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RAY BLACKBEAR, KIOWA-APACHE

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

INTERVIEW DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 1968

TRANSCRIBED BY: PRUDA SHANK

GENERAL SUBJECT: NAC; KIOWA-APACHE SOCIETIES; KIOWA-APACHE GHOST DANCE; DOCTORING; DEVIL'S LAKE STORY; PEYOTE

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH, CHARTERS
APACHE BEN AND OTHER APACHE TRIBES
KIOWA-APACHE SOCIETIES
BLACKFOOT SOCIETY: OLD WAYS
TERMS FOR GOD
KIOWA-APACHE GHOST DANCE
SUN DANCE
OLD TIME SOCIETIES: BLACKFOOT AND HORSE SOCIETIES
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OLD AND CONTEMPORARY PEYOTE RITUALS
USE OF FANS AND EAGLE FEATHERS IN PEYOTE RITUALS
DOCTORING
USE OF FANS AND FEATHERS
USE OF TWO FEATHERS SYMBOLIZING MALE AND FEMALE
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CRESENT-SHAPED ALTAR AND OTHER ITEMS IN
PEYOTE RITUAL
FIREWOOD USED IN PEYOTE MEETINGS
PEYOTE DRUM
USE OF PLANT AS RATTLE IN PEYOTE RITUAL
CHANGES IN PEYOTE RITUAL
PREPARATION OF ALTAR
SCISSORTAIL FEATHERS AND EAGLE FEATHERS IN PEYOTE RITUAL
OLD TIME KIOWA-APACHES PROMINENT IN PEYOTE RITUAL
OLD MAN ACHILTA: HIS DOCTORING
APACHE JOHN: HIS DOCTORING

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Ray Blackbear was born near the present town of Hatchettville in 1903. He is a Kiowa-Apache and a fluent speaker of the language. He is married to a Kiowa and lives on an allotment about two miles west of the junction of Highways 19 & 58. Ray died in February, 1969. Ray was the son of Joe and Priscilla Blackbear, and the grandson of Old Man Blackbear who served in L Troop. Ray was active in Native American Church activities, and in the revitalized Kiowa-Apache Blackfoot Society. He was a noted singer and composed many of the Blackfoot songs in use today.