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**CUSTER MEMORIAL RITES OPEN TODAY**

**Survivors of Famous Battle are at Crow Agency**

Crow Agency, Mont., June 24 (AP) – With enemies of former years mingling arm and arm on the battlefield where 50 years ago the Sioux and Cheyenne annihilated General Custer's immediate command the semi-centennial observance of the Battle of the Little Big Horn started here today. The celebration ends Sunday.

Grizzled veterans of the Indian Wars, present troopers of the Seventh Cavalry and braves of the Indian tribes who were victorious in the famous battle, wandered over the field where Custer's men fought to the last man against the on-rushing hordes of Sioux and Cheyenne.

Chief among the veterans of the Battle of the Little Big Horn who are in attendance at the ceremonies is General E. Godfrey, who commanded Troop K, a part of Benteen's battalion at the battle.

He is national chairman of the Custer Memorial Association. He was joined here by W. C. Slaper of Los Angeles and Fremont Klipp of Washington, DC, who participated in the battle that day. Seven veterans who served with Custer are also here from their homes in northwestern states.

There are numerous Indians here who fought in the battle 50 years ago. Two of the most noted, White Horse, 90, and Black Whetstone, 84, Cheyennes, now are blind.

The agency has been transformed into a teeming frontier army post, with the wrinkled Sioux, Cheyenne, and Crow warriors plodding about, gazing silently at the trim troopers of the Seventh Cavalry, or warmly greeting their former companions or enemies, the retired army officers.

While the anniversary of the Battle of the Little Big Horn falls on Friday, the celebration and feasts may continue for several days, as Indians seldom leave such gatherings when the scheduled program ends.