

Ponca Bill's Experiences More Thrilling Than Biggest 'Thrillers'

No sir-ee! These "hair raising" stories aren't all simply so much imagination, or a suggestive means of making stories more thrilling. It happens. That, at any rate, is what Victor F. Cody, veteran rancher and showman known under the big tops as "Ponca Bill," says. The long, lean owner of Cody ranch near Table Rock, Neb. a nephew of William Cody—the famous "Buffalo Bill", says he has had his hair stiffen, while his heart gurgled in his mouth.

It was in the hazy purple warmth of a late summer afternoon in the Bitter Root country of Montana, back in the days when the frontier reigned rather than stood out as an exception. If

g puncher, had y in the six- the occurrence would have been ordinary enough—and "Ponca Bill" probably would not be prone to argue thus. When he looked across a gulley at a huge panther, with the shooting iron he carried good only as a last clubbing resort, his hair stiffened. He felt it, he maintains, and he is not ashamed in the least that others know it. Incidentally, he walked back to his tent . . . the panther following, but not daring to enter. Young Cody did not know, however, until a friendly squaw man up the canyon told him, that a panther will not enter a tent where a man is.

"I felt my hat raise as my hair stiffened," Cody said, as he told

the story in his whimsical fashion—sweeping briefly through this and telling some other part in colorful detail. Ask if he meant just that, a broad grin swept across the tanned face for an instant and his traditional mustache quivered over white teeth.

"My hat didn't really raise," he grinned, "but I could feel my hair tingle and stiffen." That, although he didn't say it in so many words, must have been about the only time this member of the Cody stock was ever actually afraid.

A bouquet from President McKinley, given him at the close of his famous 20-minute riding act as a feature act of one of the big Cincinnati hippodrome shows, might have affected the steely Vic Cody—had he done the usual thing.

"The band stopped playing and an usher ran up and gave me the bouquet." I did not look at the card at first. I bet I'd have turned 40 colors if I had," the old western showman said.

This same Vic Cody played the spectacle generally regarded as one of the greatest presentations in wild west show history. Undoubtedly you have heard of it. Everyone has heard of the "Custer's Massacre" attraction.

As a principal in the company of Kemp sisters' American Hippodrome and Wild West Show re-

(Continued on Page Four)

1927, July 27 Morning examiner MAJOR
IPORTANT to identif Vic Anderson

Clipped By:
NebraskaKid
Apr 6, 2024