

T-546-3 (Third of three Interviews)
ROBERT WHITEBIRD, QUAPAW
INTERVIEWED BY: J. W. TYNER
INTERVIEW DATE: DECEMBER 23, 1969
TRANSCRIBED BY: GRACE ABRAMS

GENERAL SUBJECT: INDIAN TRIBES OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

INTRODUCTION
MANY SMALL TRIBES--LOCATIONS
REMNANTS OF MIAMI TRIBE
DIFFERENCE WITH QUAPAW AND OSAGE
CONCERNING ALLOTMENTS OF QUAPAWS
BEN QUAPAW PLACE
CONCERNING MEETING PLACES AND CEMETERIES
MATHIAS SPLITLOG WAS LEADER OF SENECA
PRESERVING TRIBAL CUSTOMS AND LANGUAGE
UNDERSTANDING OTHER LANGUAGES--MIXED
WHAT ABOUT WYANDATT LANGUAGE?
WHAT ABOUT DELAWARE LANGUAGE?
TEACHING YOUNG PEOPLE
QUAPAW CUSTOMS--PEYOTE--BURIAL CUSTOMS
VERY FEW TRADING POSTS IN EARLY DAYS
BAXTER SPRINGS AND SENECA ARE VERY OLD TOWNS
GRINDING CORN IN EARLY DAYS
TOBACCO--WHEN USE BEGAN AMONG INDIANS
USE OF CEDAR IN CEREMONIES
OLD AND YOUNG INDIANS DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Robert Whitebird, Sr. was born January 17, 1913, near Quapaw, Oklahoma. He is a former chairman of the Quapaw Tribe and has been active for a number of years in gathering information concerning the history of the tribe. He has been a participant in recent Quapaw burials and has some knowledge of the ceremony. Mr. Whitebird was instrumental in the organization and operation of the Inter-tribal Council in northeastern Oklahoma, and is now president of this organization which is Inter-tribal Council, Inc. He attended school at Haskell Institute and public schools in Quapaw. Mr. Whitebird now lives in Quapaw where he has lived since about 1917.

Note: Other interviews on this tape are: William Human, Cherokee
Martha Keys, Cherokee