

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: GEORGE FIRST RIDER
LAW & PUNISHMENT
(BLOOD TRIBE)
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: BLOOD RESERVE
CARDSTON, ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: BLOOD RESERVE
CARDSTON, ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION: BLOOD
LANGUAGE: BLACKFOOT
DATE OF INTERVIEW: JANUARY 13, 1969
INTERVIEWER: J.C. HELLSON
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TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD
SOURCE: PROVINCIAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA
TAPE NUMBER: IH-AA.070
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC 54
PAGES: 6
RESTRICTIONS: NONE

GEORGE FIRST RIDER

George First Rider of the Blood Reserve was born in 1904. He had no formal schooling but became an accomplished horseman and worked for a time on the rodeo circuit. After working as a farmer he ended up in jail as a result of alcoholism and theft. He attributes his reform to his conversion to Christianity.

He prides himself on his ability as a storyteller and on his knowledge of Blood culture, particularly the holy societies many of which he joined as a young man.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Describes various punishments.

George First Rider: Okay, these are the stories. There are some words that are not very good. It's the story, the illustration. I saw a little of this thing that I am going to tell a story about.

Now discipline. Our fathers discipline us. Our mothers control us, us boys. I'll put it this way, the father will lead us in life in a good way. The girl, her mother will lead her in life so that she'll live a good life. The girl is taught how to slice meat, to make pemmican, how to grind meat, how to preserve food, and how to tan hides. These are what her mother taught her. Especially an old woman advised her too. The old woman warned her of all the bad habits in life. The

girl is advised not to be crazy. It means not be going around with boys all the time.

The girl that has a life like that, who goes around with boys, if the girl gets married she will suffer for how she went around with a boy. The boys all tell stories of how they met a girl. That is why mothers are strict on their daughters. The reason why a girl is advised to live a clean life, it is said if a woman is easy, if she takes other men, she will not raise her child right. The child will die. The child will get sick. It is said a child will have scrofula and it will go blind and it will get the itch. That is why there are some children that are dumb and some are deaf. All these occur if the woman goes around with a disease. That is why they try to have everything clean in life.

Now the boy gets discipline from his father and there is someone else that gave him advice. He was all the things of how to live and with a career that will make him to become a chief and that will make him to have a homestead and to lead the people when moving camps. If that boy didn't hear what he was told, instead he'll be acting crazy and he will not go on the warpath. He'll be gambling, et cetera. How can the people think to have the boy for a son-in-law, the boy who has a bad life that that? On the other hand, if the girl is leading a bad life, her father will choose a boy for her to marry but to no avail because she is a bad girl. That's what life is.

Okay, there are girls that cannot get a husband because they know about bad life. They are always thinking of the advice they were told but still they are leading a bad life. The other boy that also has the same kind of life, he is not in love with a girl. He is not running after her. The people of the past will say that is not his direct approach. A boy and the woman that he meets we say that is his direct approach. The boy doesn't have to have the woman. His direct approach,

he knows where she is staying. He walks up to the tipi and he sees which side her bed is. It is said the ones that are caught like that will be punished. The boy will go late at night when the camps are all asleep and he'll get to the tipi. He'll know where the woman's bed is. He pulls the tipi pegs out and he sticks his hand inside. He tries to crawl inside. The girl wakes up and she notices there is somebody feeling around inside. If she has a knife available she will chop the hand of the boy with the knife and the boy will run away, and everybody will make fun of him what he did. It is crawling in.

Okay, the other one pulls the tipi pegs out and sticks his hand inside, the girl notices there is someone outside. The girl holds him by the hand and she pulls him inside slowly, and she got a good hold of him. Then she calls her parents or her brothers for help. "There is somebody in here." So the person is caught and he is brought in. They sit up and in the morning the aggressive ones were called. We'll say the aggressive ones are young men. Those are the ones that will punish the offender. When the girl confessed, "Here is a person," she was

fed in the morning. A saskatoon berry soup was boiled for her so that her stomach will work fast.

Okay, the man that was invited, he killed a man and he cut his hand off and he took the hand or the foot. It is said in the past that they cut a foot off of their enemies and they cut a hand off; that's what it says. They drag those and that makes them chiefs. That kind of man will take him. So they sat around him and his moccasins are taken off. His moccasins are put away, his leggings, his breechcloth, and his shirt. The people of the past all have long hair; his hair was unbraided. A white ash, if it's not too white, a white clay. It is called a soil. He mixed his soil with the ash or they mix it with charcoal and they paint the face of the offender with it. His face is painted white; his face is bluish white. His hair is all messed up and the same substance was applied on his hair.

A stick from the loading section of a travois was put crosswise on his back and he stretched his arms out and his hands were tied to the stick; sage grass were tied to his wrists. There are two different kinds of sage grass. Big sizes were different. The real sage grass were used. There is man sage and the woman sage; the woman sage grass was used. The woman sage grass sheds in wintertime and it's just a stalk and this is tied around his wrist and another one is tied on to his other wrist. A sage grass was tied to his wrist. A bigger stick is put on his back and as his hair was all messed up his hair was top knotted, his hair, and a thong was tied around it and tied to the stick at the back.

Another stick was put on his back the length of his height and his legs were lifted and tied crosswise and sage grass were tied to his ankles. That is why I said it is hard. But I'll have to say it, his penis was painted white and sage grass were tied with it. Now the whistle, a thong is tied to a whistle to wear around the neck. The whistle was put into his mouth almost touching his throat and the thong was tied behind his head so that he cannot break the whistle with his teeth and he can't talk. He'd just blow the whistle when he tries to talk. Now three big poles were set up like a tipi crotch and the offender was supported up against these. Now after he was tied, he didn't stand too high, the girl was brought outside and she excreted by the boy. One of the warriors took the excrement and he smeared a line around the face of the offender with the excrement. It is called, his face is painted like a Medicine Pipe owner with the excrement.

