

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(We are here with the Indian Education Program. I'm talking to Charlie Johnson, at his home west of Anadarko. Now this is November 21, 1968. Mr. Johnson is a full blood Seminole and Creek, who formerly lived around Wewoka, and in latter years he worked in Wichita--Wichita, Kansas, with Boeing Aircraft and retired two years ago, and moved to his present location west of Anadarko. I have talked with Mr. Johnson's father--mother, Mrs. Betty Johnson, about life in Seminole County back long before statehood. Mr. Johnson interpreted for his mother. I'm going to ask him now about some of the Seminole Clans.

CLANS AMONG THE SEMINOLES

(Charlie, do you remember about how many clans there were among the Seminole. Back in the old days?)

I can't be exact. But I'm pretty sure there was about fifteen tribes--I mean clans. And I'll start with my clan, my family's. I am a member of the Tiger Clan. My mother was a Tiger. And my father was a--belonged to the Deer Clan. And my wife is a member of the Bear Clan. And we have two boys and we call Bears or the Bear Clan.

(Your wife is Creek as well as Seminole.)

Yes. She's part Creek and part Seminole. And I am enrolled member of the Seminole... And my wife was not old enough, or wasn't born before the 1905 to become enrolled. That doesn't stand in our way of being the Indians. We like being Indians. Course we don't claim Red Power and everything, but we are glad to be Americans.

(What other clans do you remember now? Now you've named the Tigers, the Deer and the Bears.)