

Blackfeet people. We lived east of El Reno, out at Piedmont. My father and mother and Left Hand--and there was a whole bunch of them, mixed with mixed-bloods--the Poisals, Keiths, and Siegels--the Poisals were part French. A whole bunch lived there. There was Little Raven and Yellow Bear at Cantonment--they had their bunch up there. They were groups together. And just like I say, the purpose of them scattering out was--like maybe some of Left Hand's boys or some members that camped with him would marry a girl up there. Or the girl would marry--or a boy would marry a girl down there. Or, maybe the girl's folks would go up there and live with the son--the husband--or vice versa. So that kinda mix 'em all up, you know. Then they got scattered out.

FASTING AND VISION QUEST HILLS

Bob: You know these red hills out here north of Greenfield--what was the reason for those men going up there and fasting? What were they trying to do?

Jess: That's an old custom.

Bob: --they would do without food for days--

Jess: They fasted over here at this Coyote Hill, not too long ago--

Bob: Why, Jess?

Jess: Well, there was a vow. A case of sickness in the family, or sorrow, or something, misfortune, they'd vow to go over there and sacrifice their physical bodies. Stay out there two or three days without food and water. That was a sort of a vow. And they'd go up there and they said that--well, it happened over there northwest of Watonga, about eighteen miles, the last account I heard--That was Susie Meeks' father--he's a baptized man--Mennonite. Susie Blackman--Susie Meek was her name. Well, her father was already a Christian and an interpreter at the Mennonite Church when it came to him in some deep--I don't know--emotion, I guess. And he went out there and fasted three days and three nights, northeast of Carlton, up there in the breaks. Where there was no water anywhere near and no food and nobody around within