

Roberta: Oh yeah--Grace--

KIOWA-APACHE FEAR THAT THEIR TRIBE IS LOSING OUT

Irene: And who else? I can't think--anyway July the eleventh they're gonna have election. The Kiowas. Because they already have their constitution. Our tribe don't have it. I think they're just trying to do away with us, anyway. They always did, to the Apache tribe. They always-- That's how come Apache Ben always used to say, when they have a big Indian Fair, "THESE ARE THE KIOWAS!" he said. And, "THESE ARE THE COMANCHES!" Then he said, "These are the 'Paches!" (real fast and soft voice). Yeah. Even the Old Man, Apache Ben, used to say that. The Apaches are just nothing. They always did say that. And still, today, I guess they're going that way. Because the Apaches don't get up and speak for themselves. It's our committeemans--they're bought out or they don't care, or something. Something's wrong, somewhere. I know I'm Kiowa-Apache and I don't even feel that way anymore because I don't even talk my own language! My children don't even understand Apache, anymore. You know why? When I first went to Riverside, the Kiowas--the girls that used to talk Indian--we used to get beat up for it when we said an Indian word. You remember that? They used to beat us for speaking Indian. Or else they wash your mouth with soap when you talk Indian. The people did it when we went to government school. That's where it all started. Now the Apache tribe is just losing--

DECLINE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES

Birdie: --carry on your language! I don't know nothing!

Irene: My kids don't even know what "bread" is in Apache, and my oldest son is almost thirty years old. He don't speak a word of Indian. He knows what "money," is, though--that's all! That's all he knows. He says, "Mama, I know what you all are talking about--money!" he said. When my mother was living she tried to talk Indian to Gertie and I and I understand pretty good