

is not within the range of the present Project.

Participation by Indians

Indian participation has occurred at all levels of the Project. The Project Director is himself Indian; many of the field workers and most of the clerical staff have been Indian. Many Indian individuals have become interested in the Project and have volunteered testimony or suggested sources of good material. Some individuals and groups have been interested enough on learning of this Project to begin the collection of oral history materials for themselves. There has never been any attempt by personnel on this Project to insist that the University of Oklahoma should be the only agency in the state collecting Indian oral history. Just as small museums sometimes view with suspicion the collecting activities of the larger museums, or small colleges resent the recruiting power of the state university, so some Indians and Indian groups feel that the best repository for their tribal traditions is in the custody of their own tribesmen rather than in the hands of strangers. The Duke Indian Oral History Project has consistently respected this point of view, and has never pressed Indian people to part with traditions or information they were not willing to share with outsiders. But Project personnel have had no difficulty building the large and valuable collection described here. On several occasions Indian individuals and groups have asked for advice on interviewing and recording techniques so they could make recordings for their own use. Help and encouragement has always been given. It has been felt that any part this Project might have in stimulating Indian people to do research on their own is a part of the most important overall objective--to provide a more relevant