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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS FORT RILEY  
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442

ALRCG

Mrs. Lucile A. Porter  
1544 S.W. Alki  
Seattle, Washington 98116

Dear Mrs. Porter:

As requested in your letter of 3 June 1968, inclosed is an autographed copy of Chief's picture, a copy of the program distributed at his Commemorative Ceremony on 1 June, and a comb actually used in the grooming of Chief.

Your interest in the preservation of a portion of the Army's past is appreciated.

Sincerely,

R. WETHERILL  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

West Seattle Herald, for issue Thursday, Sept 26th

by- Lucile A. Porter -West 2-8111  
Senior President  
Sally Glacken Society, C.A.R.  
1544 Alki Avenue SW  
Seattle, Washington 98116

Tribute to a Horse

Sally Glacken Society, Children of the American Revolution, shares this historical information regarding a horse with the readers of West Seattle Herald.

Chief, last mount of the official Horse Cavalry, is dead and a most colorful era in the military history of the United States Army ends. Major General R. Wetherill, Commanding, Department of the Army, Headquarters Fort Riley, has written to Sally Glacken Society about the famous animal. The Commanding General inclosed in his letter, a late Signal Corps picture of Chief, which he inscribed to Sally Glacken Society. The General also sent a curry-comb, used in the grooming of Chief, and a copy of the program distributed at the Commemorative Ceremony held 1 June 1968, Fort Riley, Kansas.

The horse was buried with full military honors on the main post at Fort Riley, adjacent to Old Trooper, the cavalry monument. Index of the Program lists: Picture of Chief; Commemorative Plaque; Sequence of Events; Historical Highlights; and Notes. The Troops were in position and from 1020 to 1030 hours the U. S. Army Band played "Mountain Battery", "Hit the Leather" and "Vanished Army." At 1030 hours the Commanding General and his party arrived. The Color Guard Commander brought troops to "ATTENTION"

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and "PRESENT ARMS". General Officer honors were rendered. Upon completion of honors by the band the Color Guard Commander gave the Color Guard "ORDER ARMS" and "PARADE REST". The Commanding General introduced the guest speaker who then eulogized the last horse of the United States Horse Cavalry. On conclusion of his remarks the Color Guard Commander brought the Color Guard to "ATTENTION". The band played "Garry Owen". When the music ended the Commanding General and his party moved from the reviewing stand to form a loose oval around the vault. After the Commanding General departed the reviewing stand the Color Guard Commander brought the Color Guard to "PARADE REST". Personnel in attendance were invited to come to the area around the vault/<sup>to</sup>include Sheridan Avenue. The Commanding General made appropriate remarks and then assisted by his invited guests removed the cover from the plaque. The plaque read as follows:

CHIEF  
FOALED . . . . . 1932  
ENTERED THE  
MILITARY SERVICE  
1940  
RETIRED  
1949  
UPON HIS DEATH  
HE WAS THE LAST CAVALRY  
MOUNT ON THE ROLLS  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
ARMY  
DIED . . . . . 1968

This concluded the military ceremony but the band played for an additional ten minutes. The closing numbers played were "Black Horse Troop," "Yellow Rose of Texas," and Sabre and Spurs."

The Historical Highlights on this program read as follows:

" FORT RILEY - Chief was the last remaining government owned Cavalry horse. The bay gelding, foaled in 1932, entered the Army eight years later. He was purchased at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, from L. A. Parker of Scottsbluff, Neb., for \$163. He arrived at Fort Riley April 3, 1941 where he was assigned to the 10th Cavalry and later to the 9th Cavalry. In June, 1942, Chief was transferred to the Cavalry School and remained on the post until his retirement in 1949 and death, May 24, 1968.

In December, 1949 and January, 1950, horses 16 years or under were sold, and all horses 17 years or older were placed in semi-retirement along with many other Cavalry mounts. Approximately 222 horses were involved in the transaction with about an equal number of mounts falling into each category. In July of 1953, all semi-retired horses were fully retired and accountability was given to the Fort Riley Veterinary Section.

Old stable hands report that Chief was a horse any trooper would want. He was <sup>so</sup>gentle that anyone could ride him. He was a good Cavalry horse.

At one time there were thousands of Cavalry mounts--then the number dwindled to one, Chief, and now he is gone, marking the end of the horse Cavalry, the last of his breed is gone--another era comes to a close."

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Accustomed as we are to the motorized age, it is difficult to imagine how closely the growth and progress of this nation was regulated by horsepower. So great was this harnessed force of natural energy that even today all manufacturers of motorized equipment describe their product in units of horsepower! In the early days, our eastern cities thrived as horses hauled great lumbering wagons laden with goods, building material and supplies. Horse-drawn drays transported cargoes of all kinds. Horses pulled high wheeled carriages and hacks for hire. Shiny black buggies with sparkling red wheels whizzed merrily along the boulevards drawn by high stepping trotters. City streets, everywhere, teemed with these wonderful animals. Instead of a service station as we have now, they had the watering-trough, the hitching-post and, of course, white-wings!

