

EXPLANATORY REMARKS: Myrtle Lincoln finally consented to tell me some of the old time stories told at nights in the winter time, but would not tape them because of the obscenities involved. These are the kind of stories that the old people used to tell around the fire on a winter's night. They were told in front of everyone--men and women, young and old alike, and many must have been hilarious when told with appropriate expression and gestures. I have the feeling the stories would have been somewhat more elaborate when told before the usual kind of audience. These stories resemble some of the tales recorded by G. A. Dorsey and A. L. Kroeber and published by the Field Columbian Museum under the title, Traditions of the Arapaho. (Publication 81, Anth. Series, vol. V, 1903) Some of these similar tales have been indicated here, but there may be others, also.

Dorsey and Kroeber collected their tales from both northern and southern divisions of Arapahoes, and an Oklahoma Arapaho, Cleaver Warden, assisted in collecting all of the tales. Names of particular informants are given in their monograph. In the stories presented here, I have used the term, White Man, for the main character, but Myrtle, in telling the stories, most often used the term, nihi'aḡa, which she says means both "white man" and "spider". I used White Man because it is easier to type, and it is not uncommon for Myrtle to say, "This White Man was going east--" She says all the stories start out with White Man going east. While the story is being told the children are supposed to say "hii." at intervals, to indicate they are awake and listening. When the storyteller pauses and no one says anything, the storytelling ends for the night.

The identity of the White Man or nihi'aḡa of these stories is not clear. He resembles the trickster, Sainday, of the Kiowas, mentioned in other manuscripts of the Oral History Collection. A. L. Kroeber provided the following information in a footnote to one of the tales in the Arapaho Traditions published in 1903: