

was his idea--but at that time Apache Ben was our leader. He was highly respected--what they call Business Committee. Of course he was in public service ever since he was a young man. He was a police. He was a mail carrier. They had that document over there at my sister's. It has certificates. And through my grandpa here, Apache John--he (Ben) married Apache John's daughter--Apache John's only daughter. That's the only child he had. He (Ben) was Apache John's son-in-law--Apache Ben. Through that, people had a lot of respect for him. So when Apache John came back from Montana, where they had the last meeting of the chiefs of the tribes. When he came back here, well, Apache John was our chief for a while, at the same time Quannah Parker was, and Ahpeatone--Kiowa. Over there at that Indian Office over there at Old Town (Anadarko)--they call it Old Town--that's where Apache John worked with these chiefs. After that, they told him to organize a committee. And after the committee was organized, well, Apache John relinquished his service to his son-in-law, Apache Ben. So I think through that Old Man Achilta took the staff to Apache Ben. And once in a great while Apache Ben, he talks about that staff. He don't talk about it all the time, but once in a while when he feels like it. Tells us a little about it. And he changed them songs. Sings those songs--wonderful songs. They know a few of them now, but the only time I know them is when I hear them. There's a lot of good songs the old timers took with them when they died out. Just like Capitan, Capitan--was a good singer. And Apache Jay was a good singer--I heard those guys. And Homer Saddleblanket. They were wonderful singers. There were several of them--good singers. They lead songs--they don't wait on on another. As soon as one song's finished another feller leads off with