

Informant: Leonard Maker, Osage

Interviewed by: (Self Interview)

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Side BMONEY VALUES, MORAL STANDARDS AND RELIGIOUS VALUES

This is Leonard Maker, Osage Indian of Hominy, Oklahoma. Fifty years ago I was born at a place north of town. And during my lifetime I have been told stories of the old folk people in related to them. And at this time I would like to just to tell you a few of the things. I don't know whether it's on record or not, pertaining to the Osage history. And one of my former interviews that I have given I have mentioned about the Osages of being a dignified tribe, high in tradition, wealthy, and without any sense of monetary things, but in the sense of what the Indians valued more than money values, such as these religious matters, morals, moral standards, such as that. And it was one of the things that always--had always heard is that the (not clear). In the days of, oh, the last century, the Osages had acquired a certain amount of money. Which like I said, they didn't have too much value on the money. And they acquired in some sale of land, or something of that manner, a tidy sum of money; it was close to a million dollars.

OSAGE MONEY WAS USED TO BUILD CARLISLE INDIAN COLLEGE

And about that time, the money was just in the treasury department. And whether there was drawing interest, I wouldn't know about that. But, this money was up there. And at that time the Bureau of Indian Affairs were young, and I don't know if it was the Bureau of Indian Affairs, but it was the Department of Interior and they took on the idea that they should build a college for the American Indian. So, the idea went along fine with the tribal leaders, and anyway, our tribal leaders. They come down and asked our leaders if any--if we had any one or two who wished to give any of the money to the forming of these buildings, in construction of these buildings which would serve as the colleges--such as Haskell Institute later on, but the first was Carlisle Institute back east in Pennsylvania. I never did understand why