

INDIAN MEETINGS AND REASONS FOR SAME

(Right. Uh-huh. Have you gone to any of the meetings the Choctaws have; been in on the elections?)

(question not clear)

(Uh-huh.)

I've missed about two of them, I think - since they, ah, have you ever attended one of them?

(I've been to two or three but that's all. About when do they start those?)

Mrs. Oaks: First day in September.

You mean when they first begin them?

Mrs. Oaks: Oh, last year Mr. Belvin said that was the 18th. Eighteenth always meeting they had attended. And he just made the remark, they served lunch, and the first meeting they had 32 sandwiches up at a little place nearby and that served the crowd. And last year there were several hundred there.

They estimated about 3500 there last year. I'll tell you there were a bunch of 'em.

Mrs. Oaks: They had food for everybody.

I'll say one thing about the Indians, not just because I'm one of 'em, but you have such a crowd as there was at those meetings, and all, the ladies and you don't see - why I've been there a number of times and there were lots of men and some of 'em pretty bad about drinking, you know - but I never - never have been to one of those meetings and saw anybody that looked like they had ever had a drink - oh, might have had one - everything quiet and peaceful, listening to the speaker. You take that many white folks and put 'em together, they wouldn't be so quiet.

Mr. Thompson" Especially the women. ((laughter))

Mrs. Oaks: Maybe they're too lazy to make much commotion. ((laughter))