

Of course once in awhile he gets off--off the beam--but he's a pretty good boy. If more of them like Morris comes in, maybe one of these days the Osages will be singing for us. I hope to see that day come.

IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING THE LANGUAGE TO SING

(And I understand that you, the Ponca Tribe has several young singers in their tribe. Of course as the years go along, it makes it harder for the younger people to learn these traditions and they have to go away and work or they go away to school and they learn different things about earning their living, and it is getting to be difficult for them to retain all their traditions. Even in the Ponca Tribe, you have--I understand you have several outstanding young fellows that have got great potential.

How do you think--you think they will continue?)

M.R. Baker, first of all, a singer must know what he's singing about. I'm sorry to say, but my Ponca people--my younger singers--will have to learn the Ponca language before they can be good singers. Now that's facts. You've got to know what you're singing about. You've got to understand the song what you're singing. Because some day, somebody is going to come up and ask you, "what does them words say in there?" And that's where the embarrassment comes in, if they cannot talk Ponca language. So I will say, right now, I speak the Ponca language ninety-nine percent. The other percent--that one percent--is something--there might be about half a dozen words in there--They might be some animals that don't have no names that I'm still tryin to find out of the few things among the Ponca language. Some day I hope things work out that I can write the Ponca language so that people can read the Ponca language in writing. (Then with that, you think that the younger ones that know the songs, you hope will know the meaning of them and know why they are sung and how they are sung, and with that in mind, do you have any of these younger men now that really want to sing?)