

portion of his body with red clay.

Most of the camp warriors had left on war parties, in search of scalps and horses to various parts of Old Mexico. The few warriors who stayed behind to protect the camp, on this particular day, left on a hunting party. Others went to visit neighboring villages. Left at the camp were a few old men, like the camp chief Adante. Thus, the stage was set for the massacre of Cut Throat Gap.

The day started as any other day, with no warning of approaching disaster. Very early in the morning a group of women started on a planned plum-hunting trip. They were to ride toward the now Saddle Mountain community, there being no desirable plums to be had near the camp location. Accompanying the women was a group of boy warriors. The boys served as lookouts for hostile warriors. Boys were taught to be alert for all noises or sights that appeared unusual or peculiar. Boys were taught to be especially alert when accompanying such a group of women.

One of the boys rode a short distance from the others. As his horse trotted along, he glanced toward a large rock several hundred yards away. The object of his attention was a man's head emerging from concealment. He noted, the second time, the war paint and head gear. This warrior was a member of a strange war party. He was but one of a group of hostile warriors spying on the plum-picking party. They were trying to determine if there were men included in the riding party of women and boy warriors, and also to get a good location of the campsite.

The boy pretended not to see the strange man, and finally convinced this was a hostile person, rode to a woman, taking great care not to show excitement or fright. He told the woman, probably his mother, what he had observed. After deliberating a course of action, she decided they must calmly leave the scene. She counseled him to turn his horse as if nothing had been seen, and she would do the same and they, not being too far away from camp, they would ride and spread the alarm. She told him to go toward the horses. I'll tell the others, she said. Make out you are shooting arrows and run to pick up the arrow!

She led the other women off, saying come with me there are more plums over here. The woman warned others, saying, there are men spying on us, not our people. Not everyone was convinced the strange men were enemies, but supposedly a sweetheart of