

E: What are your plans for the future? Do you want to tell us any more about that?

H: I have a lot of plans for the future, I just do not like the word *future*. I am impatient, and I like the future to be now. [laughter] I would like to have the building completely finished. We already have networking in place with the Visitors and Convention Bureau to bring tour groups from all over the United States down here and let them have an evening of entertainment and a meal cooked by our people and to discuss our Catawba history with them.

We plan to have quite a few more events with the school children. The buses from the school district have already been lined up to bring classes down here and let them see our senior citizens doing what they like best. I would love to get a grant that we are working on for the next year that will pay for sort of a "recycle our seniors" [program]. It will pay them to sit and do what they have always loved doing, which we feel is only appropriate that they be able to earn some extra money, and at the same time it will help us.

We would like for the center to be open six days a week; we probably would not open it on Sunday. But we would really like to get that going, and I think that will help spread the culture to the community abroad. A lot of people have only heard the negative about the Catawbas, and there is so much more positive than there is negative, and we want them to know this so that they will treasure us the way we treasure ourselves.

E: That is well expressed. Now, Wenonah, give your official title and tell me the council members who are helping you with this project.

H: I am chairperson of the Catawba Cultural Preservation Project, and we have in our constitution and bylaws seven board members. We presently have one position vacant, and we intend to fill that coming up within the next month or so. Fred Sanders, who is the assistant chief of the tribe at the present, is one of our board members. Bobby Blue is another one; Elizabeth Plyler is our third board member. Our fourth is Rod Beck, and Phyllis Williams is our fifth. Of course, I make the sixth member. We try to kidnap, so to speak, anybody and everybody to come down and help us on this building whenever we get a spare moment.

E: This is a funny question to ask, but I want to ask you. I am so proud of what you are doing, and I know all of your family background. I did a wonderful tape on your father not long ago. I want you to tell me what people have influenced you in making you the person you are today. Maybe your teachers, to begin with.

H: Well, it comes from a lot of different influences. I started out always being proud of my heritage because of my father. I always admired him and his unselfishness as far as working with the tribe. It has not been easy. There have been a lot of times