

meanness--cruelness of that buffalo, according to what my parents told me, he called that boy "Mean Buffalo." The boy's name was Martin Buffalo. And that Arapaho word, Mean Buffalo, is haēnaē.caē.nāwaxō.tei -- haēnaē.caē. means "buffalo." "Buffalo bull." Mean bull. nāwaxō.tei -- "mean." Mean Buffalo. Yeah. That's that boy's name and his daughter lives here in town. She married my youngest brother-in-law. They live here in town. That's one of the stories. Then from there on-- That was, I think, in western Kansas or Colorado Territory them days. Then of course they moved on. And he could walk long ways all by himself. He took part in dance. And I saw him when I was a boy. First time I saw him was at Darlington. I was about eight years old. I saw him and they said, "That's Old Bear." That's what his Arapaho name was-- baeh' i.hāx (or baehae' i.hāx) But the white people said he (Old Bear, or Blindy) hates the white man so much that he doesn't want to see him the rest of his life so he punch his eyes out. But that's not true. He was born blind. He's a fine-looking old man. His hair never got gray. His hair just stayed black. He used to brush it, you know. Then he'd always tie his hair with otter skins. Always had nice clothes. I don't know who dressed him--he had a daughter. I know his wife died years before that. But I think his daughter took care of him.

ARAPAHO CARE OF THE BLIND

(How would the man that was blind back in those days--how would he earn a living or, you know--how would a man back in those days earn a living--take care of himself and everything?)

Well, he always--the family always took care of him. They beaded his clothes and they gave him things. Fixed his blankets. Maybe moccasins. And clothes. Gave him food. Provided all other necessities for him. You know when you lose sense of faculties of mind, your other senses improve. So I guess naturally his thinking (improved--he got smarter). You know we've got a fine boy, the son of this man that I rent from, and he's blind. But you couldn't get any better electrician or plumber than that blind boy. Just blind. Just by his feeling.