

a deer with peculiar marking. And there was this old legends that if the Witch Deer wasn't killed, the Witch Deer. That it meant a change of government would follow. Soon afterward they were removed to this western country. And shortly before the, before Oklahoma statehood. Caltey Starr killed a Witch Deer in the Tahlequah area. And a change of government again followed. My grandfather George Buckskin as he was known, or George Waters was a member of the Cherokee Council, or senate at that time, Cherokee Senate. He was a court interpreter for the Cherokees in the area, of around Salisaw, I believe it was county seat, even then. And I grew up hearing the stories of the Cherokee. More absorbing their customs than, in actually the legends as we used to go to stomp dances down in the Cookson Hills. We'd stay for a day or two, and to me not being able to communicate with those around me, it was the most boring thing that I could imagine.

(You didn't speak Cherokee?)

Very little Cherokee. I knew a few words and that was all. And it is a regret that I didn't know. I didn't know, we were to busy, people then were like they are now. They were to busy to settle down and learn the things they should.

(Is that where they had, have the clans houses, in the different clans that go together to the stomp dances, I mean when they are dancing?)

This one they have down in, near Vian.

(Ah-huh)

Ah-huh. They have to keep the sacred fire burning. As I understand they still do. And Redbird Smith was the, I guess he was the Chief then. And we would stay. And his descendant I think are still Chiefs.

TALKS ABOUT "THE UMBILICAL CORD"

(What about your new book, your newest book, I mean?)

This new book it may disappoint some people who were looking for all Indian. Or if they especially like the actual simplicity of the Witch Deer. I shouldn't be saying this, but I'm saying this to you. Because it is more, I don't know it has spiritual connection, we might say. And--