

T-332

RAY BLACKBEAR, KIOWA-APACHE

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

TRANSCRIBED BY: BLANCHE HILL

TRANSCRIPTION CHECKED BY:

JULIA A. JORDAN

DATES OF INTERVIEW: 9-18-68 and
9-26-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: APACHE DEVIL'S LAKE STORY AND STORYTELLING;
FIELD TRIP AND COMMENTS ON BIRDS, PLANTS AND LANDMARKS

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

DEVIL'S LAKE STORY

STORYTELLING

APACHE MEDICINE BUNDLES

MORE ON STORYTELLING

INDIAN CHEWING GUM FROM COMPASS PLANT

APACHE NAME FOR MEDICINE BLUFF CREEK

NAME FOR LOCUST (CICADA)

SEASONS RECOGNIZED BY APACHES

WATER CRESS

BUZZARDS AND APACHE STORY ABOUT BUZZARDS

SPARROW HAWKS AND SCISSORTAILS

BLACK HAWS (VIBURNUM)

CRAZY HILL

NATURAL BRIDGE NEAR APACHE "Y"

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Ray Blackbear (his office name is Henry) was born in 1903 near Hatchetville in present Caddo County. His parents were Joe and Priscilla Blackbear. His grandfather, Old Man Black Bear, was a member of "L" Troop at Fort Sill. Ray was raised by his grandparents in Apache traditional way and was fluent in the language and well informed concerning the traditional way of life. He was a dedicated member of the Native American Church, and active in the Kiowa-Apache Blackfeet Society, and helped reorganize the society in the early sixties. He was a good singer and composed many Blackfeet songs as well as other kinds of songs. He married Helen Boyiddle, a Kiowa and they had two children, Paul and Birdie May. Helen and Paul are now dead, and Ray died in February, 1969. His daughter, Birdie May Tointigh, and her family now live on the Blackbear home place a mile west of Boone.

(NOTE: The transcriptions of Apache terms herein are approximate, and a few of the terms are not transcribed.--J. Jordan.)

DEVIL'S LAKE STORY

A feller, feller had to meditate you might say during the time that he was, he had some things to do. Is it running?

(Yeah. But we can cut it off if you want to. Why don't you go.