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MATTIE MURDOCK, KICKAPOO

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Want me to tell you about the dry'in the corn?

(Yeah, why don't you tell me about that.)

They told me to tell about the corn when, long time ago when we used to dry corn. We used to dry three loads or four loads a wagon. That time, wagons, you know, they hold big loads of them and have to kinda cook them in the water, you know, and jest little while and then you pick 'em out. You, you cook 'em in the evening and let 'um lay there all night and next morning--early in the morning--you start take the corn out, the cobs, you know. And then you dry them out in the sun and ah it takes 'bout two or three days to get dry. And we used to dry lot of corn and lasts us long time, all winter long. That time we didn't have to buy nothing. Jest maybe meat once in a while to cook in the corn. And so, and then we raised lotta pumpkin. Lots of pumpkin and we dry that. We dry pumpkin, jest big stack of pumpkin. And then, we put four poles up there. We put the pumpkins, you know hang the pumpkins up there and tie a string around them poles you know, and then you them pumpkins there and dry them, these what's up here, you braid them and you know. They're kinda, 'bout that big.

(Did you have to cut them up?)

You cut them round.

(Oh.)

You cut 'um round. Slice 'em, you know, round. And them's the ones hang' in up there. But these, here, on the ends--what's left--you jest cut them like that--jest right... Put 'em on that string, you know, right 'em like