

To tie their hair with. And some of them wore caps--some girls wear them for their sash and put pretty beadwork on there. Sash for their buckskin outfit. Most of the men wore them for their hair, you know.

(Did the Arapahoes use these caps out of otter skins?)

Yeah, they're the originators of that. The Kiowas and Comanches picked that up from us. Only tribe we know that used to wear that kind was the Osages. And we know--and then the Otoes started to wear them and then the Pawnees. But the Arapahoes had it as far back as the early part of the eighteenth century.

(Was there any special significance to that kind of a hat?)

No, it's just a decoration--just a full-dress. They always have a soft plume back here decorated with pink and all those colors up there. And back here there's a feather. And that otter skin had a tail to it. Pretty beadwork. I had one like that I sold to Apache Ben. Oh, I didn't sell it--I gave it to him. But he gave me ninety dollars for it. I said, "No, I don't want your money." "No," he said. "I'm not buying it. I'm just giving you this because you're my friend. I thank you for that otter cap."

That was a cap with a kind of a tapered tail that hung down. And I gave him them hides (otter fur hair wraps). He wore them when he died. When I gave him that cap and those hides he gave me that ninety dollars. I shook hands with him and I felt something in my hand. I looked and it was bills. "No," I said. "I didn't sell it." "That's all right," he said. "Just keep it."

(Did you give him the cap and hair ties the same day?)

Yeah. I had pretty ones. I kept them. All the years I went to school in Kansas and New York my brother kept them till I came back and then he gave them back to me. I had two sets. One Cheyenne bought the other set over here at Watonga. And this other one I kept, when Apache Ben came over I just gave it to him.