

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 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