

(Some irrelevant conversation)

Yeah, Robert Burns put me down as "Grover."

Jess: That Robert Burns had a presidential name for himself. He finally decided on this "Robert Burns." He's a full-blood Cheyenne--a son-in-law of George Bent. He came back from Fort Wayne, Indiana College. And he herded cattle around here for the government for years and then he went to the ration department where they issue rations. Cheyennes were supposed to have them every two weeks. So because of his education they put him in the Office without any classification or any required qualification. And he worked there for thirty-eight years until he retired. Robert Burns.

(Ralph, you went to school at Chilocco?)

Ralph: I went to school at Chilocco. I went with them four that mentions--my sister, Ruth, Joshua, and Willie Burns. They took me along. When I got up there, they called me "Ralph." My sister, she put me down as "Ralph Turtle." When my mother died I was a small boy. My uncle was Old Man Turtle. And that's the reason they call me by last name of Turtle.

Jess: It was "Iron Turtle." That was his full name, wasn't it?

Ralph: Yeah, Iron Turtle. And Orin--he's my first cousin. My uncle and my mother, they was brother and sister. When I'm grown up my father showed up and they change my name back to Ralph Goodman.

(Ralph Grover Turtle Goodman?)

Yeah.

(Some irrelevant conversation)

Ralph: Now this generation of little boys and girls, they're born but they don't pierce their ears any more. But them days... they earn their name.

OLD CHEYENNES' FEAR THAT THEIR TRIBAL WAYS WOULD DIE OUT

(Ralph, why do you think people have changed--this younger generation--why have they changed? What do you think of some of these things that have happened?)

Ralph: Why, you might say we're losing out. We're losing our traditional ways. There's some here and there that they still believe in them. Others we're losing out--changing. Our ways.