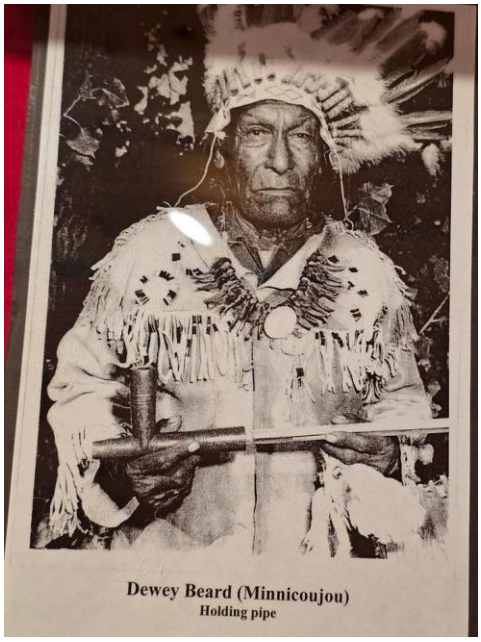
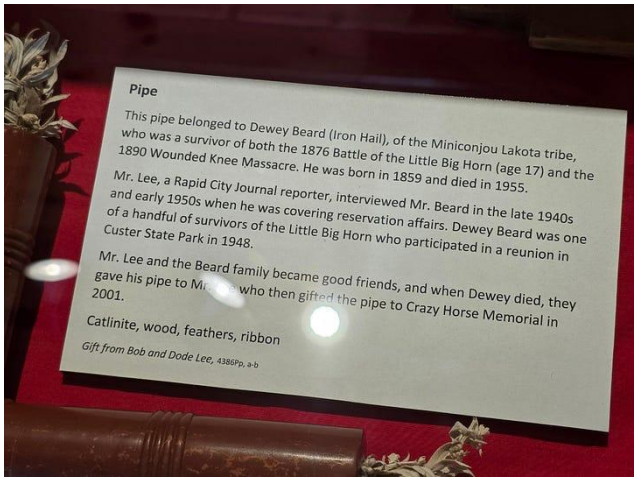
Thinking Out Loud - Times we Don't Expect to Overlap *by Budd Davisson*

When we look at the big picture, a life time is barely a single instant on the world's clock. At the same time, it's sometimes amazing how things do and don't overlap

What got me started on this thought pattern was a text from Rich Davidson, a co-conspirator in seeking out what a lifetime should include. The only thing in his text were these two photos. They are of a display case he saw on one of their trips, this one probably to the in-process (80 years as an unfunded family project) Crazy Horse monument in South Dakota. Basically, what the sign in the display says is that Iron Hail (Dewey Beard) had been a warrior in both the Little Big Horn Custer thing at age of 17 and later survived the wounded knee massacre. What caught my eye was that he died in 1955. If you do the math he died at the page of 96. At 17 he was on horseback, bow or rifle in hand charging into the ranks of calvary men and then fighting to survive the Wounded Knee massacre which has to rank as one of the darkest days in our national history. When he died, he had seen two world wars, begin and end bringing us into the nuclear age. The Wright Brothers had proven gravity could be conquered and the B-52 had just gone into operational service, the F-100 was working hard and the 104 was getting ready to go into service. All of this in one lifetime.





