

MEDICINE BIRD AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ARAPAHO PEYOTE WAY:

(Going back to this Old Medicine Bird--could you explain a little more about him being the founder of the original Arapaho way?)

Well--I'll go back a little further. Medicine Bird was a cousin of my mother. My mother was his cousin. And he's still got a daughter here in Kingfisher. He's still got grand-nephews and nieces in Wyoming.

Anyway, as a young man, they say he was a good hunter. He had a brother and sister. Well, in moving about in the fall, the northern Arapahoes, as they did in their country, for food and meat--he had a horse or two--single young man about eighteen years old. His brother had two good fat horses. Two or three good fat horses. They were buffalo chasing horses. They were scouting horses--you know, what peoples tell you--war path. I never call it war path--I call it scouting. That's what it is. Well, his brother had two or three good scouting horses and he'd go over the Range--the Divide--where the Utes and all them are-- Well, one day they was gonna move camp. So, that was about 1854. Somewhere--1864 maybe, no--1854. He went to his brother. He thought him being a good hunter he'd go out on the side of the road while they were moving and get a deer or something, or an elk, and bring it back to the camp where they'd pitch camp overnight and they'd have meat. So he went to his brother early in the morning--no it was late at night. Fires were all warm in the tipis, and he went from one tent to the other and went in his brother's tent. They sat around, and he said, "What are you doing out this time of night?" The boys were singing over there and drumming--this Star Hawk dance. He said, "I belong to that, but it's just a common practice dance. What I come to see you about was I wonder if I could borrow your horse--that bay horse--tomorrow to go out on the side looking for deer or elk. So the next place we pitch camp on the way to where we're moving to we'd have deer or elk meat." His brother says,