

T-311

STOMP DANCES, CHEROKEE

NARRATOR: CROSSLIN SMITH

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TRANSCRIBED BY: LINDA BUTLER

SIDE A

First part of Side A is Stomp Dances. Second part begins with Mr. Crosslin Smith speaking:

Frank Gertie was the first leader of the Stomp Dance and the second leader was William Lee Smith and the third leader was Mr. Charley Washington. These stomp dance songs have been in existence since the beginning of the Cherokees on this continent. They have a firm belief that at one time, in the beginning, God supplied the guidance to his people, the Cherokee people. For many years, they believed that God lowered himself from the heavens to lead his people. This continued on up until the people themselves began to divide in their understanding. The unity of the people was breaking away. For this reason, God took away the direct guidance that he had been supplying to his people. He relied on a messenger from then on. The messenger, then, from God, supplied to the people the guidance that was needed. But the people themselves, continually divided in their understanding. Their unity continued to disintegrate. And for this reason, God took away the next guidance, the angel, the messenger was taken away. But upon taking the guidance of the last form away from the people, he gave them a last hope, that if they believe in the commandments given to the Cherokee people, that they would again, one day, become the choice people. Upon taking away the messenger from the people, God presented himself in the most mysterious way. He spoke to his people through a fire. This fire became a symbol of the Indians' faith. The everlasting fire was the Cross. And in many respects, same as the Cross. And from then on, because of this mysterious way that God brought the law down to his people