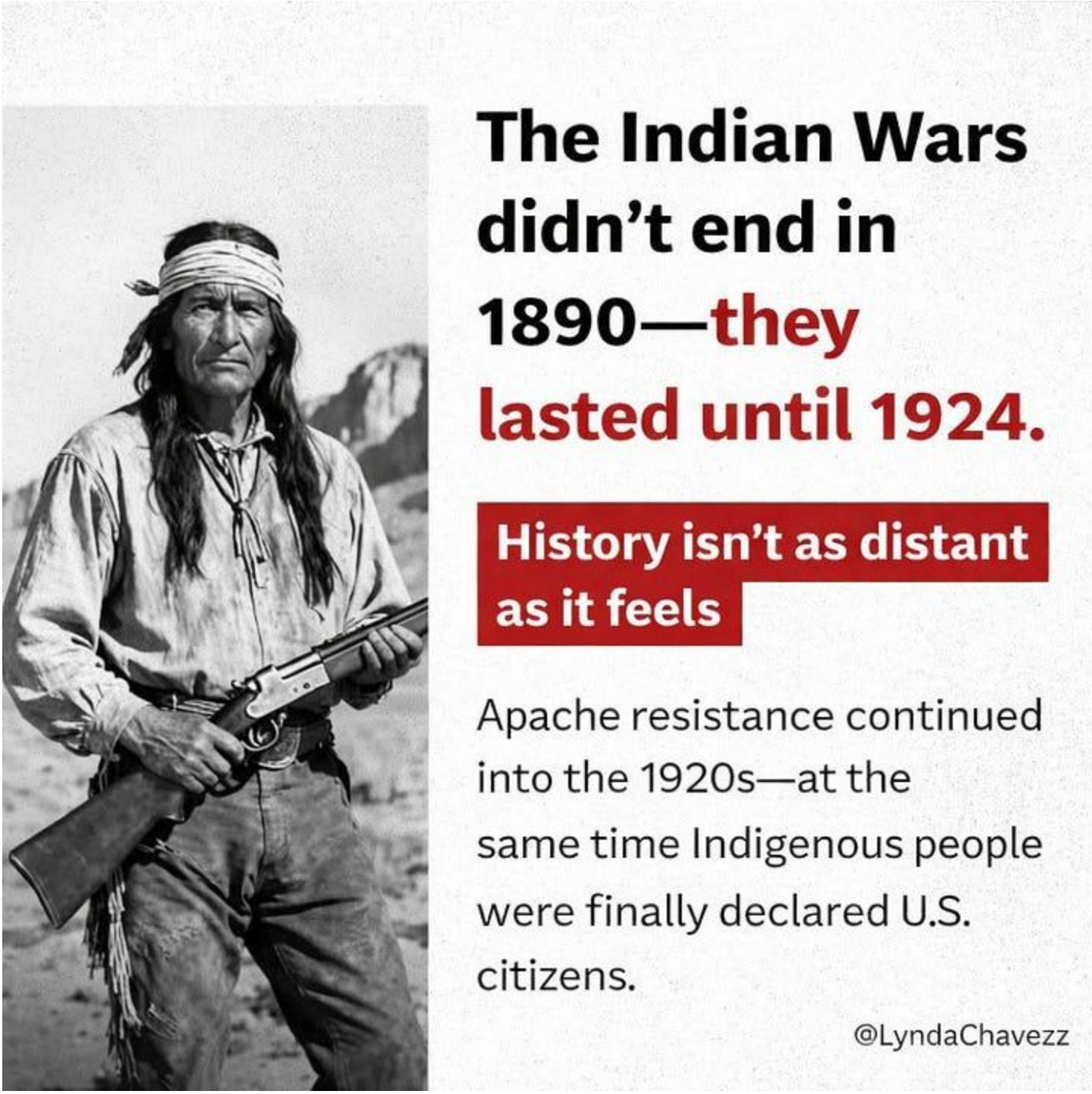


The Crazy Horse monument has been moving slowly and is dependent on donations to keep going. When finished, he'll be on horseback, pointing his people to the land that was theirs. Google it.

At the same time I got the text from Davidson, an Instagram presentation from Charlotte Hodgeman popped up on my screen that pushed me further into the thing about happenings in time that we don't either know or think about. Part of what follows comes out of her thoughts. Yet another worthwhile person to be Googled.

It's often assumed that the Indian Wars ended with the Wounded Knee massacre in 1890 which isn't true. Apaches are stubborn and bands of them held out in the Arizona mountains keeping the Geronimo spirit alive for decades. This was the roaring '20s, and flappers and jazz bands were keeping major cities jumping and Lindberg was learning to fly. In 1924, Indigenous people were given citizen status and a few years later Lindberg pioneered another era.



