

Why the Bear Clan Know Medicine



featuring:
Iroquois teacher and storyteller
John Kahionhes Fadden

a videotape by:
Aysha Quinn & John Sturgeon
in conjunction with the .
Six Nations Indian Museum
Color, Stereo, 11 mins., © 1990

A traditional, Iroquois "children's" story told by Iroquois teacher and storyteller, John *Kahionhes* Fadden, of the Six Nations Indian Museum in Onchiota, New York. The colorful *Bear Clan*, pictographic, beaded record belt provides the visual cues to the storyteller, as it has been handed down for generations in the oral tradition.

It is a story of how the Iroquois learned of medicinal information, through the kindness of the Bear Clan woman who unselfishly offers shelter and treatment to an old man, who is *Sokwaiatiso*, the Creator, in disguise. In the process of treating his myriad of illnesses, he teaches the kind woman of the Bear Clan all the *secrets of the forest - the medicine plants, the bark, the roots, the herbs that cure*. The story also teaches respect for aged people and the importance of hospitality.

Beaded Record Belt by: Ray *Tehatorens* Fadden,
Iroquois teacher, storyteller and founder of the
Six Nations Indian Museum, Onchiota, New York

This story was told to Ray Fadden by George
Nash (born the later half of the 19th Century)
an Oshweken Tuscarora.

