

OBSERVATION OF EARLY DAY QUAPAW PEOPLE

(May 30, 1968. Today I am visiting with Wes Beech, a 95-year old Cherokee of Vinita, Oklahoma. He has spent all of his life in northeastern Oklahoma and tells of many of his observations and experiences.)

Two years and then I come down here.

(What was that Quapaw Reservation like when you came down in 1890?)

Well, there wasn't nothin' there, only just the people. Didn't have anything.

(Were they farmers?)

It was all Indians.

(Did they farm any?)

No, they had the government had a big farm there that they rented out.

And every year them Indians would go to that farm and get their part of what, one third of it. And, that was all they lived on. They was the best people that ever lived.

(That was up around Wyandotte?)

No, it was Quapaw.

(Quapaw and Peoria?)

Wasn't no Miami there at that time at all. And, but they was just like a bunch of cattle out in the pasture. You couldn't tell whose wife a woman was. Just all-

(Together?)

Together. And, of course, at night (interruption)

(Frank Buck.)

His wife was there at night. But during the daytime they was just scattered around.

(Did they hunt and fish too?)

They never fished much. They just had their stomp dances and football