

Letter of Black Elk
Sept. 20, 1934

Oglala S. D.
Sept 20, 1934

Dear Friends:

I have years ago in 1932
A white man named John
G. Neherdt came up
to my place whom I have
never met before and
asked me to make a story
book with him I don't
whether he took out a
permit from the agent
or not. He promised
me that if he completed
and publish this book
he was to pay half of the
price of each book.
I trusted him and finish
ed the story of my life
for him after he published



the book I wrote to
him and ask him about
the price which he promise
me on the book he sold
He answered my letter
and told me that there
was another white man
who has asked him to
make this book so he
himself hasn't seen a
cent from the Book which
we made.
By this I know he was
addressing me about
the whole business.
I also asked to put
at the end of this story
that I was not a pagan
but have been converted
into the Catholic Church
in which I work as a



catechist for more than
25 years I've quit
all these pagan works
But he did not mention
that book talks
so if they can't put
this religion life in
the last part of that
Book also if he can't pay
what he promised I
ask you my dear friends
that this Book of my
life will be null & void
because I value my
soul more than my
body I'm awful
sorry for the mistake
I've made

I also have three
witnesses to stand
by me
I'm yours truly

Nick Black Elk

my name is not
Amerindian but he
is a lying about
my name