

(This is May 12, 1970. I am Leonard Maker, Osage, field worker for the American Indian Institute for the University of Oklahoma. I, this day, will describe the burial of our Osage Chief, Paul Warren Pitts and narrate the events preceding and following his death.)

We first became aware of his serious illness as one of our fellow tribesman, Mr. Ira Hamilton was conducting a Indian peyote ritual as it is customary, what you might call his spring meeting at the beginning of the Indian New Year. And at that time, Mrs. Josephine Walker requested that special prayers be made for her cousin, Chief Paul Pitts at that time-- which was done. Then we, at that time, felt concern over his health and we immediately called a Pawhuska hospital where he was taken--where he was stricken and there we were told he was taken to St. Francis hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We then called the Tulsa hospital and was told that he was going to have abdominal surgery for removal of a tumor. And the following week was supposed to have another surgery. And all during that time we were--we felt concern over him and the tribe was aware that there be serious illness and prayers were made at that time for him. And we ourselves, prayed for his recovery. And as the events following, Mr. Pitts seemed to recover at intervals and gave us hope that he might eventually recover. Although we thought that it might--he might be ill for some time, we thought that he would eventually recover. And all during the week, we were actually concerned with his welfare as we were told by his sister that his illness might prove fatal, but we were still hopeful of his recovery and prayed for health in the tribes surrounding the Osage Nation for him, that he might recover to continue to be among his people. But as the days grew on, his illness--you might say, complications had set in at that time