

T-425

Informant: Robert Whitebird, Quapaw  
Miami, Oklahoma

Side A

Interviewed by: Peggy Dycus

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Transcribed by: Peggy Dycus

(This is Peggy Dycus, and I'm here at Mrs. Nieberding's house again, once again in Eastern Oklahoma, and I'm going to talk right now with Bob Whitebird. Bob, I'll let you tell them your name and your tribe, and could you tell us just a little bit about yourself?)

I am Robert Whitebird, and I'm Quapaw tribe. I attended Haskell Institute and also public schools at Quapaw, Oklahoma.

#### CURRENT CONDITION OF QUAPAW TRIBE

My tribe is a small tribe compared to many of the western tribes. We are one of the eight tribes in Ottawa County. Many of our customs are gone at this time. Our tribe has no chief. (It does have a business committee that is elected every two years. They hold a pow wow which they call the Quapaw Pow Wow each year in July. The Fourth of July being, I'd say, one of the main days. By that I mean, they always observe the Fourth. However it may start on the Fourth of July some years; in other years it may end on the Fourth of July. Many of the customs, or practically all the customs, are gone. There is some naming, some Indian names given now, very few. Burial customs have changed, the past few years.

(You mentioned that the burial customs have changed.)

Burial customs have changed. What I have been taught and what others have been taught - there has been conflict at times. In one instance I was assisting in one burial. I assisted in the next burial with the same person. In the two, the customs were somewhat different,