

"Let's not jump too deep in this thing, first. This Constitution and By-laws is a good trial for a few years, and if we know that we're advancing, then we could request a Charter--be a chartered organization." So they accepted that proposition.

(Do you have a charter?)

No, we never adopted one.

(Why did you decide not to go for a charter?)

Well, we decided that we weren't advanced educationally--civilized ways as yet, us Cheyennes and Arapahoes. See, there's three divisions of the Oklahoma tribes as far as educational advancement and progress exists. There's--you know the five tribes in the eastern part of the state--they're civilized people. All right, they're the furthest east. Next is the Osages and Potawatomis and Sac and Fox and Peorias and Ioways and Kickapoos. They're in the middle of the state. They're farther advanced than we are. Not as far advanced as the five civilized tribes.

But we in western Oklahoma are known as the "five blanket--southern plains tribes."

We love our Indian ways, and we do today. So we didn't want to jump in too far and advance our status. So for that reason we didn't. I told them I'd write the charter whenever we came to having a charter, but we never did get that far. We get along all right. We won our case (claims case). That's all we wanted. Yeah, the claims case.

PERSONS WHO HELPED IN DRAFTING CONSTITUTION:

(Do you remember any of the men that were especially important as far as contributing ideas for the Constitution?)

We had one office clerk that had worked there for thirty some-odd years.

His name was Robert Burns.

(Was he Arapaho?)

Cheyenne.

(What was his contribution?)

He was involved in the Treaty of 1890 of the Cheyenne-Arapahoes in accepting our allotments. He was one of the interpreters. And then there were two or three others, like Deforest Antelope, older men that had gone to school--Kish Hawkins,