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:
- Description of how paints are gathered and prepared.
- The uses of different paints.
George First Rider: Now we are going to talk about paints. We are just talking about paints, the seven paint, the real paint and the white earth. The buffalo yellow ochre is different, the real yellow ochre and the white earth. A man went on and looked for it. A pinky soil is the white ochre. When the earth is picked it is called by dirt. He is going to get his dirt and he will find his dirt.

It's famous. There is a white clay on the Belly Butte. That is what it is called. It's the white earth. The white earth is lumpy. It's not all fine. It will have to be picked out. The white earth is picked with a piece of wood that is flattened. Some of the white earths are greasy looking. They
are not real white, they are greasy looking. They are picked and soaked. A mouthful of water is taken and then you spit the water on the dirt; then it is prepared like a dough.

The next earth that is taken, it's the white earth. That is called the dirt. The dirt that is molded and it is made hollow like a bowl and the dirt is emptied into it. The man will just spit on it. He might chew something to have more spit so he spits on it. Then he rolls it like a ball. He'll have it to any size he wants. They do the same. They will not just take the dirt. They pray; incense is burned when cooking the white earth, but there is no incense burned when picking the dirt of white earth. They'll make a vow. There is Three Men. He said, "I will give some of this dirt to the Horn Society so that my dirt may turn out good." That is what he said. "My dirt." That is how Three Men took his dirt. When he made it into a big dough he set it on the window sill where it's hot, by the heat of the window. They say they are put where the sun ray is. As he had the dirt soaked, it didn't look so white when he set it on the window sill. It got heated by the sun's rays and it turned white. It was done in the manner it was crushed. When it was crushed it was then put by the stove and it got real heated. It was sprinkled with water when it was crushed and when it was put by the stove. They say that they are put by open fireplaces. He sprinkled it the same way. The sprinkled mud dried by the heat, it turned white. Before, it was bluish white; it looked greasy. We spit and water is spit on it too and it's wet. And when it got dry by the sun, it dried white. Then it is crushed. It was crushed on a smooth flat glossy stone; it was really pounded. As it is pounded, the harder it is pounded, it turned whiter. Now it is white ochre; it is real white. A song is sung to it. There was no singing at the time it was purposed. A song is sung when they are used. You will all hear the song in the future. More stories will be told and then the song will be sung.

In picking the white ochre, there is no singing when picking the white earth. There is some singing when the white earth is used. The white earth is used by the MOTOKIKCH. The Horn Society uses the white earth. The white earth is used by the Holy Women. That is why it is prepared. The white earth is used by the ones that go through the self-torture. The white earth is also used for facial paintings at transfers. That is why we try to have it done right. The white earth is also used on buckskin suits. If a buckskin suit gets dirty it will be cleaned with the white earth. It's just like washing the buckskin suit and it will be white. Some people use it to plaster their banks to make them stand up on ends and then they paint them in stripes crossways. That is why they put all their effort to get them white.

The yellow ochre, the buffalo yellow ochre is different. The buffalo yellow ochre, when the buffalo yellow ochre is cooked it will burn into a real paint. Now a pink yellow ochre is also different. The pink yellow ochre and the buffalo yellow ochre are combined. When they are combined the preparation is
done in the same way as the others. You spit water on it. A mouthful of water is taken and when we spit water on it and it is soaked by spitting water on it, then it is molded. The pink yellow ochre and the buffalo yellow ochre are put together. They are also rolled like a ball when they are put together; then they are dried. This I saw, that they were dried by an open fireplace. It was then put on a rawhide when it was dry and it is also pounded with the oblong stone. When the pink yellow and buffalo yellow ochre are put together it is a real yellow ochre at this point. That is the yellow ochre that is used for yellow facial painting.

There are dyes that are also ground and they are mixed with the ochre and it is a real yellow ochre. The dye gives it a sweet odor. It's like the ochre that is mixed with some seeds. It did not smell like dirt. The growths gave an odor. They are used to paint ourselves red. The yellow ochre gets flaky if water is used, but if grease is used it will turn out good. The yellow ochre is used for facial painting. The white earth and the ochre, the red ochre, is natural. It's pink in the mountains. They are separate. People use them to paint their foreheads red. The dyes are diluted with water and they are mixed with the white earth and water is added too. And after it is prepared it is ground and they'll turn into red paint. The dyes are different. They are plants. We will say the dyes are grass; the real paint cannot be used as a dye. The dye is used for dyeing porcupine quills. The buffalo yellow ochre is different; it is used for tipi designing. It's the thing that a story was told about. Shoulder blades are carved. The ochre is soaked in a shell. A tipi liner is not just designed, there and war exploits, if a woman went through a transferal to design her tipi liners. Men will design their door curtain with their ochre. Hide drums are also painted with the same ochre.

