

(These are stories that the Cherokees, themselves, have handed down? They haven't picked them up from any other recordings have they?)

These are stories that they have actually taken from the people who made the "Trail of Tears".

(..and kept by the tribal leaders?)

Yes. And well going back to this one story about--as you know, "Trail of Tears" from readin' in our American History, you could realize there were many, many, who died on the "Trail of Tears". But for example, if a person on the "Trail of Tears" saw a relative of his going down from exhaustion, no enough food to eat, and he decided that maybe he'd turn back and take a few steps to see his relative for the last time--well, in their story--they say that the soldier would stop the Indian and at the point of a gun and a bayonet would push him onward. In their own way of writing they would repeat the soldier said, "God damn you Indian!"

Well, this story has been passed on and on from generation to generation and the Cherokee Nation--

(You were telling about this original reporting and handing down the "Trail of Tears" information to people. You wanna go ahead now and see--continue on the same theme that you had earlier, Crossland, on the effects some of these things had?)

I was speakin' on the effects of this one incident on the "Trail of Tears" to the Cherokee Nation and to all the Cherokees. And I was saying that this incident was related from father to son, from a leader to a congregation, especially in the traditional life of the Cherokees and then, makin', too, for organization. It was well known. Even a child old enough to understand his own language knew the story and the cuss words that went with their story what the white man was responsible for. But the Cherokees still yet--

KNOCK AT DOOR INTERRUPTION THEN CONT.)

They were trying, I would say their level best, to keep from being so effected by this mistreatment by the United States Government. But my people are--we're all a people and the subject to mistakes, but this treatment in this one incident was so deeply rooted in the Cherokee's mind that it was hard for him to forget. And even today when your talking to a Cherokee don't you ever forget--don't never think that