

Indian life. Talk about religion and medicine and food. She's from the southwest, you know. Them people eat all the thorns they could find out there, and she'd tell about them. But they made them in delicious way. They tasted good. Those old thorny things, they'd take them and make delicious sweet tasting eats out of those things.

(Do you know what the name of that plant was?)

Howard: No. One of them, they call it a "mescal" plant. Of course it isn't this here peyote. Mescal plant is one of them great large--thorny things that grow out in the southwest. They call them "mescal," you know. They made some good eating out of that. Take all the thorns away and peel the hide and cook it--I don't know how they prepare it. (Howard is probably talking about a species of Agave, the fleshy leaf bases and trunk of which was roasted in pit ovens and was a staple food among the Mescalero Apaches. The Mescaleros were, in fact, named for their custom of eating this food.--jj)

MESCALEROS AMONG THE KIOWA-APACHES

(How did your father get acquainted with your step-mother that was a Mescalero?)

Howard: Oh, just about that time--of course dad lost my mother. She was a Lipan or a Mescalero, too. My real mother. And when she died, when she died I never did know her--my real mother. And when she died the Mescaleros were here. A group of them came from Mescalero in New Mexico to live here--for what reason I don't know, or how long they stayed here, I don't know that either. But they were here and so people got acquainted with one another. One pair with my father--this step-mother. Another one was Sam Klinekole--we were just talking about him--his wife was a Mescalero. And there were a few others--not too many--that married Kiowa-Apaches. The Mescalero women did.

(These Mescaleros that came out here to live, would they be the same as the