

Dedication and Dinner for Acceptance of
Baby Board and Christening - Osage

On this day, August 3, 1969. This is Leonard Maker, Osage Indian of Hominy, Oklahoma. Field worker for the American Indian Institute of the University of Oklahoma. I wish to relate at this time an event that took place recently and that it concerns these traditions and ceremonials of long, long past. In the modern day that the younger generation has almost forgotten it. A few days ago I was contacted by a lady from Pawhuska by the name of Mrs. Lorena Hamilton and she, at the time, visited with me and said that her great-granddaughter, that someone had brought her great-granddaughter a baby board or a cradle or whichever you may call, it, and that on Sunday, August 3, she was wanting to have a dinner for this occasion and that she wanted to inform me that someone had brought this board to her daughter, her granddaughter and that she would like to have me present at the dinner and so I -- She went on to explain that she wanted the -- her daughter's father's people. That the Osages go more back, they regard the maternal, I mean the paternal side of the, of anything, they don't regard the maternal side as much as they do the father's side, the masculine side and that's the old way that the Osages carry on their -- anything that they did in the olden days. The hunter considered that the side of the father and so therefore I, being the -- my father's mother, rather my grandmother and this -- her daughter's grandmother, were sisters and my father and her father were first cousin and therefore I was regarded as the, more or less, the head of this side of the family, the father's side. I am, being the oldest, what you might call the, people look up to me as the leader of the Hominy older group and so by that she had wanted me to be present at this affair and I consented and said that