

Achilta and Saddleblanket-- Well, he (Saddleblanket) kinda had a little power. And also Apache John (Saddleblanket, Apache John, and Daveco were all prominent medicine men or doctors.--jj) And Old Blackbear, he was a nice, intelligent man.

(Was Blackbear Ray's grandfather?)

Yeah, Ray's.. And he (Old Mah Blackbear) was our first scout. (Probably a member of "L" Troop, 7th Cavalry, a troop of Indian scouts at Ft. Sill in the late 1890's) Yeah. When the army came here, someway he got contacted with these soldiers and become the Apaches' first scout.

(I want to get some stories about his scouting days some time, too. I wonder if you could tell me any more about the competition they used to have?)

Oh, you mean in this Native American Church? Well, just the hearsay, that's what we hear, you know. Of course, it's brought out a few times. Course, they don't like to reveal these kinda things. Cause the way they brought it out was they have power. to do just a little of this and a little of that. And these fellows that they don't agree with--And just like Daveco--a lot of stories have been told about him. (Daveco was especially noted--and feared--for his powers of sorcery) They said he was a nice man. But sometimes he gets a little--not out of line--but he gets a little where he wants to show a little (power). Course, he don't bring it out visible. He don't try to bring it out that way, but in some undercover way, well, he does those works. But on the other hand he was a pretty good-hearted man. And just during the meeting and sometimes outside. But of course every race--I believe every race of Indians have this kind of people. Well, these fellows, they thought it was no good. So they laid down the laws. So these medicine mans that were qcod fellows--good mens, they got together and went in. And they put a stop to it. So these fellows talked it over. They smoked just like we do in tipi (peyote meetings). "All right. From here on, this peace pipe and this tobacco is what we use in the tent. That's the law." Just like the lawmakers does. They respect it. When they take this peace pipe, well, that's one of the highest honors of the Indian race of respect. So that's what they done. So they smoke. And they said, "From