

(There is much singing and many speeches made in Cherokee)

APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH CHEROKEES

--I'm here as your employee.. I'm paid with your money. All my life I wanted to help the Cherokee Indians. I've worked in the west. I've worked with all kinds of Indians, I've worked for Indians. And I've always hoped for the day that I could come home to work for my people. About two months ago I got a call in my office at the University of Utah. It was from Mr. Keeler, and he asked me if I would come home and take this job. And this job would be acting as his representative, I would be in complete charge of the money that was being spent by the tribe. And one of my jobs would be to somehow, find a way to organize all of the Indian communities in this part of the State, all Cherokee communities. And somehow find a way to hold elections so that you, someday, will be able to choose your own representative. It was because of this, that I decided to quit my job at the University of Utah and come back home, because this is something I've always wanted all of my life. So I did take the job and about one month ago I got back home and I set up an office in Tahlequah. I started the process of transferring the money from the Bureau of Indian Affairs into the name of the Cherokee tribe and it has been placed in the bank in Tahlequah. Not all of it, but some of it. My responsibility includes everything that the Cherokees spend money on. This means the building that we are building over by Tahlequah, down below Sequoyah School. This means the land conservation program that's going on. This means the tribal housing program that they're trying to get started. Everything that the Cherokees spend money on, is my business. All my life, I have heard people say that somebody someplace else spends our money. So I was very glad when the Chief called me and asked me if I would take this job. Because I knew if I had anything to do about it, the people, the Cherokee people, all over northeastern Oklahoma would know where the money was going. So I took the job. Crosslin Smith here works with me