

T-546-3 (Third of three Interviews)  
ROBERT WHITEBIRD, QUAPAW  
INTERVIEWED BY: J. W. TYNER  
INTERVIEW DATE: DECEMBER 23, 1969  
TRANSCRIBED BY: GRACE ABRAMS

GENERAL SUBJECT: INDIAN TRIBES OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

INTRODUCTION  
MANY SMALL TRIBES--LOCATIONS  
~~REMNANTS~~ REMNANTS OF MIAMI TRIBE  
DIFFERENCE WITH QUAPAW AND OSAGE  
CONCERNING ALLOTMENTS OF QUAPAWS  
BEN QUAPAW PLACE  
CONCERNING MEETING PLACES AND CEMETERIES  
MATHIAS SPLITLOG WAS LEADER OF SENECA  
PRESERVING TRIBAL CUSTOMS AND LANGUAGE  
UNDERSTANDING OTHER LANGUAGES--MIXED  
WHAT ABOUT WYANDATT LANGUAGE?  
WHAT ABOUT DELAWARE LANGUAGE?  
TEACHING YOUNG PEOPLE  
QUAPAW CUSTOMS--PEYOTE--BURIAL CUSTOMS  
VERY FEW TRADING POSTS IN EARLY DAYS  
BAXTER SPRINGS AND SENECA ARE VERY OLD TOWNS  
GRINDING CORN IN EARLY DAYS  
TOBACCO--WHEN USE BEGAN AMONG INDIANS  
USE OF CEDAR IN CEREMONIES  
OLD AND YOUNG INDIANS DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Robert Whitebird, Sr. was born January 17, 1913, near Quapaw, Oklahoma. He is a former chairman of the Quapaw Tribe and has been active for a number of years in gathering information concerning the history of the tribe. He has been a participant in recent Quapaw burials and has some knowledge of the ceremony. Mr. Whitebird was instrumental in the organization and operation of the Inter-tribal Council in northeastern Oklahoma, and is now president of this organization which is Inter-tribal Council, Inc. He attended school at Haskell Institute and public schools in Quapaw. Mr. Whitebird now lives in Quapaw where he has lived since about 1917.

Note: Other interviews on this tape are: William Human, Cherokee  
Martha Keys, Cherokee