

Comanches. We didn't know she done it for quite a while. Finally a Comanche asked us, "Say, have you given Mary any more of that root that we always buy from her for sore throat and itch and all that?" "No," I said, "I've been in Wyoming for sometime." See, they heat it and grease it. Just--I don't know why they do that. I guess that grease helps to cure the swelling in your throat. But that's probably it. Because Mary's strong for that.

(What do you mean, that they grease it?)

Well, when they're curing it, they peel the outside scale (bark) of it off and then they daub grease over it and they heat it. That works the grease inside quite a ways. Then they smoke it. And if you keep it in a suitcase or handbag two or three days, all your stuff will smell. It's not a disagreeable odor, but you can smell it. I know my cousin said he went to South Dakota after he dug up quite a bit of it there at Merriam Lake, Wyoming. That's near that swank place--what do they call that? He dug up a lot of it and he put some in his suitcase and went to those Sioux. Before he got rid of all that, everything he had--even his necktie and handkerchief and shirts--all smelled like that stuff. It was just like he was advertising when he got there. "Hey--do you got more of that root?" "Yeah, I got some more." He said, "In a way it helped me, because all my clothes and belongings in that suitcase took on the odor of that stuff. But after that, I didn't want to keep it in my suitcase any more! I kept it in a separate bag," he said.

(What kind of grease would they use to put on it?)

Mostly deer grease. Deer marrow. Marrow--the marros of the bones.

(How do they smoke it?)

Just over an open fire, till all the blaze it out. Then they take a grill or something like that and they set them on there. Set them over the coals. And that grease works in there. I know that's what it is, because Mary's great for that.

(What's the name of that plant in Arapaho?)

ni' ae.tae'

(Where do you get it?)