

T-213

Stoke Smith, Cherokee

Interviewed and translated by: Crosslin Smith

Interview date: 5-10-67

Transcribed by: Linda Butler

(I am interviewing my father at his home, some six miles east of Vian, Oklahoma. Today's date is May 10, 1967. He is about to record two ancient Cherokee songs. The interpretation of these songs will be made by me, after my father has completed these songs.)

(Sings and speaks Cherokee language.)

INTERPRETS AND GIVES THE MEANING OF THESE RELIGIOUS RITUALS

The First Ancient song by Stoke Smith was the Cherokee Creed. This is the Ancient Cherokee Creed and the song goes along with the rituals.

This takes place at a stream when the sun is coming up. The song itself, when it is interpreted means, actually the following words: God I stand before you. I pledge my soul and all of my efforts in unison and working with all other races. You have created the red man in the east and then the white skin person in the north. And in the west you have created the yellow man, and in the south you have created the black man. The songs the words wa-ha-hen-a-do, wa-ha-hen-a-do, is a song that can never be interpreted. It's a sound from the spiritual world dedicated to God. Only he can understand those words. This part of the song is meant to be an appreciation to God. These ancient songs and rituals to these people. Only God can understand these words, for it was meant to be that way. This part of the song was created by the people themselves for the appreciation of the songs. And this Cherokee Creed, the traditional Cherokees are the only group that really understands the words and the meaning and the spirit they put forth into these songs. They pledge in every way possible to make their efforts towards the help of mankind; through spiritual world and prayers. This was, as I said the first song by Stoke Smith. The second song is by William Lee Smith, the