

Indian tribe. He had beautiful hair. He always combed his hair. He had golden locks. And naturally the white man likes women, you know. He was walking along the river. And there were very pretty girls sitting there. They said, "Hey, white man, come over here and let us look--go through your hair, and see if we can find any bugs or anything. You got pretty hair." So he kinda stalled around and kicked the dirt and stuff. Finally he stepped over to the girls--

Birdie: "Come on! Just come on!" They just kept begging--

Ed: So he finally got over there, and they said, "Just put your head on her lap over here!" He laid down there, and he went to sleep. These two women happened to be cuckleburgs. They turned into pretty women. Well, after he went to sleep, they went to work on him. They just matted his hair every way, you know, just so tight. And when he woke up, he found all that--so he took his knife and just cut his hair, to get them cuckleburgs. And he went back and cried. "What's the matter?" "Oh, I heard awful news. I heard my mother-in-law died, so I cut my hair!" He storied right there. He found out they were cuckle-bur women. And that's the reason why white man today has a haircut. (End of tape)

(Another thing brought out during this conversation, but apparently not caught on tape, was the fact that the Cheyennes have at least two categories of stories. Birdie was talking about "true stories" so I asked her what she meant by a true story. She said a "true story" was one that had to do with the history of the Cheyenne people. As an example, she said the story of the Cheyennes coming over on the ice and living under the pine trees and digging roots was a "true story". Some of these other stories--like these white man stories--are just "stories"--not "true stories." Ed said these latter were just like fairy tales. I asked her for the Cheyenne terms for each kind of story. They are different words.)