

(not on tape, He explained that they kill feathers and bring them back to life. The medicine man takes the feather and works with it. Returns it to the owner who then feeds it "veins". Some men protect and keep the bird alive. The feather is more to the Indian than an ornament.)

ART WORK

(When did you start your art work, your painting and all?)

Well, to consider an Indian artist to first try to get a name was in '67. That was during the centennial celebration down at Wewoka. That's where I made a turning point from just being a free lance commercial artist to an Indian artist. Many times came that I wanted to quit when I started because I wasn't actually what you call started, so I had a chance to quit there, but friends, people that you like so well comes up and speaks to you a little encouragement here and there. And they build confidence in you. Actually you build it in yourself by listening. But you find that there's a starting point of everything. And I figure, well, if they have that much confidence in me, why should I let them down. They meant well, a season for everything and the art, as an Indian artist, this is the season to start. And that was the time that I did. But, over the past, as a free lance commercial artist, as a free lance commercial artist, I started in '63. And worked commercially for different people. Shops, big firms, and so forth in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Quite a few places in the state of Oklahoma, never really outside. Did quite a bit of sign work, highway outdoor signs in Missouri and Kansas and Dallas. But, it wasn't what you called commercial. It was just something to do, I mean, couple dollars to pick up on the way home. And times when I couldn't even make it home. But in time you learn, that I found, well, like you stay in one place and make myself noted then maybe have a nickel to spend tomorrow. Especially when you've got kids now. If you've got kids, there's a lot more to consider than just