Mr. Wakon Iron and His Wife, Osages
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
Interviewed by: Bob Miller
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This is Bob Miller with the American Indian Institute, University of Oklahoma. Today is May 16, 1967. I'm visiting with a Mr. Wakon Iron, a 76 year old fullblood Osage at his home in Pawhuska.

EARLY LIFE AND STARTS TO SCHOOL

My father's Indian name was "Wah-a-lank-ee." But I really didn't know my mother's name. Except I heard - And she died when I was just baby. Ah ... and then from there my aunt has taken me over and raised me. And then the government, after we were 6 years old, they wanted us to attend school, and we was forced to go to school against the will of our parents. However, we had to go, so we attended the Osage Boarding school. And what little education we ever gotten these years why it wasn't very much, because we had to work half a day and school half a day. And, of course, we learned a good deal about how things are done through farmin', dairy, and baking, and laundry, and many other things that ah - that we had to do in school. We all had to go and change details every month. And so we were not on a regular job every month except the baker, they had a job the whole year. And we had every recreation and things like that. But we feel we could of done much better in our education, if we would, if we had the background. It took us a good many years to learn English. We didn't know a bit of English when we went to school, so it took us quite awhile to learn the English, and get into books. So when we figure up our school days, it just mean we went to school before the books, learning