

Carrie Vee Wilson
First Person Plural Project
Tape Summary
20 November 2018

Intro – First Person Plural

MN Let's start with family, can you describe your parents?

CW Mother was Quapaw
We're Quapaw, Wea, and Eastern Shawnee and Irish
Quapaw tribal historian
Indian 364 days out of year, on St. Patrick's Day was Irish

MN Would she celebrate?

CW No, recognized she was McKibben, Scotch-Irish
Dad is Charles Banks Wilson
Probably Pryor Center has some interviews
Was muralist, artist, illustrator, well-known
Interesting background

MN How did they meet?

CW Mother said went to school together
Thought he was conceited
Met during Quapaw Stomp Dance
He was off in school
Eventually got married
Did print called Comanche Portrait, Associated American Artist print
Said he used money to get married
Married and off to New York, worked as illustrator

MN Where did dad go to school?

CW Chicago Art Institute

MN Know stories of when young and dating?

CW No

MN What did they move to New York for?

CW Dad was illustrator
Most top paid in United States
Worked for Doubleday, Golden Books

Illustrated Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*

J. Frank Dobie's *The Mustangs*

Two most popular

The Hill, David Greenhood

Number of other books

Turtle River Filly, there's like 35 books

Been interesting now that inherited, caretaker

Look at illustrations, some I've never seen

Really pretty amazing

Have appreciation didn't have before

MN Know what inspired father to get into art?

CW Don't think he was inspired, was chosen

A lot of biographical information

First mural underneath dinner table, parent's home

Always had knack of it

Working on Will Rogers Portrait, hangs in National Portrait Gallery, when 13

5m

CW Drew Will Rogers from life

Was in him, had opportunity to get it out

MN Mother was tribal historian, history something had passion for?

CW Became later in life

Appointed by Quapaw Tribal Chairman Jake Whitecrow

She and another woman, shared title, went to Washington, D.C.

Worked in Smithsonian National Anthropological Archives

Wore Quapaw right here

Her mother was Anna McKibben, Anna Quapaw, Granddad was Solomon Quapaw

Mother was Minnie Captain [Quapaw], died at early age

Raised among Quapaws

Participated in Eastern Shawnee and Peoria family, ceremonies

Raised Quapaw, were the Arkansa

Arkansas bears name

Wasn't something participated on weekends, it was your life

Being Quapaw, being tribal person

Dad always interested

Grew up, Miami, OK

Originally 13 tribes moved to county

Piankashaws, Peorias, Kaskaskia, Wea, confederated into Peoria tribe

Miamis, Seneca-Cayugas, Ottawas, Eastern Shawnees, Shawnees, Quapaw, Modocs

Melting pot of Indians

Spoke different languages, different ceremonies, thrown together

Had appreciation for your tribe, but other tribes too
I'm not just Quapaw, Eastern Shawnee and Wea
Algonquin, closely related to Miamis
Trace ancestry to Wea removal, 1857 to OK
Quapaw removed from Arkansas by 1824, and prior to statehood
Tribes coming together with own stories, unique opportunity
Back to dad, he brought up in that
Born in Springdale, AR, grew up in Miami, OK
Opportunity to be part of this
During 1920s, heyday for Quapaws and other tribes
Lead and zinc mines in Miami, largest deposit in world prior to WWI
Most bullets and armaments supplied from mines
Quapaws sitting on that, became wealthy
His dad had paint store, could make up colors
Artistic background, not in paintbrush artist use, knew his colors

10min

CW That's early day stories, lots more
Quapaws important part
Gone from destitute in Arkansas, come to Oklahoma, become wealthiest
Mother part of that, being historian and appreciating culture, came naturally

MN How did that diverse community impact childhood?

CW Experienced both sides
I'm a mixed blood, walked in both worlds
People know I'm something, don't know what
Been Iranian, to whatever, Spanish
Brought up in Indian environment, not totally white environment
Area where everybody communed
Anna Beaver built Miami Baptist Hospital, was wealthy Quapaw
Unique experience, because of wealth, Indians appreciated better than other areas
Felt some discrimination
Lived in Indian community where appreciated
Experienced both sides

MN Can you describe situations where felt discrimination?

CW Peers recognizing was Indian, being derogatory
Comes with territory

MN Describe family home? Siblings?

