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MABEL KIRK, KICKAPOO
INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN
INTERVIEW DATE: MARCH 6, 1967
TRANSCRIBED BY: LINDA BUTLER
TRANSCRIPTION CHECKED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

GENERAL SUBJECT: LIFE HISTORY MATERIALS AND KICKAPOO WAY OF LIFE IN OKLAHOMA IN TWENTIETH CENTURY: INFORMATION ON FARMING, WORK EXPERIENCES, AND KICKAPOO FAMILY LIFE

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION
LIFE HISTORY: CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY LIFE
ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO INDIANS
MIGRATING TO MEXICO AND MOVING BACK TO OKLAHOMA
LAND SWINDLES
SUBSISTENCE IN EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY
CHILDHOOD: PLAY
CATCHING AND EATING FISH
TOBACCO AS MEDICINE
DRESS AND FACE PAINT FOR MEN
KICKAPOO HOUSES
DIVISION OF LABOR IN MABEL'S FAMILY
GETTING CAT-TAILS FOR MATS
LIVING ROUTINES IN MABEL'S CHILDHOOD
FOODS EATEN
TRADING HANDICRAFTS FOR FOOD
HUNTING: ANIMALS KILLED
CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
RELATIONS WITH WHITES THEN AND NOW
INDIAN DANCES AND POW-WOWS
SQUAW HOPS
SCHOOLING OF MABEL'S CHILDREN
WORKING IN OKLAHOMA CITY
CARING FOR OLD MAN IN RETURN FOR BEING MADE HIS HEIR
COMMUTING TO WORK IN OKLAHOMA CITY FROM McCLOUD

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Mabel Kirk (nee Mabel Fry) was born in 1900 in a Kickapoo village near Shawnee and has lived most of her life in the Shawnee-McCloud area. She attended Shawnee Mission boarding school and speaks English fairly well. She and her husband, Willie Kirk, both speak Kickapoo fluently, and Kickapoo is spoken in the home. Mabel and Willie have been raised in traditional Kickapoo ways. Mabel has belonged to the Quaker church and to the Baptist church. Both participate in Native American Church activities in recent years. They maintain a traditional Kickapoo winter house, and maintain social and trading ties with a number of Mexican Kickapoos.

NOTE: This interview took place in the living room of Mabel Kirk's house near McCloud, Oklahoma. Her husband, Willie, was present in the room and participated a little in the interview.