

A POISONOUS PLANT GROWING NEAR THE SPRING

(Were there other springs along the river bed, here--?)

Let's see--not that I know of. Up west of Watonga there's several springs. And there's weeds that grow in the center of this spring. The Indians claim that the root is deadly poisonous --if you even touch it. The Indians used it in ceremonial--I don't know how they use it--but they say it makes them go berserk. But the Indians used to have a fence--a two-wire fence--to keep us kids out. But when that weed grows about that tall, and matures, there's pods. And when the pods mature they crack open and the seed will fall out. And in the evening we used to all come and sit there around here and the breeze through those open pods--you could hear a woman's voice singing. Just like a violin and different kind of music.. It's a nice music, like, you know. From those weeds, from the breeze through those dry pods. I remember that time. It still grows there I guess.

(What was the name of that weed?)

I don't know. Well, the name of that root is [∇]caē[∇]caē.[∇]céí -- "a deadly poison" or deadly cramping effect or something.

(Would you say that again?)

Let's see-- [∇]caē[∇]nāē.[∇]céí -- [∇]caē[∇]hāē.[∇]céí ---yeah, that's it [∇]caē[∇]hāē.[∇]céí --I was using that word just Sunday. They wanted to know what that name was and I explained it. [∇]caē[∇]caē.[∇]céí

(What did they use it for?)

Some lodge. Some of these ceremonies. What they call the "Fire Bug" organization. That's the Crazy Lodge.

(Do you know how they used it?)

I don't know. I never joined that. My father joined it, and my