

VALUES AND PHILOSOPHIES OF THE CHEROKEES: TODAY AND YESTERDAY

(This is on April 15th. We are goin' to do a little visiting here about the Cherokee people and some ideas that we've had and some thoughts that we've expressed up to this point. And Crossland the first one that I'm going to ask you about is-- we were discussing about some of the old Cherokee ways and certain values and philosophies. And can you repeat a little bit now 'bout what you was tellin' awhile ago about the old Cherokee way of thinking and feeling and maybe how it's--what's happening to it today and if we've lost it or somebody is--if some of them are still trying to hold on to it?)

Of course, I don't have to study or a compiled report to fall back to when I make these statements. You might say I'm merely thinkin' out loud and gettin' my ideas from the air. It could be that way, but again, I'd like to think that I've got these reasonin's to certain values to live by that I didn't come by these values to live by and the college that I went to or to the church that I went to. I'd rather think that these values were instilled in me as a child and the home, in the traditional home, Cherokee people liked to teach their children at an early age so as to have a better chance at instillin' the values in an individual that would stay with this individual through out his whole life. Your question pertainin' to the ways of the Cherokees, the possibilities of utilizing them today in the future, is rather hard to say whether we are in a position now to say we've lost something or we've gained something. But I believe in the practical reasonin' that we have weakened somewhat in numbers also in minds. I think people are more liberal, not only the Indian people, but white people as well are beginnin' to get soft in every respect. They've lost the cold hard facts of life, the principles, the morals. It would be hard for us to find an individual that we could apply to a set of rules like rules on morals, character, personality. If we was to set down here and be stereotype--like in settin' out--making out a set of rules and trying to find an individual to fit to the rules, I would say that we'd be lookin' for the needle in the haystack.

(Do you think the Indian in earlier Oklahoma, the Cherokee particularly, that his