

and so forth. He gave me some of his dried peyote which he had dried himself. Also, Charlie High let me have four of his dried buttons, which were prepared without the fuzz. Tom told me he always removed as much of the fuzz as possible when he dried his, but he thought maybe part of the effect came from eating the fuzz. He said he didn't think the effect was as strong when you ate de-fuzzed peyote. Charlie said you always wanted to be careful and not let any of the fuzz get in your eye. He said it would really hurt. He cautioned that when you're removing the fuzz, not to let any of it blow up and get in your eye.

The Kiowas present talked and wise-cracked with each other in Kiowa and English. Winston Cat told several comical stories about stupid white people--the things they would say or do. He works at Indian City and I guess he sees an appalling assortment of ignorant tourists, plus the fact he is reported to be very hostile to whites. Tom told me Winston was one of the best Kiowa story tellers. Wallace Redbone came in and sat down on the west side of the tipi. He was wearing dark glasses and he kept them on inside. Present during this time going clockwise from the tipi door were Charlie High, Tom Bitseedy, John Mead (for awhile), Me, Alfred, Horace Quoetone, George Silverhord, Harold Achilta and Jewell Cisco, Roger Topigh, Wallace Redbone, the Comanche boys, Winston Cat, Robert Kaulity, Scobie (relining), Bill Koomsa (another visitor), Ray Blackbear (another visitor), Clarence Chalepah (relining in front of the door). Clarence tended the fire and brought in wood when necessary, etc. Water and soda crackers were passed around from time to time, and someone passed around some candy, too. Conversation finally drifted to Native American church difficulties as a result of the legislation against peyote passed by Texas, and everyone joined in here, listening to what was being said with interest.

Ray Blackbear made kind of a little talk or report concerning the state affairs, in which he laid the blame on the state of Texas, and said the federal government wasn't in it. He said the Navahoes had a test case going in Texas--they had let one of their members get arrested with peyote, and they were waiting for his trial to come up. He recommended that the Oklahoma Indians hold off from going to Texas and getting peyote until this test case came up. He said he had gotten a nice statement from Danny Freeman to support the Indians' use of peyote. Ray's report was somewhat rambling and incoherent in spots; everyone listened to him without interrupting, but didn't seem too greatly impressed. They talked about the recent state elections. Said an Omaha Indian, Allen Dale, had been elected President, but the election had been declared out of order because most of the delegates came from chapters which weren't paid up in their state dues. Said the State Charter said two delegates from each chapter were eligible to vote for state officers if the chapter was paid up. They said only the Sac and Fox chapter was paid up. George Silverhorn questioned this. He said the Kiowa chapter had just paid their dues last December and they were paid up. Ray didn't know what to say to that, but George made this statement several times. They said the subsequent election in which Fred Hoffman, a Cheyenne, had been elected state president was also out of order, that he shouldn't be president. Wallace Redbone In a round-about way Ray seemed to be trying to urge the Comanches, Apaches and Kiowas to get with it and pay attention to the state organization in order that it could fight the Texas legislation. The others seemed to be disgusted with the state organization and didn't care very much about it. Wallace Redbone explained that as long as the Cheyennes and Arapahoes had several chapters in their territory they would always have enough votes to elect one of their men president under the terms of the present charter. The Kiowas have one chapter, and the Apaches and Comanches don't seem to have any formal organization yet. Ray talked about Big Mikoby using state H C money to go down to Austin and talked to the governor about this. The others indicated he shouldn't have done this or didn't have any right to--they weren't behind him.