

T-202

Informant: Zeke Vann, Cherokee

Interviewed by: J. W. Tyner, Feb. 20, 1968

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BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(--visiting with Zeke Vann a 70 year old Cherokee in Salina, Oklahoma. Most of this recording deals with Mr. Vann translating from an original book of the Cherokee Constitution of all regulations and Indian activity.)

A VERY VALUABLE BOOK - INCLUDES INTERPRETATION OF OLD CHEROKEE CONSTITUTION

(And this book is written in Cherokee is about the Cherokee law and constitution.)

Yeah, that's what it is, that's what's commenced here. And he speaks about the niggers too. And them days, there was the niggers was a slave at one time you know and Cherokees wanted to clear them up you know, about the war. It speaks a lot of old things, you know. That's Tahlequah, that's where they meet the first time. They used to have in place of themselves you know, and treasure and secretary and all that, they used to run just like we do president you know, now. Four years at a time, and a law constitution they used to run two years at a time, you know, change. They vote on it, you know. And it speaks about Indian land not suppose to sell. And that's what it said. (Not suppose to sell Indian land, huh?)

No. And they meet one time, it tells what month and what day and all that. And too, the white people they agree among one another you see, that's way they agree. Help one another. That is the way it speaks. And they used to have a law too, Indian law, like we have a sheriff you know, United States Sheriff, something like that. They used to have their own law. They used to have a bank themselves, and somebody's watching money, they use to count every so much, a year at a time, I don't know how that. And it says if anyone done any wrong among Cherokees, they use to have a trial you know, like they do now. If they find enough evidence on it, well they would judge this and