

I knew him. But them old scouts like my father, they called him "Wagon Wheel." His name was Wheeler. He came to Fort Reno. Was commanding officer there for years. Him and two or three others. My father, he don't talk English. I just wonder how is made it as senior sergeant in there--he didn't talk no English.

Jess: Your father was a mail carrier, too, for awhile. Do you remember? From Fort Reno to Fort Sill.

Ralph: Those old people, they're all gone, this Wheeler, he was without a command. He didn't know which way to turn. No command at all. Even run the scouts away. But he didn't run my father away. That's one thing he didn't do. I know him well. When my father seen that he was without nobody between first sergeant and Wheeler--and my father, he couldn't speak English--he just know that one word, "Post." That's all. He didn't care about speaking English. Something could have happened right then. No, Wheeler didn't speak Cheyenne. His interpreter was Ben Clark--an old scout. Ben Clark. At Fort Reno. Ben Clark talked fluent Cheyenne. He's a white man.

(What was your father's name?)

RALPH'S CONCERN FOR GOOD TRIBAL LEADERSHIP AND PRESERVATION OF TRIBAL TRADITIONS

Ralph: My father name was Good Man when he was a scout. I think sometime he got another name--that "One Feather." His friend. After, he got that name. I'd like to keep that tradition going. I don't want to see it fall. Sometimes I sit down and I talk to my children about it. And my folks, you know, about Indian ways--tradition ways, you know--back in the old time.

(Do they still have naming ceremonies any more for young children?)

Jess: Arapahoes do.

Ralph: Cheyennes, too--at public gatherings.

(Where do they get their Indian name?)

Jess: From their ancestors.

Ralph: That little girl what you seen--that oldest one--my granddaughter--her grandmother believed in girls--women--having a tipi. She had her own tipi. And her own clothes. This little girl has her own tipi. My daughter had it made for her.