

she talks real good English." "Why she can carry on a conversation with you or I." You know someone who doesn't talk good English or well, someone who doesn't even realize they don't talk well will criticize the Indian person who speaks better English than they do. And you know, you hear people every day say "Oh, she's an Indian and she has funny ways." But they don't realize what the Indians say about the white people. (Laughter) That's the funny part about it. You know, I was teaching in the Adult Education classes at Ryan. The first day I went over there, this evening I was there, I got up and talked with them about arts and crafts--tried to find out what they wanted to do. I asked, "What do you want to do?" And they just shrugged their shoulders and just kinda turned their heads and wouldn't even talk to me. I couldn't get any kind of an answer. And I said, "Well, if you don't tell me what you want to learn, then I'll bring something and then we'll see, you know, if you want to learn it." But there was one woman over there who pretends she can't talk English. And I know she understands every word we say, but she don't speak English at all. And I said, "Melissa, would you like to learn how to make pottery?" And she said, "No!" (Laughter) I said, "All right, we'll cross that off our list." And you know we never did try to do any pottery over there. I did show them how to do, you know, some pottery, but oh, then the next meeting we had every one came around and talked and just said, "Oh, Mrs. Fife we didn't know you were Dan Robinson's niece." "I didn't know you were Jimmy Fife's wife." "I thought you were, you know, not even an Indian." I said, "Oh, you thought I was 'ste-hep-ke' (?)." She said "Yes." Everyone thought I was 'ste-hep-ke' (?). So after they found out I was an Indian well it really made a difference and everyone was friendly, oh-- and they knew Carol. She was teaching there. And they didn't know I was her mother that first night, that first evening, and of course they didn't know, but after they found out who I was and that I was an Indian it really made a difference. Oh, they just worked so hard at every project we tried. We learned to--I mean I taught them how to make flowers with rick-rack and we made aprons--you know all Indian women like to wear