

T-53-2 (Second of Three Interviews)
HELEN BOYIDDLE BLACKBEAR, KIOWA
INTERVIEWED BY: WILLIAM BITTLE
INTERVIEW DATE: JUNE 26, 1967
TRANSCRIBED BY: PAM CHIBITTY

GENERAL SUBJECT: REMINISCENCES AND LIFE HISTORY MATERIALS

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

STORIES ABOUT ZODLTON
STORY ABOUT CRAZY HILL
COMMENTS ABOUT LONE CHIEF, RAY'S GRANDFATHER
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT CRAZY HILL
COMMENTS ABOUT APACHE SPRINGS
COMMENTS ABOUT KIOWA BOYS WHO FROZE
COMMENTS ABOUT OTHER SPRINGS IN THE AREA
COMMENTS ABOUT PATENTS
RELATIONS WITH THE INDIAN OFFICE

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Helen Boyiddle Blackbear was born January 8, 1909 and died in May of 1968. She was raised in the vicinity of Zodalton Springs near Mountain View. Her parents were Adlei Boyiddle (or Poahy) and Nettie Alice Niconi. In the 1920's she married Ray Blackbear, a Kiowa-Apache, and they had two children, Birdie May Tointigh and Paul Blackbear (now deceased). Helen was noted as being a hard worker, conscientious wife and parent, and always cheerful and good-hearted. She was always ready to help out in Indian community activities. She attended the public schools and finished the eighth grade. She and her husband lived first with her parents, on their place near Zodalton, and in later years, at Ray's place--his grandfather's allotment located a mile west of Boone. Although nominally a member of first the Baptist and later the Methodist Church, Helen was devoted to the old Indian ways and retained many of the beliefs she had learned from her older relatives. She assisted her husband in participating in peyote meetings, and she sang with other women around the drum at Kiowa-Apache Blackfoot dances. She lived and interacted with the Kiowa-Apaches for many years and was well-liked and deeply mourned by them. Her husband, Ray Blackbear, died in February of 1969. Their daughter, Birdie May Tointigh and her husband, Jack, now live on the old Blackbear place.

Remarks: Ray Blackbear, Helen's husband is present and participates in this interview.

Note: The other interviews on this tape are: Evelyn Oybi Chalepah, Kiowa
Annie Bigman, Kiowa