

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(August 19, 1968. Tonight, I am visiting with Ethel Dawes Newton, a 74 year old Creek Indian of Kellyville and Locust Grove, Oklahoma. She is a niece of Commissioner Dawes, an early day Indian government official, and she has observed much of Indian activity in her time. She reveals things of historical interest of very early Indian migrations, land settlements, Creek Indian origin, Alexander Posey an Indian writer, Indian beliefs and customs. She begins by telling of Seminole art that she has seen. This recording is made out of doors at night and the noise interference, noted, comes from katy-dids and other bugs.)

SEMINOLE ART IS A THING OF BEAUTY

--she was a teacher and a fine one. She taught lessons during the off season. She said "I'll tell you, if you want something beautiful, you want to work, well I'll take you right to it." Well, she took me out to this place where there was some kind of a pod, in a burr, it looked almost like a tulip, the dry part did, except it where it had split open and these things was sticking up there. (not clear) --is to get them, put 'em down on something and get those seeds all at once, you know, chop it down and it takes all the seed away at one time and you don't have to clean them. Well, I still couldn't figure out what they were. Well, we picked and we picked and she'd make a mat at the back with this glue on it and just start doing it this way (demonstrates) and she put pale blue cloth at the top and shaded it down at the bottom till it got almost a midnight blue at the bottom of it. Then she mounted the gorgeous moss and butterfly in this. Just made kind of a bed in it you know, a kind of a soft pad for these butterflies. Some of them were open, some of them were closed and then when these people from New York, these Yankees come down and we sell