CW Had brother, left home when I was 5 or 6
Was 9 years older

Wasn't very close with family
Was alcoholic, drinking when 13, full-blown when older
Died in Tulsa in 2011
Troubled, died an alcoholic
Sure close when younger, don't remember

MN Interesting childhood because father and mother, how look day-to-day? Experiences?

CW Don't think lifestyle conventional at all
Father never worked nine-to-five
Studio block and a half away from home
In and out, home for coffee, back to studio

15min

CW Art instructor, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Miami, OK
Go up there, art exhibits
Model figurines, would play with those
Different people come in, Alexandre Hogue
Good friends with Thomas and Rita Benton
Stay with them in Kansas City
Tom Gilcrease, founder of Gilcrease Museum, came to home
Carl Albert, Julian Rothbaum, Archie Blackowl, Cheyenne artist
Artistic people in and out

MN As child recognized these were renowned people, or knew as normal?

CW Knew as my normal

MN Fun environment?

CW One and only child, be quiet thing
Always nice, good to me
Tom Benton letters, wrote dad "How's little pigtails?"
Used to have good time
Go up to Kansas City
Rita Benton, stereotypic Italian godmother
Rita Piacenza Benton, from Sicily
Had German shepherd and cat, big bathtub with claw feet
Would read stories, give Jessie Benton hand me downs, knitted cap when I was young
She cooked spaghetti
Dad fussing about way I was eating
Remember her fussing back at dad, "She can eat it however she wants"
Was thinking, this is great
Had artwork at Benton's from Jackson Pollock, different people
Burl Ives would visit

Tom had opinions of everybody
Was fun, remember them

MN Did you have appreciation for art? Want to get into art?

CW Yeah, did want to, actually could draw
Of all people, my dad didn't encourage
As got older, peeved me
"Turn these kids loose, let do whatever"
I'm going, who are you?

MN When you had kids?

CW What he would do, when young, kind of fun
Take turns, take pad and draw line or shape
My job to turn it into something
Then same with me, it was his job
Gave me an appreciation
Can take something, see shapes and figures, other person wouldn't
Remember book by Picasso, taken car turned to chimpanzee
Intrigued with shape shifting
Kind of interesting, makes me reflect
Dad never knew grandad's brother

20min

CW Worked at circus, would draw scene
When through, turn it upside down and something else
Brother and he trapeze artists
Not conventional family
Always intrigued, turn one thing to another

MN Ever try to make art like that?

CW No
Person in Arkansas, family did that
Had never heard of it until dad talking about

MN Why dad discouraged from art?

CW No idea

MN Hard to know

CW At university took ceramics, liked because non-competitive
Art was born in him, not so much for me

Could draw, had good eye
Mother said, "I'm the art critic"
After mother died, I'm art critic now
She could pick up on stuff
Good pair, think of her as his muse
She'd say, need to go out and paint
She and Rita were close, life of being wife of artist
Grew up with this stuff
Don't know why he didn't encourage
Mother said I'd be Grandma Moses
Not old enough yet

MN What was mother's role in household, parenting?

CW Pretty much it
Ran the household, took care of anything
Great cook
Rita was great cook, had a lot in common
Would help dad with research
If he doing something, spilled into lives
One time mad at mother, both of us
We had gone to Joplin, Missouri, shopped, went to movies
Came home, he was grumpy
Wasn't grumpy at us, fighting with Will Rogers and Oklahoma state portrait
Things weren't going well
We were sounding board
Lived whatever painting he was doing
She was his muse
Great cook, cooked for everybody
Wasn't good laundress
One time Tom Benton staying with us
Bought blue jeans, said just throw bleach in
She poured bleach in after, came out tie-dyed
Dad was mad, Tom was ok, said that's fine
First pair tie-dyed blue jeans

25min

MN Did you have other family around?

CW Dad's parents lived in Miami, Oklahoma
Bicycle ride away, would stay with them
Grandad McKibben died when I was baby, don't remember
Was miner, came down with miner's tuberculosis, he died
Grandmother McKibben was full blood
Mother one of 6 kids, 4 brothers and sister

Uncles always living with grandmother in country
Fun to see them
Favorite uncle Harve McKibben, quite an athlete
Had donkey, go on turkey shoots, always animals around
Go out and play Indian games, Indian dice
She died when I was young, been sick, arthritic
Didn't spend a lot of time with her

MN Did you have chores or work as kid?

