

They had the alphabet. They still do. Now days it's dying out. I, for one, among other Cherokees do not want that to die out. I can speak it and I can write it just as well as I can write it in English but it takes time for interpretation. Nobody's perfect on interpretation. Say a Cherokee here says something in Cherokee, saying it to a white man. The white man can't understand and I try to interpret for him. I cannot exactly duplicate just what he says and what he means. But at least I can put the point across. And they understand one another. He speaks in Cherokee. I speak in Cherokee and English. We were talking to this white man and I try to explain it. Explain it to where the white man can understand what the Cherokee means. And vice-versa. I try to do the same thing for people of both sides. If I'm an interpreter for them. Well in educational wise I would, myself I'd prefer for some, someone that has a teacher's certificate to teach Cherokee. Not to let this language die out. As one white man said long time ago, he says your language is dying out. He say if you Cherokees are gonna let that language die out some of us white men are going to learn that Cherokee language, how to read and write. I for one, I knew exactly what that white man meant. And I don't want that language to die out. Even long before, you know, well I grew up with the language. I was about eight years old when I could read it. Maybe I was about year later I could write it, write it fairly. Now days, I can write it just as fast as I can with English, the English language. And that language could be taught either in high school or in state colleges.

(You mean in that case you mean for the teachers. The ones that know they're going to become teachers. And they wish to teach in this state. They could pick up Cherokee as they go on, just like Spanish or French or Latin?)

Uh-huh, like any other language.

(And be prepared to teach in thickly populated Cherokee areas.)