butter beans- aš dic' gadahic'a means a flat bean
(Do you remember the names of any of the other beans?)
No, just beans, pumpkins and corn. I don't know, they didn't mix them all up. You could plant them in different rows or something. They planted the beans in hills, but they put them in different hills from the corn. They picked the beans when they were big enough to eat, they got them green. What's left, they let it dry out. Then they picked the dry ones off, and put them away.
(How were the beans stored?)
Well, they probably had those buffalo bags. Nowadays, they store them in flour sacks.
(Where do you get the seeds for these crops now?)
I sure don't know. Very few people garden. We're running out of everything. Safeway's our garden now, I guess.
(What about sweet potatoes?)
Well, they different from the ones in the store. Kind of brownish, a different color. They plant them like they do now, set them on hills in a row. Sometimes they sprout them first in a hotbed. Probably saw one of those, but I don't remember. In the spring, they take the little stored potatoes, and they use those to plant.
(How were sweet potatoes stored?)
Well, you dig a hole, about however wide and long you want. And you put a dirt roof over, and leave a door on one end. Then you could get in. The hole is in the ground, but the roof is on a level with the top of the ground. The roof, it's made out of sticks and grass, covered all over with dirt.
(Were those cellars ever lined with rock or stone?)
No.
sweet potatoes - heriyax'
(How did they fix sweet potatoes?)
Well, they could boil it or make fried sweet potatoes. Good. Singe them real good. They didn't put them in a pot, just baked it. Some of them even stick them in the ashes, hot ashes. Most of the cooking in winter was in the grass house. But outside they could cook when the weather was warm. They had a arbor, with brush around it.