

BACKGROUND

This is December 11, 1968. We are in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Unap of Hominy, Oklahoma. We are talking with Mr. Leonard Maker about the war dance as it has, he has participated in these war dances, and we want to know where it derived and, up to the modern times, today and it's carried in comparison with the beginning of this dance as far as we know and as far as he knows. Here's Mr. Maker.

ORIGIN OF ELONSKA DANCE

Mr. Maker: I'm about to relate to you things, concerning the dance of the Osages. As far as I can remember and as far as I've been told by my parents and what they have been told from their grandparents. And this dance of the Osages originated, I will not say originated, but came into being around, I'd say, at least seventy years ago and it probably was even before then, but the times have changed and the customs and traditions have more or less changed with the times, but going back to the beginning. The way that I understand it the Osages had danced this war dance for many years previous to the turning of the century, but as far back as we can collect the facts, as far back as we can find out about the dance was about around the turn of the century.

(Mr. Maker, which dance are you talking about?)

This dance I am speaking of now is the, I'm speaking of the dance that we call now the "Elonska" dance. And I was just speaking of a dance where we've learned that they have danced even before they brought the--what they call the "Elonska" dance as it is called now, but we don't know too much about the dances then so we'll have to go along on this "Elonska" dance. Which was, like I said, was around the turn of the century and of course this Osage dance as I say they say it was brought down by the Omaha. But you have to consider that the Omaha was in the Ponca and the Osage when they were way up north where more or less closely connected with each other as they were. The Poncas were in Nebraska and so were the Omaha and we were across the river over in Missouri, what they now call Missouri. We brought, we came to this reservation, what we're speaking of