

Interview with Lyle Griffin
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Anadarko, Oklahoma

Indian Institute
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To do our will business with the Indians pretty much as an accommodation. The Indians are will conscious. They like to make wills and they have a tendency to revoke their will depending on which relative has fallen out of favor.

Big Ben or Apache Ben was actually a Lipan. He told me he had been born in New Mexico. When he was small the band of Indians he was travelling with was camped over near where Co. out, Oklahoma is now. They attached themselves to some Kiowa-Apache for their rations. Later when the allotments were made, some of these Lipan were allotted with the Kiowa-Apache and some were allotted with the Comanche.

I was often amazed by the old man's shrewdness. He was a competent person in everything but his own money. In the old days when Big Ben was in the money and had considerable oil income, this office supervised his affairs. He provided out of his account \$1,000 a month for Big Ben to live on. His wife (Rose) used to come in and complain to us about the way he handled his money. Big Ben liked to wear a big diamond ring. He'd get it down at Wichita Falls. When the time would come and he'd be short on cash he would pawn his ring at an Indian pawn shop here in Anadarko, called "Jake's." That's old Jake Tinsley. He's befast now and his daughter's taking his place. But she never had the touch of old Jake. Anyway, Rose would come in and tell us how Ben had taken his last ring down to Jake's and "hooked" it. She thought this was a wasteful practice and wanted us to do something about it. You see, he'd "hook" it, as loco says, and then he wouldn't recover it. He didn't want a second hand ring. When he got some more money he'd just buy another one.