

ALFRED CHALEPAH, KIOWA-APACHE  
TRANSCRIPT OF TAPE MADE 2-28-67  
BY JULIA A. JORDAN

BACKGROUND MATERIAL FROM FIELD NOTES

(I got this story from Railroad Cisco. He was a Tonkawa, and married Apache Ben's niece, Molly Cisco. Long time ago there were about five Apaches who went south, deep into Mexico. Apaches gathered that herb deep in Mexico. My father's grandfather was one of them. . . . They don't use it like we use it today. But I have a feeling they took part in a ceremony there cause when they come back they use it as a medicine.

Anyway, Railroad Cisco, he was a pretty good friend of mine. I worked with him many years. Not only his neighbor, but also in churchwork many years. I never asked him to tell me this story. One time he said, "I'm going to tell you, all my people's gone. I have sons and daughters. You help me in lot of ways in my belief. So I think you ought to know my story, the way he learned it." That's the way it was, the way he told it. I didn't change anything. Railroad Cisco is dead now. He was Molly's husband. I used to build fire and carry drum for him many times. I enjoyed working for him. He was pretty well up in age and I always have respect for my elders in this line of service. I've told this story to other people before, like Bill Carpenter. He was Indian but he was a County Commissioner. He lived in White Oak.

The Tonkawas were supposed to be the second tribe to get peyote. The Lipan got it first.)

TRANSCRIPT OF ALFRED'S TAPE: HOW THE TONKAWAS GOT PEYOTE

This is a story about the Tonkawa tribe. Once they were a native of Texas. This story is about how they discover the Native American Church--which is called Native American Church today. This man that told this story, this man was Railroad Cisco. He married an Apache woman which was niece of Apache Ben. Now this story goes like this.

In the back, in the days of--warriors got together to make--they were hunting. Going on hunting, somewheres in the deep south. So they travelled many, many miles. I don't know how long it took them. Anyway, when they got way back in the south they run into some good horses. And these horses were paint horses. And the leader, he had a brother with him. He was a good