(When did the Wichitas eat their meals in the old days?)
Well, some eat pretty early. They get up early. They usually eat by the sun, at noon, but it could be 11 o'clock or 1 o'clock, they got by the sun, when it was right overhead. Suppertime, well they could eat mostly anytime, early or late.
(Did they eat more or less the same thing for each meal?)
Well, for a couple of meals, they could fix different things. Something else, maybe.
(Did you ever live in a grass house?)
Yea, I lived in a grass house, but I was born in a tipi. North, up on the creek here. I growed up around here. Lived in tipis, grass house, log cabins, tents.
(How many people ate together?)
Well, sometimes a small family would eat together. Othertimes, it might be a big family.
(Bates then showed us a number of relatively large metates which he said he found about one mile west of his house. He said that there were different Wichita homes around in the valley, and he thought the metates were from them.)
When they first came here, they called this the Eureka Valley. They said there wasn't any timber here then, just prairie grass.

WICHITA DIVISIONS

(How many different groups of the Wichita were there?)
Well, there were different bands, you might say. I don't know how many bands there were. There were the true Wichitas around here, the real Wichitas.
Wichita - Kirikidi'is
That word means something like racoon eyes, maybe painted. The womenfolks used to tatoo themselves on the breast, and across their faces (chins). I saw a few of them in my younger days. Down in Waco, Texas, there were the Wacoes and the Towakanies. They were Wichita bands. The Kichais got in with the Wacoes. They went from Louisiana to Texas. Got in with the Wacoes. My father was a Kichai.
(Does anyone speak Kichai any longer?)
Well, there might be some who could say a few words.
Kichai - gí.čæš