

(This is December 12, 1969. We are at the Sharlow school house near Kellyville, Oklahoma, attending a Seneca-Cayuga language class. The class is being taught for the second year by Mrs. Ruby Diebold. She is assisted by her brothers, Bob and Dutch White. All three have important offices in the ceremony of the Seneca-Cayuga tribe. This is Mr. Bob White.)

Robert White: (Mr. White speaks in Seneca for about three minutes. Mrs. Diebold assists in background.)

(The last voice you heard was that of Dutch White. Mrs. Diebold, were you going to interpret what they said?)

Mrs. Diebold: Yes. My brother Bob, mentioned the fact that he was nine years old when he took the oath as a Pot Hanger, and up until four years ago he was a Pot Hanger, when they transferred him from that position to the speaker of our tribe now. Then my brother Dutch here, is also a Pot Hanger and now he is our drummer for our ceremonies. And as he spoke for our uncle who had a very important part in his lifetime with our ceremonies, that he was the principal speaker of our tribe.

(Who was your uncle?)

Mrs. Diebold: That was Louis Watson Whitewing.

(Mrs. Diebold, what is your definition of Pot Hanger?)

Mrs. Diebold: The English word for Pot Hanger is--is this English form for the Pot Hangers, but really they are called the Workers of God.

(We are going to continue with the language class. Will you tell me your name and why you are interested in the class.)

Sue Nuchols: My name is Sue Nuchols and I'm interested in the class because I can understand more now what our ceremonials mean and what they say, than I could before.

(How many words of the Cayuga language have you learned?)