The reason why his face was painted like a Medicine Pipe owner, because the sides of a Medicine Pipe owner's tipi cannot be lifted. They are afraid of that as he had pulled out the tipi pegs. He was going to crawl inside of the tipi from the side, that is why his face was painted like a Medicine Pipe owner. The excrement was inserted into his mouth so that he'll be tasting it and a line was painted around his face with excrement. The offender was braced out in the open early in the morning. The girl's brothers, the boy that are game, a fire place was built. They build a fire with saskatoon

willows. These saskatoon willows don't go up in smoke they just burn out; the wood burned into white ashes.

When the boy was braced up outside and when the people started to punish him, he tried to talk and he tried to cry but he blows the whistle instead. He can't talk because the whistle is in his mouth; when he talks he just blows the whistle. Okay, the men took their breechcloths off, and they go to the ashes and they put some on their rectums and they sing their war songs and they dance up to the offender. And when they start to turn their buttocks to him the boy starts blowing the whistle and the men would fart on his face and the ashes are blown on his face. There is nobody that will defend the offender. That's his own fault. His relatives get embarrassed when this happened to him.

The people all got up in the morning and they all went to watch. Some in-laws and son-in-laws didn't go. He was bare naked. I'll say this, his penis was decorated too because he was going to use it when he crawled into the tipi. Okay, he was turned over and as he was stretched out on the pole he looked like an offering; that means he is offered to the sun.

A person will say, "Okay, Sun, I give you this man." People that fight and that abuse each other will curse each other. There is the offering of a man to the sun. Cursing is different and madness is different. That's what this offering a person to the sun is.

When a man and a woman is mad at a person he/she will say, "Okay, Sun, I give you that person. Set with him." It is strange. The man that believes the same way will be the one that will die. The people of the past are afraid of that especially when the one that is going to talk is a Horn Society member. The person is really afraid of him, to use harsh words at him. But if the Horn Society member is wise he'll not put a curse on a person. If he doesn't succeed on the person that he cursed, the curse will go back on him.

The offender was pulled lower and he stood in a stooping position. He was made to stand the other way. It is said that his rectum was sprayed with ochre from the mouth. A person will put some ochre in his mouth and then he'll drink some water and he'll mix the ochre with the water with his tongue and he'll spray the offender's rectum with it and the ochre will run down his legs and his legs will be all red. That is what it is. Okay, the same people will dance up to him again. The ones that are going to dance will heat themselves up beforehand and they'd poke him in his rectum. Some will shove sticks into his rectum, some will shove their fingers into his rectum, and some will shove their penises into his rectum. So that is how a person is punished.

After he is punished and when the people are all gone away from him, his relatives or his father will go up to him and he'll cut the thongs and he will be released. Some will commit

suicide when they go away. They don't shoot themselves, they hang themselves. Some will stay around and if there is any battle he will just go right into the middle of the battle and everybody will see him when he is shot down.

Those that have their hands slashed are the same. A girl will say, "Someone crawled in last night. I slashed his hand." Others will say, "I cut his finger." Suddenly the person that had his hand slashed or his finger cut will not be seen around any more, because he has his hand bandaged. Others will go on the warpath and come back when their hands are healed but still they get discovered. Even if the person that had his finger cut is a great chief he is called a bad person. That's what the law is. That is why the girls are disciplined. The girl that listens to the advices that were given to her, she'll get married very young. She'll not go for the men. She has one husband. Her father and her mother will be proud of her in the future, and also her boy relatives.

First she will slice the tongues and after that she'll sponsor a Holy Sun Lodge. When she sponsors a Holy Sun Lodge the man will not hold back any of his property. His daughter has sponsored a Holy Sun Lodge. The boys might be their elder sister or their young that got married. There is nothing that they are going to hold back what they are going to loose on their relative. That is why they take the advice. The boy that pulled out tipi pegs has no relative and he has no friends. He is hated by everybody because he pulls tipi pegs. Some never get married because of crawling into tipis and of having his hand slashed. Everybody makes fun of him and everybody hates him.

Now if a girl talks all the time her brother will throw dirt in her mouth; that is how her brother will punish her. If a woman sits with her legs stretched out her husband will not tell her to sit properly. Her husband will just take his knife and he'll hit her on the shin with it. A crazy that always sits with her legs stretched out, she has scars all over her shins. A woman's ear is cut off if she doesn't hear what she is told and their noses are cut off. A person that listened lives a good life. I saw one. There is a deceased; his name is Eagle Bear. He was once loaded onto a crotch. I (First Rider) saw Eagle Bear in 1918. That was the time I saw him. I was told, "There is Eagle Bear loaded onto a crotch."

The same Eagle Bear, he captured his own relative, Miserable Young Man. He is called in white man (English), Chaco*. When he captured him he became a Red Kidney.** Although he became a Red Kidney but being loaded onto a crotch spoiled his reputation. His life never was good. He is left-handed and his name is Eagle Bear. So he was just called Left Hand because of his bad behavior. That left-handed man, that man with the dislocated hip, there is a mountain where the Indians cut timber is called Eagle Bear's Hip. So that is how bad this misleading life is. So I end this information.

*The informant couldn't pronounce the name Charcoal

because he does not speak English so he pronounced it as Chaco.
**A Red Kidney is a minor Chief.

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