

T-257

INFORMANT: PETE BIRDCHIEF, CHEYENNE
INTERVIEWED BY: JOE TRIMBLE
INTERVIEW DATE: MAY 9, 1968
TRANSCRIBED BY: PRUDA SHANK AND DARLENE FIELDS

SIDE B

ABOUT FIRST 3/4 SIDE B IS BLANK

GIVES HORSE CREDIT FOR SAVING GRANDFATHER'S LIFE FROM CAVALRY

(sentence not clear) Cavalry chased Grandfather - one close call. I don't know how come they had cavalry, but they were gaining on him. And he come to a reed with trees on each side, all around. You know what a reed is? He rode down in there. Said he jumped off his horse, and leaned behind these trees, next to the bank. There come them cavalry on each side. Then they hit that ravine, some on one side and some on the other side. And he said, "You know that horse never moved." If that horse had moved, they could kill him right there. I wouldn't been here. That's how close Grandpa got to being killed.

(Well, he apparently got close to being killed many times.)

Yeah, that's the closest call he had, right there. Said my horse never even moved, just like a wooden horse, standing stock-still. Those men, they went over the hill. When they went over the hill, he got on his horse and took back where he come from. These guys thought he was still goin'. He was just backed out of the way. But he had a close call. (laughter)

(He must have been a smart man.)

Yeah. He had a close call. Closest he ever come to.

UNCLE USED SENSIBLE PAINT HORSE IN BATTLES

(Did he ever talk about any one horse? Just one particular horse that he had?)

Yeah, one of his uncles had a good horse. He was a paint horse, had a short tail. And that horse know when there's a battle. He'd just rear up, you know, jump around. He would circle the whole area. They take a shot at him; they