

They got forty-four.

(You mean the Arapahoes would have fourteen at one time?)

Yes. When they all got together. We still hold that number. And we're about the only ones still recognized in Washington, D. C., holding our chieftainship. But the Cheyennes, the leader of the Cheyenne tribe sold them down the river when they got this tribal laws that came in. This leader told them. They organized the tribe that they was going to turn the Cheyenne staff over to the council. So the Cheyennes just were eliminated from their chieftainship. But now they still hold to that chieftainship now. But they're not recognized at Washington. (But Washington recognizes the Arapaho chiefs?)

Yes. Because one old Arapaho was smart enough to say "We're still going to hold our chieftainships among our tribe, in case the councilmen oversteps their duty. Then we can go in there and correct them." But now they think--the Tribal Chairman thinks he has the ruling say-so. Of the Tribal Council between the Cheyennes and Arapahoes.

(Who is that today?)

Willie Hail. He's Arapaho. He's my cousin.

(That council has Cheyennes and Arapahoes both on it?)

Yes. But the olden times when the chiefs got around to calling the people together to notify them that there's certain steps that got to be thrashed out--each band gathered their men together to see if they could thrash things out to suit themselves. Then they all bring their viewpoints together to see if the chiefs would pass on it. That was their governing body. Each clan had a certain work to do when they had their encampment. (You mean like the Star Men and so forth?)

Yes. And in case someone needed help, the chief would call the man's people together and tell them what was going to take place, and what the gathering was for. And they'd ask each clan to see if they could help that certain party whenever he gets their gifts together to help the party that way. In any organization where they put up--such as the Sun Dance--they used to all sort of dance together in order to donate stuff for the man that make the lodge to carry the Sun Dance through. That's the way they