

STORY OF APACHE BEN'S FIRST OIL WELL COMING IN

(You know, we're going to have to go here before too long, because it's getting late, but I'd like to have you tell me one more story. One time you were telling me about how Apache Ben got his oil money and about that gusher that came in, and I wonder if you could tell that. We didn't tape that--you just told it.)

Well, I don't know where the oil company came from. Anyway, we was setting over here at ZN. Smith's farm over here at Hatchetville. The first well they put up, they didn't get anything. So they move it up west a little, the second well. 'Course Apache Ben, he's got land right adjoining that lease, there. So he's kinda you know, interested--we just come out of the depression, you know.

(When was this?)

Well, it's back in early '40's somewhere, or late thirties. I don't know just when--but anyway, we don't know where we get gas, but anyway we put it in the car we go down there. We're setting around and watching. We set on kind of there the slush pit back that dirt back up, you know. We sit there and we watch them. Lot of noise, you know. We're all sitting around and it seems like these fellows that's working around the derrick--well, they don't pay any attention to us. But somehow I got acquainted with one of them boys, there. He's kind of a boss there. He wanted to know if I could fix him a bow and arrow. I told him, "Yeah," "well," he says, "I'll make it worth your while. First," he says, "How much you charge me?" "Well," I said. "Whatever you think it's worth." "Well," he said, "Go ahead. Make it." I made it--bow and arrow. And I used some of these-- what you call them--some kind of berries--

(pokeberries?)

Yeah. Paint it..He said, "I want you to fix it real Indian style--I don't want you to use watercolors or anything--just paint it!"

I said, "All right." So I fixed it. So he gave me five. Five dollars. Boy, that five dollars was just like a hundred dollars, them days. Yeah, he works