

(This is Boyce Timmons and I'm at Bacone College with Mr. Dick West who is a Cheyenne Indian Artist, and director of the art department here at the college in Bacone. This is May 7th, 1967 and we're going to do a little visiting about Indian Art, and his background as an artist and some of the things that's happened to him that he feels that would be of some benefit to the future, and artists that might consider going into this field. And some of the personal things about his life, his work that he's done in the art field, and some of the characteristics that Indians have that make their art a little bit different in a sense I think that is real valuable to our present American culture. Now, Dick, I just want you to tell me just where you were born to start out with, where you went to school, and some of your early life, about yourself.)

BRIEF BACKGROUND:

Well, Boyce, I was born at Darlington, Oklahoma, and it was the first agency for the Cheyenne-Arapaho, located just across the river of the North Canadian, east and northeast of the Fort Reno, Fort Reno. I had my early education at the reservation school at Concho, which was then, at the time of Darlington, of course a Cheyenne school. And the Arapaho's were at Darlington, but they were soon consolidated there at Concho. On your art phases, I'm one who believes that individuals are more or less endowed with a special talent toward creative abilities, --

(This could be other than art in a sense, couldn't it?)

Yes, it could be music or any realm of your fine arts. Writing, etc. But as a teacher I've found I've become the conscious of the varied degrees that each individual has, course that's in matters of talent. So I presume you would say that I had a certain amount of native talent as a youngster, and I say this only because of the role I performed at Concho. I think I was in the first grade, and I was the boy they sent around at various seasons we have during the year to depict Halloween, Christmas, Easter. Those years we had the old slate blackboards, and they'd give me a big box of colored chalk, and I'd make the rounds, and they'd reserve one space for me, to depict various seasons, so at a early age, I'm not sure of exactly what age I was, I was one of those who was intered into the school at pre-