

Questions for Crazy Horse Moves into Post-Production

By Elizabeth Woolvington
Guest Columnist

Oliver Tuthill, president of Blue Wood Films LLC, has announced that his newest feature-length documentary, *Questions for Crazy Horse: Hypothetical Conversations with the Strange Warrior of the Oglala Lakota*, has moved into post-production and will be ready for release in June of 2010. The film features Russell Means (*Last of the Mohicans*) and Jay Red Hawk (*Wounded Heart: Pine Ridge and the Sioux*).

Tuthill has been working on the film for over four years and since 2006 has made numerous excursions to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and the Black Hills of

South Dakota to film and research. He spent time at the Crazy Horse Memorial, located in the heart of the Black Hills, where the world's largest rock sculpture is being erected in the form of Crazy Horse sitting upon one of his favorite ponies. The work was started in 1948 by Korczak Ziolkowski after Sioux Chief Standing Bear asked him to build a monument for American Indians that would show they had their own leaders.

"The Crazy Horse Memorial is an incredible resource," said Tuthill. "There are rare documents, historical letters, drawings, paintings, photographs and exhibitions that are truly magnificent. I feel very fortunate that Mrs. Ziolkowski gave me total access to the museum and the foundation to film."

Tuthill also interviewed Thomas Shortbull of Oglala Lakota College. Said Tuthill, "Here is a man who has dedicated his life to offering a world class education to the Lakota right on the reservation. Pine Ridge is the poorest reservation in the United States and the people of the Lakota have been decimated by the loss of their freedom and their former way of life."

Tuthill was pleased that Russell Means, a film star, noted author and lecturer, was able to be in the film. "What Russell has to say about the big picture is extremely insightful. He sometimes alienates people because he can be direct and blunt, but here is a man who helped found AIM (American Indian Movement), held out at Wounded Knee against the United

States Government in the early '70s, and in many ways is built in the same mold as Crazy Horse."

The longest running legal case in United States history is the Sioux (Lakota) versus the United States in their dispute over the ownership of the Black Hills, which is considered holy by the Lakota.

In the film, the former president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Alex White Plume, states, "It is as if I took a shotgun and blew a leg off of God."

Elizabeth Woolvington is a writer working on a nonfiction book about how deceased virtual actors will one day be more frequently utilized in films than living ones, bringing about the demise of unions serving actors.

