

the fine things. We was sitting around in a circle. I sat over here and he sat there, and someone sat between us and he sat there. He was already a church member. He'd come out from the parsonage where he had a house just for the summer. And because we were there he invited us. We were from Geary. So we got to talking. He always called me "brother-in-law," because we don't have no word for cousin--everything's "brother." His wife being my cousin, he always called me "brother-in-law," instead of "cousin." He says, "Brother-in-law, today I'm going to tell you--I'm a church member. I was baptised." I looked at him. He said, "I quit all these Indian habits. I don't go to no dances. I don't go to no hand games--sweat lodge--or any of these Indian practices. I adhere strictly to the Bible. I don't practice no Indian ways anymore." I looked at him. I got to thinking about it. "Well, what about this turtle--that's Indian food!" "I'm a happy man," he says. "Well, that's the way you think?" I told him. He said, "Yeah, that's the way I live." I says, "You're telling a lie!" (makes sign for "lie", too) A lie--that's this way--that means "forked tongue." That's where the Indians got that, I don't know, but it's a source we always continue from Adam and Eve's time, when the snake tempted Eve, you know, to eat the tree of knowledge. And I always think that's where the sign language comes from, too. Through a forked snake tongue--like this.

(You move your fingers like this?)

Yeah. Like this. I said, "You're telling a lie!" "No," he said, "What is it? What'd I tell a lie?" "Well," I said, "You're happy. You're happy because you quit all Indian ways. Are you happy today?" "Yeah, I'm happy." I says, "Good." "What'd you say that for?" he said. "Well, the best things that makes Indians happy is their way of life. They eat meat, and this here turtle. You going to eat that?" "Why, sure. I like turtle." I said, "All right, you didn't quit Indian life. You going to be happy because you're going to eat that turtle--that meat." "Oh," he said, "You caught me!"

(What's this sign here that you were making?)

"Quit." "Quit that." Old, old way word, "Quit," in sign language is this way--