

T-561
Naming Ceremony, Osage

This is September 14, 1969. This is Leonard Maker, Field Worker for the American Indian Institute of the University of Oklahoma. I am this day in the country outside of Hominy, at the residence of my mother, Mrs. Marie Maker who--where at this time we shall observe an old observance--do an old traditional--traditionally ceremony, in which we're as Osages do. This day, my wife and I have chosen to honor our boy. In the Osage way, it is--he has gone out and earned himself a name. And so this day we shall in keeping with that custom we have been in contact with the people of my clan. And they have informed me Mrs. Magella Green, is the proper person to give this adult name to our son Leonard Morrell Maker, who now 22 years old. A senior at the University of Oklahoma. And this day--well, it is very early in the morning, around 6:00 o'clock. And this ceremony in which the Osages have honored down through the years, their young men, their first son are given name after they have gone out--they have more or less have assume leadership of such family and such clan. And this authority I was told by another old gentleman, Mr. Otis Russell, one of our oldest living members of our tribe. He has informed me that Mrs. Green is the proper person to--or the one that is authorize to do things in this manner, in this custom. So at this time, we are now awaiting her arrival. Would like to add that this is in accordance to the ways she was instructed by her father who authorized her to be known as "The Name Giver." And this way, the young man will be known wherever he goes, in the Osage ceremonial ways and his religion and his dancing ceremony. That is more or less in the religious part that we assume this name that the custom is the Great Spirit will henceforth know him-- From this name and will have recognized him as such. And at this time that is--what we are doing, you are supposed to carry this name on until he passes on, and the Great Spirit, when he