CW No
Go to school

MN Was school of importance? Family values?

CW School was important, wasn't an "A" student
Nobody stressed that, just do best

MN What other values did parents have?

CW Be good person
Mother staunch Presbyterian, dad go occasionally
Mother went to church, would drag me
Mom and dad married by Reverend Curtis, Presbyterian Church in Miami
Dad did beautiful egg tempera of him
Fabulous stained-glass windows in church, on National Historic Register
Burnt down, mother in eighties, hated to tell her, was her rock
Painting burned, big egg tempera
Reverend Curtis, both parents admired
Good Christian values, was scholar
Ma Barker from Welch, Oklahoma
Barker brothers, when killed, nobody would bury
Reverend Curtis said he would, God's call
That kind of person, parents really liked
Mother loved to cook
Worked on cookbooks together, Presbyterian women
Men would taste, decide what should go in cookbook
Dad did cookbook, *Eve's Apples*

30min

CW Watercolor auctioned off for church
Mother worked on that, keep little projects
She could decorate, fix tea tables, Christmas and Easter decorations
Come up with fabulous ideas
Place in Miami, Rocket Park

Came up with figurine, Santa Claus down slide
She was artistic, could come up with stuff
Where could shine without being Charles Banks Wilson's wife
Pretty cool things with decorations, church
Church gave opportunity to be own person

MN Was church meaningful to you?

CW No
Went to church, did everything, never felt like fit in
Where some derogatory things showed head, being Indian
Mom said when brother little had in carriage down main street
Woman said boy is just beautiful, just enough Indian
Mother said, how much is too much?
Would call them on it

MN How would you feel when she would call them on it?

CW Just the way
Been outspoken, probably came naturally

MN Involved in other activities in school or tribe?

CW Tribe separate from school
With school involved in band
Dad was trumpet player, granddad Wilson was professional trombonist
Dad said learn to play trumpet, here's the scale, when get back want you to learn
Played trumpet in junior high and high school, first stand, was good
Involved in other things, but band pretty much it
Went to NEO [Northeastern Oklahoma] Junior College after Miami High School
Graduated high school in 1973
Year was Quapaw tribal princess

MN Can you describe what that is?

CW Honor tribe puts on you, to represent them
Counterpart of rodeo queen, Indian princess

MN What kind of events would you represent at?

CW PowWows, had banner, danced, look cute

MN Did you enjoy dancing?

CW Yeah, was good at it
Part of me, enjoy dancing, like to be in that circle

Was tribal princess
Following year, 1973-1974, Broken Arrow Indian Club asked me to talk

35min

- CW Sponsored me for Miss Indian Oklahoma
Ran in 1974 or 1975, selected Miss Indian Oklahoma
- MN What's involved with running?
- CW Just beauty pageant
Ran for Ottawa County Junior Miss before
Like that, but Indian element, traditional element, talk about tribe
Two talents, non-Indian and Indian
- MN What were your talents?
- CW Don't remember non-Indian talent, remember well Indian talent
Talked Quapaw, did series of dances
Quapaw stomp dance songs to round dance to war dances
Ended with contemporary Indian group Red Bone
Enjoyed being Miss Indian Oklahoma
Focus on education
- MN How did you start learning dances? When?
- CW When could walk
Good friend Jim Cantrell, older gentleman
Aunt camp across from mom's camp in Quapaw PowWow
Mother's name was Shirley Greenback Sixkiller
Greenback is Quapaw name, married Cherokee name of Sixkiller
She was pretty tough
Mom never danced
She grabbed me up at Quapaw PowWow, had little skirt I liked
No traditional, just little black skirt with Indians, had red shawl
Would dance with her, dance every dance, when I was little
When old enough cousin made Quapaw dress, started dancing
When wanted fan or belt, learned how to bead myself
- MN How did you learn?
- CW Self-taught
Amanda Greenback, was Seneca, lived down street
Married to Quapaw, Woodrow Greenback
I'd visit, watch her bead, she'd tell me things, go home and do
Won number of contests, head lady dancer lot of places

Mabel Harris, magazine where had Native American fashions
She was full-blood Sac and Fox Indian
Would take Sac and Fox designs, put in contemporary clothing
Had skirt she made when Miss Indian Oklahoma
I was head lady dancer at Sac and Fox PowWow Stroud [OK], honor position
She presented skirt, made mom one

