

T-2-1 (First of Three Interviews)
ALFRED CHALEPAH, KIOWA-APACHE
INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN
INTERVIEW DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 1967
TRANSCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

BACKGROUND MATERIALS FROM FIELD NOTES

(I got this story from Railroad Cisco. He was a Tonkawa, and married Apache Ben's niece, Molly Cisco. Long time ago there were about five Apaches who went south, deep into Mexico. Apaches gathered that herb deep in Mexico. My father's grandfather was one of them.... They don't use it like we use it today. But I have a feeling they took part in a ceremony there cause when they come back they use it as a medicine.

Anyway, Railroad Cisco, he was a pretty good friend of mine. I worked with him many years. Not only his neighbor, but also in church work for many years. I never asked him to tell me this story. One time he said, "I'm going to tell you, all my people's gone. I have sons and daughters. You help in lot of ways in my belief. So I think you ought to know my story, the way he learned it." That's the way it was, the way he told it. I didn't change anything. Railroad Cisco is dead now. He was Molly's husband. I used to build fire and carry drum for him many times. I enjoyed working for him. He was pretty well up in age and I always have respect for my elders in this line of service. I've told this story to other people before, like Bill Carpenter. He was Indian but he was a County Commissioner. He lived in White Oak.

(The Tonkawas were supposed to be the second tribe to get peyote. The Lipan got it first.)

TRANSCRIPT OF ALFRED'S TAPE: HOW THE TONKAWAS GOT PEYOTE

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Alfred Chalepah is 57 years old and for many years has been a leader and spokesman of his people. He has been active in tribal affairs, having served several times on the K-A-C Business Committee, and has been a director of the Anadarko Indian Exposition. He is a participant in Native American Church activities and has the right to conduct meetings. He is a leader in the Kiowa-Apache Blackfoot Dance organization, having inherited the office of "Whip" from his uncle, Apache John. Although Alfred has had little formal education, having completed through sixth grade, he is extremely knowledgeable in almost every area of tribal life, and he is very anxious that his tribal traditions and lore be preserved.

Note: The other interviews on this tape are: Mabel Kirk, Kickapoo
Mattie Murdock, Kickapoo