

CHEROKEES ARE TRYING TO KEEP THEIR LANGUAGE

(When did you come to Pawhuska? What year?)

In 19 --

(1912, wasn't it?)

1912 yeah. The first day of March we left down there in 1912.

(The Osages were living a little different from the Cherokees' weren't they?)

Yes. Yes, they was. See if I understand it. They won't tell you. The Cherokee's the only one's got an Indian alphabet. They're the only ones. And they only the one yet that's holding on to their language.

(They're all --)

There ain't going to be no other Indian language. The Osages in five years you couldn't find one that can speak a word of Osage. I can talk more, me and your mama can talk more than any one they got there right now except just a few of the older ones. There ain't, Ves Tinker said there ain't --

(The Cherokees are keeping theirs. I go to meetings back in the hills, have to take an interpreter.)

Got to take an interpreter ain't you?

(Uh-huh. They had to explain it in Cherokee what I have to say to them.)

One time you promised me, did you ever get a hold of the Indian alphabet, Cherokee alphabet?

(Oh, yeah Alice's got them.)

You got one.

(Yeah. I've got it on a recording.)

Yeah. Somebody promised me one and I didn't get it. I don't know why.

(I'll send you a copy of one if you want one.)

I believe I'd like to have. Lot of them, I wouldn't know anything about that.

I got my Cherokee and Osage mixed up together just like your mama would.