

T-311-2

INFORMANT: JOHN SILK, CHEROKEE
SALISAW, OKLAHOMA

INTERPRETER: CROSSLIN SMITH

DATE: AUGUST, 1967

TRANSCRIBED BY: LINDA BUTLER

SIDE B

(--1967, I am at John Silk's residence some sixteen miles east of Salisaw, Oklahoma, on Highway 101. Mr. Silk is about to record a story, a true story of the Cherokees. This event took place just a short time after the Cherokees arrived in the Oklahoma Territory.)

Mr. John Silk tells the story in Cherokee language, and Mr. Crosslin Smith translates in English.

(Mr. John Silk told this story from memory. He knows this story by heart.)

His father told him the story. And his father's father passed it down to him.

It's a story that took place shortly after the Cherokees arrived in the new territory. And the location of this event is somewhere between Bell Community and Arkansas state line, on one of the peaks, high points. This event came about due to the sickness that was existing in the Cherokee, in this particular village of the Cherokees after the forced march from North Carolina. The leaders of this particular village decided that they should try to pray so that they might be able to receive guidance from God. They chose, as I said, one of the highest peaks to perform their rituals. They stretched out a deer skin. Upon the deer skin, they placed their most sacred tobacco, and they did the ritual over the tobacco and the deer skin, and began to smoke their peace pipes and send the white smoke to the heavens. Mainly as message to God, that they were in dire need of his guidance at this time. In their turmoil, and their problems, the only one they could remember for assistance, was God.

After some time of performing their rituals, I would say half of the evening, of two hours or so, they began to hear winds, far away winds, as if low