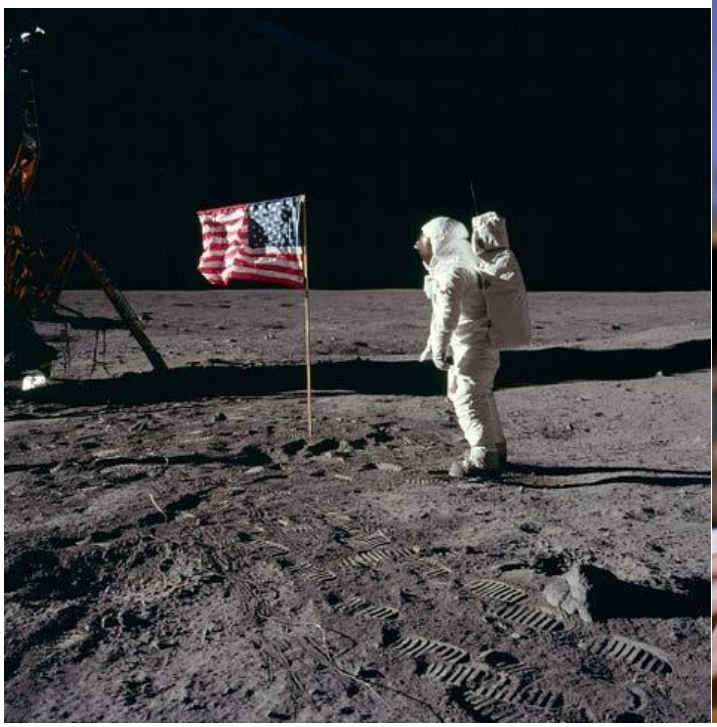


It's hard to believe these two photos accurately portray how much different the times were in different parts of America.





Here’s one that’s hard to believe but woolly mammoths were still kicking around on Wrangel Island in the Arctic Ocean off of Siberia for centuries after the construction of the pyramids began. Who’d a thunk!







It’s a little hard to wrap your head around the fact that the last active ruler of ancient Egypt, c69-30BC, Cleopatra (who bore a striking resemblance to Lizzie Taylor), lived closer to the time of the moon landing, than she did the building of the pyramids









This one's a little hard to imagine too but it shows the huge difference between the populating of the eastern hemisphere and the Americas. There's some argument as to when Homo Sapiens (humans like us) finally discovered the Bering Land Bridge and started populating the Americas but it's somewhere around 23,000 years ago. We were far behind the rest of the world. So, when the Inca emperor, Pachacuti, which translates to "Earth-shaker" or "Reverser of the World", built Machu Picchu in 1450, Westminster Abbey in England was 200 years ahead of it. So, Pachucuti could have met with King Henry VI and worked out some sort of deal that would have keep Spain from totally destroying the Inca empire. However, it's worth mentioning that Spain never discovered Machu Picchu. It was abandoned because there was no longer an empire or country with an emperor who had a use for it.





Maybe not an incredibly important fact but the first bottle of Coca-Cola was sold in Atlanta in 1886 which makes Coke three years older than the Eiffel Tower. Not sure what the says about us and Cokes.





Survivors of the Wounded Knee massacre in 1891 and a B-52. That breed has been operational for over 70 years.

I've mentioned this a number of times, but it was an eye-opening moment for me. It was about 1965 and I was in college. I had been invited to be a guest at a meeting of the National Congress of American Indians in Anadarko, OK where I was introduced to some revered members of the tribes. They were very aged warriors who, in their youth had actually "counted coup" on US Army Calvary men during the Ghost Dance Wars of the 1890s. This meant that in combat, they had dashed in, touched their enemy, and escaped. There were six or eight of them and most spoke little or no English. At the time, I was talking to warriors who had done battle with the horse mounted Army, there was a Gemini capsule orbiting the Earth and I looked up to see contrails from a B-52 heading in for some maintenance work at Tinker AFB a hundred miles north of us. I was 22 or 23 and old enough to realize what I was witnessing. Even then, it was awe inspiring.

This year is the 250th for the USA. We treat that as if it's really important. However, if we think about it, using England as a European example, they were already a functioning country for just under 600 years when our continent was discovered and while we were celebrating our 250th, they were looking back at 1434 years. So, considering how long we've been at it, I guess we haven't done too bad for the new kids on the block.

https://budddavisson.substack.com/