

composed by Osages, and one of them songs--both of them songs is still sung, at least once a year. And that's Paul Akins' song as of today, and Henry Pratt's song was composed by Osages.

SINGERS TODAY

(And during that time you were speaking about, to more or less the present day, it seems that the people nowadays--some like, I see in your tribe, there's a lot of young boys singing. And over in my tribe, I can only name one that's more or less adept at singing these songs. Could you give any reason for such a thing like that?)

Well, back there--way back there--when the Ponca's started their singing, they did not have different tribes in there to help 'em sing. They done their own singing. Now, among your people over there, the Osages, they had--they'd name their head singer, and they'd name at least eight in there. They were placed in there and the committeeman--the drum keeper--he picked them out and he placed 'em and paid 'em for that seat that he gave 'em. So therefore, as of today, they have a three drums in that district. One in Gray Horse, one in Pawhuska, and one in Hominy. But nowadays, it's getting to where it's kinda getting outta control, Mr. Maker. It seems like the Ponca singers, the one that originally the drum it come from, they kinda shy off to one side. They're just getting all kinds of "Duke's" mixtures in there. Just like them western Indians. They try to sing Ponca songs. They do sing Ponca songs. But it don't sound like a Ponca song. It's all chopped up and I sure feel bad over it.

(And, way I more or less seem to me, that over there across the river in Osage, we have--only one I can name is Mr. Morris Lookout is trying to continue on and sings, but seems to me that we are getting more and more dancers over there than we've ever had before, and you can see that even the smaller tots and even the younger teen-agers and even the young men all take interest in their dancing. And seems like they like it, and seem