

offer a smoke. And the man sitting on the east side digs a little hole along right by the root of that little tree or bush. And he buries that red cloth and them blue-cut beads, or red beads, and he starts to grub this thing out--the tap root. The root is what the Comanches use. A certain woman used to handle it. I don't know if anyone succeeded her or not, but there used to be a certain woman that handled that. I don't know her name.

(What did they use it for?)

For itch, scabs, and for sore throats and for colds. It's good medicine all around.

(Do you remember the name of the lady that used to have it?)

No, I don't remember her name. The Apaches were strong for that. Oh, they're the ones that used to go down there quite often. Yeah, the Kiowa-Apaches.

(Do you remember the names of any of those people that used to use that?)

Well, Old Man Blackbear--he had two or three sons--he's the one that was instrumental in all those diggings that they used to go down (for). They used to dig for that little root, you know. But they always have had Comanches with them, yeah. Then they used to come over and give it to us here and in turn they'd get this here what Mary used to sell, you know--it's kind of a grease root.

(This is a root used as a fumigant or as incense. It comes from Wyoming, and Jess once gave some to a Comanche relative, Mary Poafpybitty, who sold it to other Comanches. See T-163 for more information on these plants and their uses--J. Jordan) They call it ní a'étaé. That's the Arapaho name. (of the root from Wyoming)

(What did the Arapahoes do with this root when they got it from