

claims through Congress, through courts. It just have influence with Congress to modify and revamp everything and modernize the Indian structure as to the better conditions on a standard basis, same as that of any civilian in the United States. That's our present job. So because of that power that we now have, we can almost elect almost any Senators or Congressmen from any state, by our influence. And it's a growing organization. We have annual conventions every years. This last one was held at Portland, Oregon. I was entitled to go up there, but I refused to go on account of this Medicine Lodge. I was handling the Arapahoes for th s Medicine Lodge (Kansas celebration.) So I refused to go up there.

(So you met your wife through this organization?)

Yeah. I met her at Denver. They had the election one night. They was running one fellow fro Minnesota--Ed Rogers--He's old Colorado football player. Most of the northern people were supporting him. And there was one from New Mexico and Arizona. I forgot his name now. And we had one Oklahoma Indian, Bill Short. Well that night my wife had left for supper, count of that evening meeting. We were same tribe. We were acquainted all right, but that was all. And when she came back from supper, they start at six o'clock or six thirty, and they continue that meeting. So the election came on. I got up and spoke. I made reference to this Mr. Short and what he did for the Navajoes--getting the whole families down there, some of these families--giving them homes, sending their kids to school, providing them with groceries, chickens, hogs, sheep, beef, everything. I said, "That's the kind of man that's running. He's just like the rest of us. Lot of us still wear our big broad-brimmed Stetson hats. Lot of us still wear our boots." And I said, "The way he dresses now. You go and wherever he's sitting, his hat might be by his side and you're going to see him wearing boots. That's Bill--sort of western." And I said, "He was sent out one time from the 101 Ranch in Oklahoma to buy horses wherever he could buy 'em. Instead of going to these big white horse ranches he came among the Navajoes and Pueblos and Yumas and Hinas and Papagos. And he bought horses from them. Cleared all the sales through the agencies of those tribes and shipped the stock back to the 101 Ranch. What did he do that for?" I said. "He preferred to help the Indians. He's an Indian at heart. My good friend. I know he'll maintain this organization as long as he lives.