

(--George Tomey one-half Potawatomi and at Pawhuska.)

EARLY DAY EDUCATION

--Kickapoo reservation. And we must have stayed there six weeks. Then we run off. (laughter) Then they come and got us. Took us back and put us in jail. Then we run off again. And that's the way that was. And that's when they sent us off the reservation, to school.

(Is that when you went to public school?)

Yeah we went to public school. And it done us lots of good. We learned to talk. The Indians were just little bit backwards. They was then. And they wouldn't get up and talk and ask questions and so forth. And I was in the fourth grade because we were taking fractions. I can remember that now. And we would work them on the blackboard. And I'd work them. Then I'd look at them other guys answers and I was wrong. So I'd erase them. But I was right, I didn't know it. And then guys told me whenever you--when they'd give me the problem why I'd write it down, 'course all the kids was watching me. And then I'd look at them other guys' answers and their's would be different. Yeah. I remember now. But the Kickapoo's were really rough on us. They called us white boys. I'm telling you we really mixed it up! (Laughter) Dad told us, "When you go to that school," he said, "Them Indian boys are going to gang you." And they did. So he told us what to do. And by golly we got along alright with them. And Nick said first chance we get we're going to leave. Well they had a fair up there. So he knew about it. I don't know how he found out but he knew where that fair was. And we never was there before. And we started walking just before dark. Just between dark and daylight we left. And we went to that fair. And Nick was a guy really knew horses. And he went around and looked at the teams. And he said, "This is Minnie Evans camp. I know it is." He said "I know her horses." There was some hay there.