

(What was his name?)

Sam Ahtone. That was my uncle--my father's brother.

(Did you ever hear any stories about how the Cheyennes came to give it to Zéba'edal?)

Well, Zéba'edal was pretty honorable and wealthy, in stock. And that's the only way that that could be bestowed to one who's eligible. And he was chief and honorable--he was wealthy in stock. So they picked him out to give it to. And therefore he carried it. And I gave that blanket to Bishop Smith on condition that when he died he would return it back to the family--some of us that's living. But we asked for it. The Fort Sill Museum wants it. And they offered to give me lots of money. And I asked the director, Griswold, to write to him (Smith) and I signed the letter and the Bishop, he didn't like it. He wants to keep it till he dies. So we can't get it. It's not a blanket--it's elk hide. Elk skin. Beaded elk skin. And it's soft.

(I thought you said it was used for a saddle blanket?)

It was used for a saddle blanket. But it's elk skin. It's been tanned, just like that, on both sides. And the saddle part over here and on the border it's about that wide all around. Decorated--beaded. And the saddle sits on the bare part--the skin part. And they got other blankets underneath there, and it's laid on top, next to the saddle. That way it don't scratch none of the beads or anything.

(Was that given to Zeba edal by the Cheyennes?)

Yes. It was on top of a horse that they led in, in the ceremony, that held all the blankets and that. And they give it to Zéba'edal. They give it to their friend. And he accepts that horse and that blanket himself. And it was for him. And they carried it all these years. That thing was over seventy-five years old when he had it. It's presented to himself. You look at Mooney's book. You might find it out on 'I'aum--what year it might be. But it was long years ago.