The west was won with the horse! Even before the American Revolution, enterprising frontiersmen began a trek. With the aid of the horse they conquered the great Appal/achian barrier. Later on, commerce of the prairie flourished as horse drawn schooners labored over the dusty trails. As civilization pushed westward, obscure camps and army posts cropped up along the line of march. The United States Cavalry thus became an integral part in expansion. U. S. Dragoons and Army scouts, like Kit Carson, patrolled the vast wasteland on horseback. It was a wild and primitive frontier.

The death of the last mount of the Horse Cavalry brings to mind thrilling adventures of our country's history. We envision buffalo hunters; fleeing desperadoes with galloping posse in pursuit; Indian attacks on wagon trains; camps in flames; and always the United

Contd - Tribute to a Horse.

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States Cavalry coming over the hill to the rescue! The distant muffled beat of the United States Cavalry Horse will be heard no more in this land of ours.

Margo Jen Porter, President of Sally Glacken Society, C. A. R. says, "We are interested in the preservation of this phase-out of the United States Horse Cavalry. The currycomb, which Major General Wetherill gave us, will be sent to the Childrens' Museum, ~~of~~ Children of the American Revolution, Washington, D. C., together with our published article on the subject."

End



# CHIEF



1932 - 1968

**CHIEF**  
**COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY**



**1 JUNE 1968**  
**FORT RILEY, KANSAS**

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 **CHIEF**   
1984

The last living cavalry horse still carried on government rolls. He was foaled in 1932 and purchased by the army in 1940 at Fort Robinson, Nebraska. He was received by Post Q.M. at Fort Riley, April 3, 1941 and transferred immediately to the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. In Dec. of 1949 he was placed in semi-retirement and fully retired in 1963.

In the event of his death, CHIEF will be buried with full military honors, adjacent to Old Trooper the cavalry monument on main post.

# CHIEF

**FOALED . . . . . 1932**

*ENTERED THE  
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*RETIRED*

*1949*

*UPON HIS DEATH*

*HE WAS THE LAST CAVALRY*

*MOUNT ON THE ROLLS*

*OF THE*

*UNITED STATES*

*ARMY*

**DIED . . . . . 1968**

## *Sequence of Events*

1. The band plays appropriate music from 1020 to 1030 hours.  
    "Mountain Battery"  
    "Hit the Leather"  
    "Vanished Army"
2. Participating troops in position NLT 1020 hours.
3. Arrival of Commanding General and party at 1030 hours. Color Guard Commander brings troops to "ATTENTION" and "PRESENT ARMS." General Officer honors are rendered. Upon completion of the honors by the band, the Color Guard Commander gives the Color Guard "ORDER ARMS" and "PARADE REST."
4. Remarks by the Commanding General and introduction of the guest speaker.
5. Guest speaker's remarks.
6. Upon the conclusion of the guest speaker's remarks, the Color Guard Commander brings the Color Guard to "ATTENTION."
7. The band plays "GARRY OWEN."
8. At the conclusion of the music, the Commanding General and party move from reviewing stand and forms a loose oval around vault. After the Commanding General has departed from the reviewing stand, the Color Guard Commander brings the Color Guard to "PARADE REST."
9. Personnel in attendance will be invited to come to area around the vault to include Sheridan Avenue. Commanding General makes appropriate remarks.
10. Commanding General assists and/or invites guests to remove cover from plaque.
11. This concludes the ceremony. The band plays appropriate music for ten minutes and the Color Guard moves off the parade field under the direction of the Color Guard Commander.  
    "Black Horse Troop"  
    "Yellow Rose of Texas"  
    "Sabre and Spurs"

## *Historical Highlights*

FORT RILEY - Chief was the last remaining government owned Cavalry horse. The bay gelding, foaled in 1932, entered the Army eight years later. He was purchased at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, from L. A. Parker of Scottsbluff, Neb., for \$163. He arrived at Fort Riley April 3, 1941 where he was assigned to the 10th Cavalry and later the 9th Cavalry. In June, 1942, Chief was transferred to the Cavalry School and remained on the post until his retirement in 1949 and death, May 24, 1968.

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*Notes*

*Notes*





## CHIEF

1894

The last living cavalry horse still owned by government, this horse foaled in 1892 and purchased by the Army in 1910 at Oak Run, Kentucky. He was received by First Lt. M. J. Ford, 1st Cavalry, and was transferred immediately to the 1st Cavalry in Dec. of 1910. He was paid when returned and only when in 1911. In the event of his death, CHIEF will be buried with military honors subject to the approval of the Cavalry Museum, Fort Riley, Kansas.







# CHIEF

1J84



The last living cavalry horse still carried on government rolls. He was foaled in 1932 and purchased by the army in 1940 at Fort Robinson, Nebraska. He was received by Post Q.M. at Fort Riley, April 3, 1941 and transferred immediately to the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. In Dec. of 1949 he was placed in semi-retirement and fully retired in 1959.

In the event of his death, CHIEF will be buried with full military honors, adjacent to Old Trooper the cavalry monument on main post.

*To the folks of the Cavalry Society,  
with all our good wishes.  
Robert M. Hines  
Major General  
Fort Riley*