40min

CW When Miss Indian Oklahoma, stress education
People would want you to participate, wear Indian clothes
I'd say no
If wore Indian clothes, reduced to museum relic
Didn't listen to what you say, had something to say
I was second Miss Indian Oklahoma, it was new and not having direction
Had gotten in trouble
Worked at Oklahoma tourist information place, handing out headbands
Refused, thought it perpetuating stereotype
When became Miss Indian Oklahoma
First taken all over country by Oklahoma tourism, they didn't touch me
Feeling was because of headbands, was adamant about it
Didn't go out of state like first had
Was fine, went to Jones Academy in Hartshorne [Oklahoma], other places
Talked to Indian children
During AIM [American Indian Movement] days
Finding voice as minority, more vocal
Get Indian kids to see, use me as role model
I got in to school, graduated, go to college
Was in NEO [Northeastern Oklahoma College], dean's honors list
Main question, how did get to Arkansas?
When Miss Indian Oklahoma, Dr. David Baird, writing book on Quapaw
Mother was tribal historian, he was working with her
She said, only right Quapaw should go to school at University of Arkansas
We owned the state, bears our name
On dad's side, Charles Banks realtor in Rogers, Arkansas, Beacon Realty
Friends with Senator [Jim] Caldwell, took up cause with David Baird
Ended up speaking before Arkansas State Legislature, when David Pryor was governor
Jerry Jewell, black senator, helped sponsor
Took University of Arkansas football scholarship, re-appropriated as Native American
Heritage Award Scholarship, I was first and only recipient

MN Why was it football scholarship?

CW Money taken from football, given to me
Went to school on football scholarship
After, law that state couldn't give money for football scholarships

One that couldn't target minorities
After I graduated, scholarship never continued, still never has

45min

CW Graduated cum laude in anthropology from University of Arkansas
On American Indian Heritage Scholarship

MN Remember what talked about when spoke to Arkansas General Assembly?

CW Quapaw integral to Arkansas history
Out of everything Quapaw done to establish Arkansas
Only fair should recognize Indian roots

MN How do you feel it was received?

CW Really great
Worked professionally with Walter Celestine, full-blood Coshatta Indian
Went to school in Arkansas, learned that Quapaw were extinct, Arkansas history books
Always calls me his extinct princess
Way most legislators thought, Quapaws were extinct, didn't think as viable tribe
Going for first time, well received
Funny because had buckskin dress on, clean buckskin in cornmeal
They'd put arm around, had white on them from flour, was marking them
Probably first Quapaw spoken before real state of Arkansas legislature
Heckaton spoke, before removed, prior to statehood
That is accomplishment

MN Quite young, too. Were you nervous?

CW Was rehearsed, knew what was going to say
Now more spontaneous, had written out at that point
There's picture with mom wearing buckskin dresses, I was 6
Mom very striking, beautiful
I'm this imp, with mischievous look, next to Harry Truman and wife
Think I've always been that imp, never know what to expect
That was outtake, was in Life Magazine with Harry Truman and Tom Benton

MN What's story behind that?

CW When I was younger, just thinking about having been in limelight
Not anything haven't been familiar with
Been in limelight, comes more naturally than to some
Speaking before state legislature, bringing Indians back into state
Went from member of extinct tribe, coming where are today, with recognition
Important in Arkansas

My story starts there
Did not want to come to University of Arkansas, wanted to go to school with friends

50min

- CW Weren't coming to Arkansas
Disappointed that just one scholarship, wanted Quapaw cousin to go
Came here, was lone man standing
Had cousins in Springdale on dad side
Coming representing Quapaw, was burden
Wasn't Carrie Wilson screwing up, Quapaw screwing up
Russ Garber is Quapaw, went to school here
Didn't look like me, didn't have black hair, black eyes, olive skin
Could pass, was football player
Came as Quapaw to school, did best could
Went on to George Washington University, didn't like
Ended up working for Office of Indian Education
- MN Will go back. Felt it was burden. How did you handle as young person?
- CW Had ups and downs
Away from home, do what kids do
Trying to represent a nation, overwhelming at times
- MN Meet people who could support, could relate to?
- CW Yeah
Mike Hoffman, David Baird, strongest allies, Dr. David Hart
Good people at [Arkansas] Archeological Survey, work study student
Relationship gone on, been part of life since
Always teasing, worked longest with Archeological Survey, never been employed
Good experience, missed being around Indian people
Even though just over state line, difficult
First roommate goes "hi", didn't know what to think, culture shock
Cowboys and Indians in Oklahoma, not case in Arkansas
Different mindset
- MN Did you feel treated differently?
- CW Hang with archeology students, tied up with Indians
Stayed with them
- MN Found your place?
- CW My niche, yeah

MN Then went to George Washington University, didn't like?

