

( Did they - most of you speak Cherokee there at the school?)

Well, most of them did. I didn't speak fluently. I just - - I knew a few sentences; mostly vulgar. ( Laughter)

( Some, you couldn't repeat?)

Yes that's right, and - - but a lot of 'em - - Some of 'em talked better Cherokee than they did English. Most of 'em talked Cherokee too. But a lot of 'em couldn't talk Cherokee either. Like my grandmother and grandfather, they wouldn't speak Cherokee before their children. And my mother couldn't talk Cherokee.

( Wonder why they didn't speak Cherokee?)

Said it was too difficult to learn English and they wanted - - said they wanted to - never learned how to talk - - like my mother - - one time I said "What kind of nationality was my granddad?" I said, "He can't talk English and Cherokee either one?" He tried to talk English but he wouldn't talk Cherokee - - not a word before anybody. And she just kinda smiled, and then later on she told me. They wouldn't talk before any of their kids; before her nor before the grandkids because they didn't want 'em to know a word of Cherokee. But my dad talked fluently. He talked Cherokee fluently and mother couldn't talk Cherokee and she was - her dad was a fullbook. My dad's dad was about a quarter he claimed. ( Laughter)

( We are about to the end of the tape and Mr. Duncan, I want to thank you very much for this and will come back over on May 7th, and maybe we can get two or three of you together to tell some of the interesting stories about the old seminary days.)

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