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ABLE BIGBOW, KIOWA
INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN
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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 05-17-67

GENERAL SUBJECT: STORIES PERTAINING TO KIOWA HISTORY

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

STORY OF DOHAU'S (OR HIS NEPHEW'S) TRIP TO WASHINGTON
BIG BOW CAPTURES A BOY IN TEXAS
MEXICAN TRADERS VISIT INDIAN SUN DANCE CAMP IN TEXAS
KIOWAS BURN STORE AT ANADARKO
FIRST ATTEMPTS TO FARM AND PLOW
PLACE NAMES
CUTTHROAT GAP MASSACRE AND TONKAWA "MANEATERS"
LAST KIOWA SUN DANCE
PLACE NAMES
BILLY AMAUTY'S NOTES AND SUMMARY OF ABLE'S STORIES TOLD IN KIOWA

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Able Bigbow was born around 1883 and died in 1970. He was the son of Little Bow and the grandson of the famous Big Bow who was born at the time of the Cutthroat Gap Massacre in 1833, and who became one of the leading warriors and most prominent leaders of the Kiowa tribe in pre-reservation and early reservation period days. Able attended the Kiowa School (probably at Anadarko) very briefly. According to a "stepson", Charles Plamer, "He went in the front door and walked out the back, and that's all the schooling he got." At the time of this interview he was a spry, alert, slender old man with his long hair worn in the yarn tied braids, and a sparse moustache of the type worn by several of the old time Kiowas. He was living with his daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Charles Tartsah, in the Hog Creek community west of Anadarko on Highway 8. He spoke English with a very thick accent, and was often difficult to understand. However Charles Tartsah, or Charles Palmer or other members of the family would often help in talking to him. He loved to talk and tell stories. His stories in Kiowa were told with much expression and many hand gestures. In October of 1967 Able was the center of attention at ceremonies held at Ft. Sill, when a tipi was dedicated in memory of the old chief, Big Bow, and presented to the Post Museum.

Note: This interview took place in front of Charlie Palmer's Hog Creek Trading Post, about eight miles west of Anadarko. Charlie and a friend, Billy Amauty, were present and assisted in the interview by asking Able questions in Kiowa and explaining what was wanted. Part of this tape is in Kiowa and a full translation of this has not been prepared. Able's summary in English is what is transcribed here. However his accent is so thick that many portions are almost impossible to understand. Therefore much is summarized and a research interested in this material should probably listen to the tape. Also the Kiowa terms here were not transcribed accurately and consistently. Billy Amauty listened to this interview and took notes in English of the stories Able was telling in Kiowa. His notes are attached at the end of the manuscript.
---J. Jordan.