

them. So they thought, well, we still own it yet because they never did finish paying, so we'll just take it back. So we started up. Kind of like repossessing an automobile!

(Do the Comanches have a Gourd Dance organization?)

Yeah, they do. They're reorganized. It's just about a year old or something like that, I guess.

(Is your group primarily for social purposes or is there some kind of services you give?)

Yeah, social, and we have service. Boys that come in from the war zone or something like that. We help them get back. Or if something happens in their family and they have to come back we try to help them. We try to help the school children, when they need to go back to school or like this Franklin family--Nelson Franklin just died last week--we went down there to Anadarko and took a little food down there to help his people that was coming. That's the way--just kind of help carry over expenses and stuff like that.

(Do you limit your membership to Arapahoes?)

No. We decided we'd just let anybody that wanted to join the Starhawks join. Anybody. All tribes. We have Omahas. We have Delawares, and Cherokees, and everybody wants to join our organization because they think that's the oldest--the original. And that's why they all want to join the Starhawks. That's the original.

(What about the officers?)

We try to keep that in this Arapaho--Geary area here.

(How are the officers selected?)

At the time they had a meeting they selected the officers. We weren't there. My youngest boy here had just come back from across. He was head dancer at Kingfisher. We went up there. And that's when they selected officers. I told them I didn't want to be an officer. I just want to be a member of it. But I was the one that was trying to push it to get it started. Yeah, they collecting to have a pow-wow this summer. They're going to have some more benefit dances, I guess. Really the chiefs ain't got nothing to do with that. They let the officers do what they want to do and how they want to carry it on,