

(That's a typical stomp dance, but there used to be others with different steps and different maneuvers.)

Others, they didn't always go around the fire like that.

(Uh-huh)

See, the, of course we're branching off in different subjects here now.

(Well, that's alright too, cause that's interesting.)

Uh-huh.

SOURCE OF RESEARCH FOR SCENES OF "TRAIL OF TEARS" DRAMA

(That's interesting to know, that they actually did have different dances.)

Right. They had the Eagle dance and what have-you. I just brought that up to stress the point that people today even among the Cherokees are ignorant, their background and their culture, their ancient Cherokee culture. The only way the people, today, can know about Cherokees, the only way that Indians themselves can know about our own culture, is through what the white man has written because back in the 1600's and 1700's, the Cherokees didn't have a written language. The Indian had no ways of recording their History, had no ways of recording stories that they told. They did have hieroglyphics, you know, on different things. Maybe they had a wampum that told a story. But in so far as keeping accurate account of things that have happened, they didn't. They didn't write about how they lived, nobody knows except the white man. When De Sota came through, he described these inhabitants that lived in the general area, we're concerned with, the Smoky Mountains.

(Uh-huh)

The domain of the ancient Cherokee people. He wrote about these inhabitants, they lived such and such, they made houses such and such a way. He described the way a village was built, how it was situated, and it's environment one spot. As he went through the country, he'd explain the way he saw each village.