CW No, too white for me

MN What had gone to study?

CW Anthropology
Double majored, Public Administration with Anthropology

MN What wanting to do with that?

CW Interested in policies, Indian policy
Went to work Office of Indian Education, other places
Enjoyed dealing scholarships, awarding money for tribes
Worked until recognized

55min

CW Met first husband here, said if want me, come get me
He did, came back to Fayetteville
Started talking to Mike Hoffman, used to be in Anthropology
Office of Indian Education giving block money, set amount
If students pay out-of-state tuition, block goes like that
Talked to Mike, why can't get in-state-tuition for Indian students?
Started with indigenous tribes: Osage, Quapaw, Caddo, Tunica
Encourage students to come here, were no Indian students
Richard Allen from Cherokee Nation, came to school here
Don't think really tracked
Tahlequah a lot closer
University of Arkansas closer than University of Oklahoma
Why not offer them in-state-tuition
Started working, Dr. David Hart and Dr. Mike Hoffman
Got in-state-tuition
Now covers indigenous tribes and tribes passed through state
Shawnees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, number of them

MN Difficult process to get approved by administration?

CW They carried ball in academic setting, I was catalyst
If had one word, I was catalyst
Talking before state legislature, in-state-tuition
Made things happen, pretty exciting
We got in-state-tuition for them, pretty cool
From there, getting involved with NAGPRA [Native American Graves Protection and
Repatriation Act]

MN Describe NAGPRA?

CW Let's take break

[Break]

MN Wanted to say something about Quapaw?

CW Quapaws, Indians in general
Being mixed-race, two world identity
Always appreciate, appreciate older ones more now than at time
Whether running for tribal princess, representing them
Could go to tribe
At time was General Council, meet once year, met July fourth during PowWow
Go to them, elders
Never discouraging, always big support
Never said because you're woman can't do, give that feeling
I was person, didn't think of as woman
People think women have to do this, whatever

60min

CW It was just, you're competent, do it
Have feeling about that
Feeling about raising two boys, on back-burner because women supposed to be up here
Do best you can, Indians would say
Represent us, be best person can
Don't say be best female or male, just be you
Always appreciated, gets lost these days
Transgender, gay, put aside, don't care what somebody screwing around with
Just be good person
Want to get back to, don't want labels, too many people put on, just be you
If you have to have labels, look at yourself
Don't think of myself as mixed blood, think of myself as Indian
But don't think of myself as pure blood
Those people have my respect for what have to be, dark skin and who they are
Can't think of myself that way, bothers me
Want to make their life better
Full-blood elders' family, go in, didn't have money, nothing
I could cross boundary for them, could push further, make things right
Don't know why getting upset
Like Arkansas, having sesquicentennial flag ceremony
Bill Clinton governor at time, was good, I could call office, very accommodating
Having flag ceremony, Quapaw tribe should be acknowledged, only fair, they said ok
Ardina Griffin made Quapaw flag
Uncle was chairman, Deena Ray Hughey was Quapaw princess

Uncle's daughter, my son, myself, mother piled in car, presented flag
I made talk, wouldn't have been Arkansas wasn't for Quapaw
Quapaws were shock troops for French
French said want this stopped, don't want Chickasaws over here, we'd fight
Only right they acknowledge Quapaws
Took Quapaw flag, flew over state capital
Heckaton, tribal chief during removal, begged not to go live with Caddos
Quapaw wanted to buy land in Arkansas, wouldn't have to leave
Heckaton said our people buried here

65min

CW Children born, ancestors buried here, why send away
This is our home, why send away
Saw flag over state capital, made alright
Didn't make better, not like forget everything, at some level, that acknowledgement
From being extinct tribe to Quapaw flag over state capital, where I've come

