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RAY BLACKBEAR, KIOWA-APACHE

INTERVIEWED BY: KENNETH BEALS

INTERVIEW DATE: JUNE 15, 1967

TRANSCRIBED BY: KENNETH BEALS

GENERAL SUBJECT: ETHNOBOTANY; LIFE HISTORY; DEATH PRACTICES

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

INDIAN TURNIP (*Psoralea esculenta*)
PRICKLY PEAR
RATTLES
GRASS THAT PENETRATES
SOLANUM (Top)
HOBBY HORSE (Baldwin's Iron Weed)
STINGING WEED
HARD STICKERS
CEDAR
SKUNK BERRIES
BLACKJACK
WALNUT LEAVES AS FLEA REPELLENTS
ARROW PLANT
YUCCA
SMOKING AND HOMOSEXUALITY RELATIONSHIP
SHOOTING GRASSHOPPERS
COMPOSING SONGS
BURIAL SITE OF HALF FACE
DEATH PRACTICES

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Ray Blackbear was born near the present town of Hatchetville in 1903. He is a Kiowa-Apache and a fluent speaker of the language. He is married to a Kiowa and lives on an allotment about two miles west of the junction of Highways 19 & 58. Ray died in February 1969. Ray was the son of Joe and Priscilla Blackbear, and the grandson of Old Man Blackbear who served in L Troop. Ray was active in Native American Church activities, and in the revitalized Kiowa-Apache Blackfeet Society. He was a noted singer and composed many of the Blackfeet songs in use today.