONAL PARKS

LANDER, WYOMING

H. D. DEL MONTE, Prop.

THE NOBLE HOTEL DINING ROOM  
CONTAINS ONE OF AMERICA'S  
FINEST INDIAN COLLECTIONS

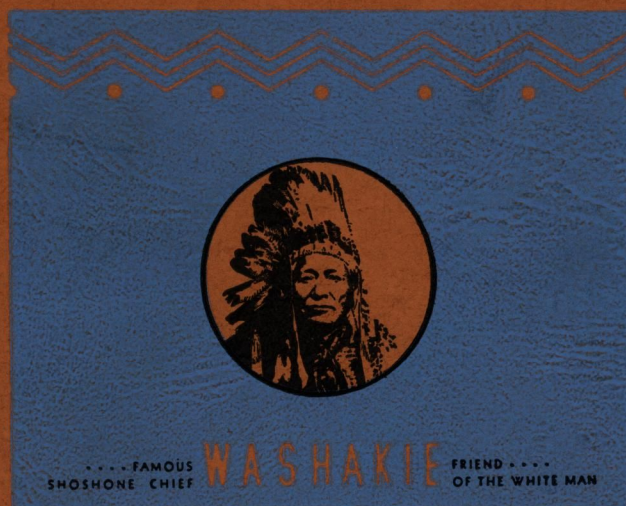
INDIAN MESSAGE AS SHOWN ON WALL OF NOBLE HOTEL DINING ROOM



THE MANAGEMENT WILL BE PLEASED TO TRANSLATE THE ABOVE INDIAN HIEROGLYPHICS

## *Life of Chief Washakie and Shoshone Indians*

By—H. D. DEL MONTE



ILLUSTRATED BY MURALS IN THE  
NOBLE HOTEL DINING ROOM  
LANDER, WYOMING