MN You had part in making happen, building bridge

CW Bridge wouldn't happen if wasn't for me
Getting in-state tuition, Indian people graduating with law degrees
Would have happened?
Maybe not, maybe so
I was catalyst, got student across stage with graduate degree
Think that's important

MN It is, very important

CW Thank my Quapaw people, supported me
University, too, Dr. Baird, Dr. Hoffman, Dr. Hart
All comes together, takes spark
Feel I'm that spark, that impish spark

MN Makes things happen

CW Makes it happen
Some say I'm incendiary bomb, more like spark, catalyst
Important to me
Quapaw people helping me, ancestral tie from flag over state capital
Next step, working with Archeological Survey
Before NAGPRA [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act]
Came about November 1990
Art chose my dad, NAGPRA chose me
All things in life, leading up to this

Was working with Dr. Hester Davis, people at Survey, recognized need for repatriation cemetery, before NAGPRA
Pregnant with Solomon, in 1982
Was Uncle Ed Quapaw, Jesse McKibben, my mother, myself came down, Bob Whitebird, last pure-blood Quapaw man
Working with Arkansas State Parks, Archeological Survey, picked locations at Toltec Mounds [Archeological] State Park
Quapaw decided where put cemetery, reburial of repatriated, inadvertent discoveries

70min

CW Consecrated that land for cemetery, now at Toltec Mounds State Park
Opened one similar at Parkin Archeological State Park
First acknowledged state in United States that did that
Again, little spark
Quapaw tribe supporting, go ahead, will help
Was already talking to Arkansas [State] Highway [Commission]
Have inadvertent discoveries of human remains, putting in roads, ditch construction
Started doing NAGPRA in 1990
Grace Goodeagle, tribal chairman, made motion at General Council meeting, put me as NAGPRA person for Quapaw Tribe, still have position

MN Since early 1990s?

CW Yeah
To date, repatriated over 28,000 cultural items

MN From where?

CW Gilcrease [Museum], University of Arkansas Museum, Arkansas Archeological Survey
Museums all over United States

MN Describe process?

CW NAGPRA as compliance act
Have National Historic Preservation Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation [Act]
Two parts, deal with museums and federal lands
Human remains on federal lands, NAGPRA would apply
If museum receives federal funds, NAGPRA applies
Receive federal funds, go from there, contact museum
Worked with Osages for while, everyone knows Osage
Nobody's heard Quapaw
Putting on tape, want to get across the fact that Quapaw called Arkansa
Known as Arkansa during colonial days
Spanish, French, English knew Quapaws as Arkansa, that was name

Changed when Americans took over, Louisiana Purchase
Switched name, Arkansa to Quapaw
That's closest we can peg, worked with Judge [Morris] Arnold on this
Closest can get, Americans changing other Indian tribe names
Kansa, cousins to Quapaw, Osage, Ponca, Omaha, became the Kaw
Arkansa became Quapaw

MN Information about why name chosen?

CW Relates to what Quapaw called themselves
Started NAGPRA for Quapaws, became cultural resource consultant, hard getting paid
Never had office at Quapaw tribe, over here in Arkansas
Became consultant, easier, gave opportunity to work

75min

CW Set up program for Osages, Eastern Shawnee, Jena Choctaw
Consultant status, repatriated
Process is, look at lists, ask for inventories
Eastern Arkansas is Quapaw
Can get into histories, particulars, but that's another interview
Met Bill Day, working for Tunica, very outspoken
Says he was Tunica, don't think affiliated with specific tribe, having paperwork
Pivotal point in my life
Taken activism, speaking out, policy, George Washington [University]
He was impetus for putting all together
Was at Jonesboro, Arkansas, for meeting, Southeastern Archeological Conference or
Mid-South [Archeological] Conference
He was there, was Tunica
Tunicas and Quapaw were enemies
French priest, Father [Paul] du Poisson, 1700s, friend of Quapaws
Tunicas murdered him, Quapaws wiped Tunicas out, no love lost between
Bill Day saying everything we consider Quapaw, being Tunica
That went like mm-hmm
Met Bill Day, neither one backed down
Were cordial, established playing field clearly, he was outspoken
Quapaws had treaty land in Louisiana
He was working with National Guard
Worked with him, some tribes, became Native American Historical Initiative
First group ever wrote own policy, programmatic agreement, authored ourselves
Mississippi Choctaws, Chitimacha, Caddo, different representatives, like think tank
Speakers from all over United States, express views, concerns
We were hot, writing agreement documents, challenging FCC
Was made honorary member, United South and Eastern Tribes Cultural Committee
Federal agencies would come, really on edge of something, this was different
[Bill] Clinton Executive Orders on government-to-government consultation, sacred sites

