

## **Chief Talkalai**

Chief Talkalai was born in 1817 in Arizona and raised on the San Carlos Indian Reservation. He was the chief of the Apache Peaks band of the Apache Tribe about 20 miles north of Globe, Arizona.

He also served as Chief of Scouts for three different United States Army Generals, Crook, Miles, and Howard. In April of 1887, he was the leader of the scouts who marched 400 miles into Mexico and captured Geronimo. He served twenty-one years as Chief of Police on the reservation. He once saved the life of his good friend John Clum, first Indian Agent at San Carlos Indian reservation, by shooting his own brother. This act so inflamed some of his fellow tribesmen that he was forced to flee the reservation and move into the town of Miami, Arizona. He was also a friend of the Earps in Tombstone and had been a guest of President Cleveland in the White House.

There are conflicting reports on his participation in the dedication of the Coolidge Dam. One report states that at the age of 113 he was the guest of honor and stood beside President Coolidge at the dedication of the dam and that he watched as the waters from the dam flooded his home land. The excitement was too much for him and he collapsed and died. More probable is the story that he died comfortably in his bed on the day of the dedication.

He died at the age of 113 and is buried in the Pinal Cemetery in Central Heights, a small area between Globe and Claypool, Arizona. His tombstone is engraved with the words, "The White Man's Friend."



