

(Lamont Brown is one of the outstanding Ponca singers today)

(This is Leonard Maker, Osage. I am at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Waters, Ponca City, Oklahoma. This day, December 1, 1968. I am now interviewing Mr. Lamont Brown, the renowned singer and composer of the Ponca Tribe and we want to have an interview on certain things he would like to relate to the Institute at this time. Mr. Brown--)

SONGS AND SINGING AND BENEFITS OF

Thank you Mr. Maker. Now my name is Lamont Brown. Lot of peoples calls me author of Ponca Indian music, which they kinda makin me feel like I'm somebody, but I'm just a pore little boy. And as far as singing is concerned, I love Indian music. I like it because it's my hobby and I like to sing. It's something I like to do. If it can help to make somebody happy--The old Indians say that when you are sick, you want to get in the rhythm of the drum. You forget all of your pains and aches. You forget about the sickness and you are just around there having a whale of a time, enjbying yourself. Now that's my way--lot of people calls me "Doc Brown". That's just kind of a nick-name they gave me, but I kinda believe I've made a lot of bone aches and get away from me being singing around the drums and bringing out the old Indian songs, with Ponca words. They've got a lot of meaning to 'em. I remember back there was an old lady, she come up there--I was singing--and she shook my hand, she said she was feeling good, though the singing of these old Ponca songs. We have an old song there we sing about the pipe which God had given us. They call it the "Peace Pipe", nowadays. But the old Indians believe strongly in these songs and they got a lot of relief out of 'em. And when I get down in bed sometimes with maybe a little cold or flu, I like to play tapes. I've got tapes from way back and I play them. It kinda brings me to forget about my sickness and stuff like that. But as far as being real sick, I never have. And I praise the Lord for that. He's blessed with what I have and I enjoy life as a normal person would, regardless of this condition I'm in. I'm an amputee. In other words, I'm an amputee with my left leg gone above the knee, and the right leg has lost control of it at the knee joint, plumb