Breaking, new level for American Indians

80min

CW Being participants in indigenous lands, how cultural sites taken care of
On brink, writing policies
Agreement documents we were coming up with used throughout United States
Part of NAGPRA, looking at maps
Came up with first list, by state and county, establishing territorial lands
Picked up by [United States Army] Corp of Engineers
Today, everybody uses, I was first
Very proactive, talk to museums
I'm Quapaw, want to consult on this, areas interested in
National Park Service at one time said I repatriated more items than any other individual
in United States
Pretty Cool

MN Impressive, factor of meeting people and making things happen?
How would museums, institutions react to change, to you?

CW Only hit wall couple times, being controversial
Most of time willing to listen
When go to talk, everything laid out
Came with consultation guide, first tribe that did
Here, everything need to repatriate, up to museum to make determination
I'm not Osage, Cherokee, something everybody's heard of
Have to go prepared, present case
Usually artifacts not say Quapaw, say Mississippian, ominous, generic term
Go and say, this is what looking at
Break down for them, look at us as viable recipient, take remains back
It's an interesting job
Uncle and I, got remains from Gilcrease Museum at the Survey, eventually reburied
Opening boxes, faces staring at us
Everything is good, what I do, wouldn't suggest for everybody
Bill Day died, said I was heir apparent
Took over as consultant, liaison, for tribes and National Guard
When Rita and Katrina hit New Orleans, working on that, cultural sites hit
Prior to that, hit Seminole burial of woman, brought everybody together

85min

CW Got everyone in same room, talk to tribes, get to sign off on things through FEMA
[Federal Emergency Management Agency]
Early training, even though dropped out of George Washington [University], paid off
Way of thinking, putting together, been advantage in my position, career

MN Ability to problem solve, bring together, be a link?

CW Yeah
In spite of not always, I'm not very diplomatic

MN Seems like managed

CW Managed, even though direct

MN Read from interviews about NAGPRA can be spiritual, emotional experience, comment on?

CW It is spiritual thing
One thing NAGPRA did, bring Arkansas in
Continuous journey, bringing tribe back in
First in NAGPRA, couple tribal people say we don't live there, not part of life
Last month, finished tour of Arkansas, Quapaw toured different sites
NAGPRA, museums saying take everything away
Getting comradery, share culture, stories, coordinate on research
We were that extinct tribe, coming back to state, viable presence, to elder's tour
Now tribe thinks of Arkansas as homeland, before bad thing, forced to leave
Been healing, through NAGPRA and conversation, consultation
Spiritual stuff, can get in to, don't talk about it
Always told you just don't share
Can't help but get into sites, walk sites
Deal with taking upon yourself to remove someone laid in ground for a thousand years
You pay for that, not going to share with you
As far as spiritual journey for tribe, reclaiming homeland is important
As well as being appreciated in homeland
Don't know how casinos go over, different interview, probably not with me

MN How do you view change for you and Quapaw in Arkansas, current status?

CW We're making inroads, Quapaws purchased mound

90min

CW Tribal politics, try to stay out
Was on Business Committee with Quapaw Tribe, was interesting
I ran Quapaw PowWow three years in row
Mother said do again, hit you in head, was very stressful
Those days, no casinos or money, had to raise
Looked at all aspects of tribe, now I'll look as elder
Appreciate being brought up in time I was, last of pure-blood Quapaws
No pure-blood Quapaws anymore
Able to eat, laugh, play with them, enjoy and hear stories

Something I'll cherish, won't be anymore
New era for tribe, more business era
Brought up, Indians that say "we're a tribe"
When stop being tribe, become business, not tribe anymore, fine line
Younger people thinking in terms of business, tribal government
Interesting to see, morphing into something new
Liked old way, tribe was tribe, knew everybody
Morphing, new animal, see where it goes
Didn't choose NAGPRA, it chose me
Way I've lived, never expected to be here, chose me, fates at work
Roll with it, take advantage or say no, play it out

MN Anything you'd like to add?

CW Probably think later, but not now

MN Thank you