

Indians, these Ojibwas, call us. But that's the name they give us. And then years, we probably got with our other Algonquin groups up in Montana. They was up in the glaciers. Got back in with 'em. And the French, or the English, call us Piegans. You know what Piegan (or Pagan) means.

(Yeah--the Blackfeet tribe? Piegan tribe?)

Yeah. That means "mean people," doesn't it?

(I didn't know what it meant.)

"Pagan" is just unchristian like, or anything like that. That was the name given to the Blackfeet (I don't know if he's saying Piegan or "Pagan," and he may be confused on this point--jj.) When we were part of them. Then we run away from them. We were a portion of that tribe. The Piegans (or pagans) got away from them, which constituted the Arapaho, eventually. And we drifted somewhere--either north or northeast or south or southwest, and the French met us there. Met our people there. I guess the Indians was chasing buffalo there and they called the Indians, "Gens de Voux" or "Gens de Vouch" (he spells it). In French it means "buffalo people." So we became known by that name to the government of the United States in French, early historians. Then a portion of that group that worked away from the main tribe--the main Piegan tribe--became known as Gens de Vouch. A portion of them worked away from us because of one hard year up around the Dakotas or Montana somewhere. And they affiliated themselves with another tribe where the tribe had plenty of meat--deer and buffalo and all that. Otherwise, where we were, they didn't have access to--on account of the mountains--to the game. Had a hard year. So this other portion of our band left us. They went eventually to the Assiniboin of Montana. They're Sioux nation. And that's called Assiniboin. Now this group of the Arapaho--of this Gens de Vouch that went and affiliated themselves with these Assiniboin were later met by some French explorers, historians, at a place there along the border where it was known that there had been a petrified buffalo that had sunk in the ground, that had been dug out by these explorers. And it was found that that buffalo that was petrified had a ruptured stomach. Rock. So because they found those Indians there, they name them--Gros Ventres. Which means "ruptured stomach," in French. But they speak our language