The carved shoulder blade bones are used for designing. Rib bones are sharpened and this is used to draw a dividing line on the tipi liners. The facial paints are not used for designing; the designing paints are different. They are prepared too. They are made with black ochre, black stain*. The black stain is used for designing. There is the tipi that has a real paint design, it is called the Real Paint Tipi Design. There is the big rock design; those are different. They are designed the facial paints of the sun. (Sun Dogs)

The material that are used for painting artifacts red are different. It is the plants. They are not ochre. Those are used for painting things red. Pieces of shoulder blades are used as paint applicators. Now it's a show off. They are used to paint bed rail guards. The people further back are the people that dance the Scraping Dance. They are the people that owned the painting of artifacts red.

This painting business caused seduction. A man will mark a stake with red paint and he will tell the other man, "Take this to my opponent in war exploits. Tell him that I painted this red for one of his wives." The man will tell the other, the first mark is this and that. The same with the rest of the
coups. The reddened stake will be taken to the man that is still home. The man will enter the tipi and the reddened stake will be stuck in the ground inside the tipi. Then he'll tell the man, "This stake is marked red for that wife of yours. This red mark is this and that and this other one too," et cetera. Then the man will start counting coups too on the stake, and if he failed to count more coups than his opponent, he will tell his wife, "Pack up your belongings, you are going to marry that man. He has me beat." The woman had no say. So she goes and marries the man. This means that the man has a higher rank, that is the reason why she married him. But on the other hand if the challenger loses in his counting coups on his pointed stake that he painted for the man's wife, that is, if the husband of the woman counts more war coups than him, dirt will be put on the loser's back and excrement will be put in his mouth. That is what this reddening is.

The black ochre is just a plain black ochre. It is mixed with grease, then they are dried; that is why they melt when we spit water on them. That is why they melt when they are greased. The red ochre goes with the black ochre. The black ochre, the red ochre, the yellow ochre, the seven paints, and the real paint. I'll say real paint is a word, seven paint is a word, black ochre is a word. Whatever is painted with black ochre the meaning of it is known, why the black ochre is used for writing. This is not the kind of writing the way white man write to each other. A wise guy will know the meaning of the writings; a person that does not think will not know what they are. He'll just know this is a red writing and this one is used with black ochre. Then this is how it is. A person that wears a black cloth we'll know that he is mourning; that is how we recognize each other with the paints. A person that killed an enemy will use black ochre. A victory song is sung with the black ochre. The red ochre means blood. In a sham performance a person will brighten his wound with the red ochre. A person that has a lonely life didn't use the ochre. People are recognized by the ochre. If a person's relative dies even if his father dies and his mother, this man will be recognized by using something black that a relative of his died. We will wait for four days for this person from the day his relative died, and then we will go to him with the facial paint and his face will be painted. Sage grass will be taken and they will be rolled into like a ball and they will be ochred. These are used to cleanse ourselves twice on one side and twice the other side. Then we are cleansed from loneliness. So these are the meanings of the paints. A proud person.

Now the white way is different. Indian life is different. The early Indians don't eat much. An Indian doesn't like to be potbellied. An Indian will mix white earth a little with black charcoal and he will apply it on his mouth. It is called the white mouth style. If a person doesn't eat, his lips will dry up into a grayish color. A man will mix the white earth a
little with black charcoal and he will apply it on his mouth. As he applies it on his mouth a women will fall in love with him. She will say, "Oh! he has a whitish mouth. He looks like as if he doesn't eat. He looks like as if he is all trimmed up. He has a beautiful figure." She'll have a crush on him.

The black stains are the same as the ochre, they are ground too. They are heated too and the grayish color is taken; the main black stain water is spit on it. When a mouthful of water is spit on and then it is ground and it turned into black stain; it colored black but not too black. Lately the charcoal from the fireplace was used. The black stain is used. The black stain is used to design a tipi. The tipi is called the half black designed tipi. A black top tipi is painted with the black stain (black ochre).

Recently the black charcoal is mainly used. People are quit making their ochre. Now on the Blood Reserve the ochres are disappearing. The real paints and the seven paints - there is not even a red soil, there is no white earth. Now the white men's ochre is the only ochre that there is. All various colours of purple are from the white men. All various colors of red are here now. In the past we don't use these. The old ochres are naturally there. The old paints are all used for make-ups and they are used in holy ceremonies. That is why they are there.

