

was for their General Council, as we called it. The Indians would get together, say, like here in the Geary District. We'd meet down here out west here. Purpose was announced. They'd say, "We got to elect three or four to represent the Geary District Arapahoes for the General Center Council." So then somebody would say, "Well, I move we proceed to elect the new members." So, somebody would make nominations. After two or three nominations we'd proceed to vote on them. And those that got the majority of votes, they were elected. In case of a tie we just elect both of them.

(Were there always people for them to run against? I mean, was there always a contest going on between people running for office against someone else?)

Not until we organized and reduced the Council to twenty-eight. We reduced the General Council to twenty-eight members. Then that's when this competition started.

(When was that?)

Started out in '37. Twenty-eight members. That came about for competition. Then about three years after that we reduced it down to fourteen--seven on each tribe.

(Why did you reduce it down to fourteen?)

We thought it wasn't necessary to have that many on the Council--twenty-eight. We thought seven on each tribe could handle it. So we cut it down to fourteen instead of twenty-eight. And that way they could belong to other committees. Just instead--so there was representation from all the ten districts.

(Are there ten districts today?)

Ten districts today. There's one here, one in Canton, one in Kingfisher, one at Canton--Cheyennes, one at Thomas, one at Hammond, one at Elk City, one at El Reno-Calumet, one at Colony and one at Watonga. Ten districts.

(How did they distribute fourteen members among ten districts?)

Well, three districts--three are elected. See, there's only three Arapaho districts. Three Arapahoes are elected from the Canton Arapaho District. And three are elected from the Geary Arapaho District. And one is elected from the Conly Arapaho