

ARAPAHO MEN'S SOCIETIES: THE FOX COMPANY

(I was wondering if you could tell me about some of the men's societies-- maybe the Fox Company that you were in. I've talked to you a little bit about it before, but maybe we could go into it in a little more detail.) Well, we can start on this Fox organization. That's an organization that's composed of the youngest active element of boys--say from twelve or thirteen year old on up to about seventeen--somewhere along in there in the range of young teenagers. And they are trained, I would say, just exactly as the Boy Scouts are. But--I noticed from my own experience and from my judgement of these Boy Scouts--the Indian boy endures more and there's a lot of life--camping and outdoor life, and honesty and respect for the old folks during all his life, than I have noticed these white boys (have). Right here on these streets I notice young boys making fun of people--colored people, and even Indians, you know. Young white boys. Yet they're supposed to be Boy Scouts. I don't like that. I don't know how much worse that would be in the cities, but I know it's nothing to compare with the Indians. The Indian is determined for his life that he's taught by his parents. That kind of a life. Brave and enduring and honest, fearless, and you never read about Indians going on riots. You never hear Indians going on demonstrations or cowardice in the army--no. That's standard life training. That's the Fox (company). They call them the "Blackbirds" in Wyoming--the Wyoming Arapahoes. Yeah. But here in Oklahoma they still call them by the old title--"Kit-Fox", some of them call it, but I just call it the Fox. Young fellows. Active. Good swimmers. Stand cold, patient, enduring, respect--all those good qualities of manhood. They keep them throughout life. Respect for their parents. And I think it's a whole lot more a complete training than the Boy Scouts get. When Boy Scouts grow up to be men, some of them might be benefitted by it, but as a rule the Boy Scouts get loose and for themselves, you know, and forget all about their training. Indians don't.

(What was the name of that Fox organization in Arapaho?)