

already known.

Of course, exact dates mentioned in any oral testimony are always open to question because of the limitations of human memory. Most pioneers or homesteaders of American frontier culture could not, for example, without some rehearsal, be precise about the dates of happenings of many years ago, even though they might retain vivid memories of these past events. However Indian people raised in a traditional atmosphere and without concern for measuring the passage of time may find it impossible to recall dates or give reasonable estimates of time to the satisfaction of a researcher. By careful questioning field workers are sometimes able to assist informants in relating a particular event to a well known event such as World War II or the death of President Kennedy. There is a burden on the researcher, however, to read all of a testimony and look for these questions and supplementary bits of data, as well as to seek corroborative evidence from other sources if necessary.

There are, of course, some individuals whose particular life experiences have made it possible to become extremely knowledgeable in both Indian and Anglo-American ways of life, and who can, with relative ease, provide information in terms of categories familiar to historians, including rather precise dates. Several persons of this type have contributed valuable testimony to the Oklahoma Duke Collection. Most of the Indian people who have provided oral testimony for the Project are, however, relatively unsophisticated as far as contact with the academic world is concerned, and many have only a minimal formal education. The testimony of these people is amazingly concrete with respect to what they themselves have witnessed and experienced, and may be accepted as "factual" within the common application of this term. The consensus of Project