

(Little Buffalo Girl. Mary, who names the Quapaw babies now?)

Tallchief used to name the babies. And his daughter, Maude Supernaw is his daughter and she names the babies now. But Maude is quite old now and hardly ever goes around to visit us. And if we want to visit her, we have to go down to Skiatook to see her. And she's fast--her eyes are failing her and they have to lead her here and there. And I don't know now who that would pass on to, unless it would--she picks one of her sons to name the babies.

(I understand that these naming ceremonies for the Quapaw are mostly private. Now you know the Senecas are public. They are done in the Long House. I have never seen a Quapaw naming--have you?)

No, I never have. I never have attended any of those ceremonies. And the way I remember, why they--ahead of time they have to tell Maude that they are wanting a name for their son or daughter and they'll tell her how old it is and they will be over a certain day and when could she see them. And she will probably name a day, you know, that's it's better for them to come then that she'll be you know, ready for them. So they go the day that she wants them--they go early in the morning when you know, the sun is just, you know, just rising. And then she goes and prays and when she comes back in, why she--she names--she talks to them and tells them what she is going to do. And then--then they are ready to tell her when he or she was born, and how old it is now. And she knows--it is just marvelous at her age and all, that she knows a way back of this child, whoever is going to be names. Their father or their mother's mother or father and a way back, as far back as she can remember, it's just marvelous. And they name over three names, woman's name and then three of the man's name. And they will be their relatives, you know of those. And so they--they remember that. And she used to sing a little song along with that, but I don't think she does that anymore. She just names the names and they pick out which one that they want. They have to talk about it, and then she'll repeat that again and then they will say that they took this one.