

And I know he always said--when I talked with him sometimes--he said, "You got a typical Oklahoma style of speech." Henever knew the difference. And the same thing happened back in 1954 back here at Billings, Montana. We went up there. We made arrangements for the northern Cheyennes from Montana to come to Billings, Montana, and the northern Arapahoes to come from Wyoming--and there was about four or five of us went from here. Cheyennes and Arapahoes, in connection with our claim. Of course they had speakers there from different tribes--those from different divisions spoke, you know. And there was three or four lawyers there--that northern Cheyenne attorney and northern Arapaho attorney or two and we had two attorneys with us. And when I got up and spoke about the old treaties, one man got up and says, "Jess," he says, "The reference that you made, I've studied all them treaties and I hadn't come across mention of that seventy-five-year reduction to fifteen years by the President of the United States." I said, "Did you look at the particular part of that treaty where it is in fine print?" "Not that I can remember." Then this other attorney says, "What Jess is talking about is that the United States reduced the seventy-five year agreement of the treaty makers to ten years. Then the President of the United States put five more years on it to make it fifteen years." So this man was surprised. So he got up and he says, "I know now," he says, "Well, we'd like to trade some of our northern Arapahoes for you to come up here and be with us. Because you know the treaties." He says, "Maybe we'll get to know some of that Oklahoma style English you speak," he says. Just like that. I never knew the difference.

(Where you were up at Haskell, did you ever communicate with any of the other Indian boys from other tribes with sign language?)

Oh yeah, it's universal. All the Plains Indians--oh, I take it back--those in the state of Washington and Nevada and Oregon and California and New Mexico and Arizona--they don't understand the sign language. And I was up in Canada one time up in Alberta. And those Indians up there don't know nothing about the sign language. But all of us Plains Indians, we understand that. That's universal. Well, the Omahas, and Winnebagoes--they use some--and Crows--and other tribes.