Now the white men's white earth is used. Those are the baby powders. They get dark greasy looking if you wet them. The white women use them to powder their faces; our paints are different.

Now if a person doesn't have a yellow ochre and if he is going to ochre something where is he going to get the ochre? The droppings of a little colt or a calf will also be used. That is another yellow ochre. The droppings are dried too. When they dry they are not dried on fire. They will be put away from the fire. If they are in the heat they get stinky. They are kept in a quiet place. If a person is in a hurry he will ochre his bow and arrows with this yellow ochre from the colt droppings. The droppings are colored by the milk that the colt sucked from its mother. The belongings of a person that are changed will take the manure of the colt. He will have it prepared and when it dried he will grind it; he will pound it into like a flour. This is used for ochring and if they have nothing else to use they'll use the manure ochre. To paint their things such as food containers, tipi liners and door curtains, they'll work all these with the ochre. When all these disappeared nobody ever cooked real paint and nobody ever went to pick ochre.

At the edge of the mountains on the west side of High Woods (High River) there is a mountain that is called Ochre. That is where the Peigans get their ochre. Along the rivers at the Ridge In The Water (Crowfoot Crossing), there is an ochre that
is called pine cone ochre. They say that it is a great big protruding hill. The Blackfoots dug a big hollow into it. That is where they get their ochre. It is called the Ochre. On the east side of Milk River there is another ochre on a soily hill. The ochres are slightly different in color. They are picked and soaked, prepared and ground, that is how. The colors are bright. There are not many different colors in the dyes; they are called dyes. They have not got many color and there are not many paints, but there are a lot of white man ochre. The ochre is used to ochre the fringes on leggings. They are used to ochre the fringes on the shoulder of a shirt. The ochre is also used to ochre the forked end of a tassel on a hood.

They cure with ochre, yellow ochre, black ochre, red ochre, real paint and seven paint; they are medicines. That is what they use. They use them in all their holy ceremonies. There is nothing that they can do if there is no ochre*. They cannot

* A ceremonialist will have to have ochre before he can officiate at a holy ceremony and a shaman will have to have ochre before he can doctor a sick person. No ceremony will proceed unless there is ochre.

prepare an ochre with fake. A person is going to fix what he has. Maybe he is going to ochre it red or maybe he is going to ochre it black or maybe he is just going to use white earth. That is why the ochre has to be there in all their make-ups. They brighten their sham performances with the ochre. A man made many successions*; he was encountered by the enemy and he spied on the enemy. Now a bundle is transferred to him. He has a white horse; his horse was painted with real paint. Them that is going to paint his horse will pray in this way. The painting is transferred to him. That is why Medicine Pipe paintings exist, Water Bundle painting and Horn Society paintings. Every sacred thing has a facial painting, every sacred thing.

The black ochre, the seven paint, the others will go the other way. They coursed with the ochre; all filthness in life is instructed with these. Now the ochre finally turned into medicine. This is already told in the story. A person will blacken his eyes. If he gets nightmares his eyes will be painted black and he will have no more nightmares. Then with us Indians there are not many different kinds of ochre. There are many various kinds of ochre that the white men have. The ochre has to be prepared; so is the black stone pipes and the red stone pipes. People that have these things will not stay together long.

The ochre is our make-up. The real paint, the red paint, the seven paint, and the yellow paint - I'll just mention these. The All Brave Dog Society are painted with them. The Crow Carriers and the Black Seizers, they are all stripped naked and they are painted with the ochre.

The Blood Indians did not get their name from the ochre. A Blood is a Blood; an ochre is an ochre. We think of the ochre. A person will be recognized by his facial painting that a lot
of sacred bundles have been transferred to him. A person cannot live without the ochre being transferred to him. He will live by the ochre. If nothing is transferred to a person, he will never be painted. He will have to go through transferals before he can be painted. That is what life is. That is why the purple paint is made, yellow ochre and red soil and black ochre.

These various kinds of paints - the pink, yellow, various kinds of paint - are put on earth and that is what people take and use it for make-up and straighten his life with it. He prays with

*Made many successions* means a warrior was successful in many battles and made many successful raids.

the ochre. He sings the victory song with it and he is victorious with the ochre. He gambles with it. Now a person that is never painted has a bad life; a person that is always ochred in his life is a good living person. This is an Indian advice. Now a person, a lonely person, never paints his face. In the morning, he is called a helpless man; he is also called untidy man. These are advices. Now I conclude my story about the ochre.

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