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TRIBE/NATION: CREE  
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: JULY 30, 1935  
INTERVIEWER: DR. D.G. MANDELBAUM  
INTERPRETER: GEORGE POPLAR  
TRANSCRIBER: HEATHER YAWORSKI  
SOURCE: DR. D.G. MANDELBAUM  
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Story about a bear helping a man.  
I don't know pekahku. People say he has a human body but is  
very thin and travels through the air.

I have heard the name manito ayisiyina but I never heard  
anything about him.

Those love songs are sung at any time -- a girl will sing them  
when she is lonely for her sweetheart on the warpath.

Here Coming Day told a story already recorded by Bloomfield.  
The omission of certain plot incidents may be due to the fact  
that the old man was not feeling well. The version which  
follows is condensed from my original notes. (Handwritten  
field notes give much more detail.)

A party of 22 Stonies were out on the warpath and were looking

for a big camp, for where there is a big camp there are chiefs and good horses. When they reached a small camp they would circle around it.

They killed a buffalo and cooked some meat. A party of Sioux saw them. The Stonies built two lodges out of leaves and sticks for the night. There was one kik. in one of the lodges and two in the other.

The Sioux crawled up and yelled, "Who are you?" and opened fire. The kik. crawled out and yelled, "It is us." The Sioux understood "A ha ha. It is our partners." But they had already killed all but the one kik.

They left the wounded man with water and a gun. They took all the other guns. He lay there all night with his dead companions all around. The next morning a bear came and looked at him and went out. The kik. was scared. The next morning the bear came in and licked the wound. "He is going to save me," thought the wounded man.

At sundown the bear licked the wound again. The man made a bandage by wrapping his head cloth and slept well.

The next morning he knew by the bear's motion to stand up and get on the bear's back. They travelled up a ravine and away. The bear went off. The next morning he rode again, the bear picking his way so they could not be seen. They came to a lake and drank. The next morning he shot a buffalo and picked out the best meat to feed the bear. The bear would not let him leave the beef so he tied it up and slung it over the bear's back.

The Stony went to a white man's place along the river. "You can't come with me. The white man will kill you. Even if I take you into camp the young men will kill you. Leave me. You can guard me from a distance."

Finally the bear (?). "But if they give you anything to eat, come and feed me." The house must have been on an island, at low water there were stones on our side. The white man had married the Stony's sister. They were surprised to see him. That night they gave him a bed near the door and put a plate of food near him. He went out at night and fed the bear.

The Frenchman said to his wife in the morning, "Your brother must have eaten a lot. Give him more next time." During the day the woman took 4 different colors of prints and gave them to the Stony. "Brother you probably promised something while you were on the warpath. Here are prints for you to give." "Yes, I did promise."

The next morning he fed the bear and gave him the prints. The Frenchman saw him go out and the following morning tracked him. The bear knew the white man was coming and ran away. But the Frenchman saw the tracks. He told his wife, "Your brother has a companion. After this put better food in the plates."

The next morning the Stony saw his brother-in-law's tracks. He found the bear who told him to leave right away. The Stony told his sister he was going. She gave him a blanket and lent him a horse. The Stony and the bear travelled together. They travelled three nights and got to the camp. Because the Stony was not chief he had no authority over the young Stonies. He begged the bear to leave him. "All right but I'll come and see you every now and then." He taught the Stony how to cure the sick. When he got into camp only then was it known that all his companions had been killed.

I have not seen this but have heard of it many times. When a bear is killed, they take a little of the breast fat -- a little of the ribs -- and the big gut. This is boiled. The old people are called in. The first man takes the gut and holds it to his ear. "What is it? I don't quite understand you. He says to me -- you are going to have good luck on the warpath." He takes 2 pieces of the gut and passes it on. He doesn't hear anything -- it is only a wish. They pass the gut all around -- even to the women. They wish for all kinds of things, until all the gut is eaten. Then they serve the rest.

While the bear is butchered, if a person has a pain in the shoulder he will cut a piece of the bear shoulder out and say, "I have a pain in my shoulder and now I cut it out." Or any part of the body where they have a pain.

I don't know why so many of the stories are about Stonies. They have a way of getting wondrous things and the children pick on such things to tell. But there are many stories about the Cree too.

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