

daughters have been chosen as Osage princess. The older daughter was princess's several years back and then just last year my daughter Mary was chosen to represent the tribe. And she enjoyed this very much at Anadarko and wants to return there--even just to be there. She likes dancing real well. All the girls do. And the boy hasn't participated as yet but we are looking forward to having him take part in a year or so.

(I understand that one of the customs among our Osage people is that--when a boy grows up--or when he decides to dance that is the time that they make the clothes--the Indian clothes and they introduce them to the dance. Has your boy reached that point yet?)

I think he is coming to that point. He stressed the desire once or twice that he would dance, but then he gets real self-conscious and says that, oh, he wouldn't dance even if he had the things to dance he wouldn't. But I think that if we go ahead and prepare him--he's 19 now--and he's at the age for service and to be a young man and I think he's ready.

(And you, yourself, when did you start dancing and taking part? About how old were you?)

This is another thing that I always wanted to do and stood back and watched and--and really wanted to participate, but wasn't able to--this. I tried to attend these things after I got to be--oh, I would say 12 or 13. And this lady that raised me, this was a--a challenge to her, I guess, because this was something that would pull me from her. And being a white lady she--she didn't like for me to be too Indian, even though I was Indian; she didn't push me into things that--oh, like I said would be a challenge to her, I guess. It would pull me away from--and after I married, then I was able to participate in these things. And that's why, to me, I always promised myself that I would marry an Indian and I did and I am very glad that I did.