

EARLY SCHOOL EXPERIENCES:

(Fred, I wonder if you could tell me something about your early school experiences what they were like?)

Well, I told these girls the other day, when I first went to school, I went to school first time I went to school was out west of Apache. Right south of Robert Goodays across the creek. I went to school there, Cache Creek Mission. It is mission alright. Boy, they is real missionaries. Sort of like Baptist. I went to school down there, first time I went to school down there. And boy I had a hard time. I didn't know a word of English.

(How old were you then?)

Oh, I don't remember. About eight or nine years old. And I didn't know nothing about English that time. I had a hard time, when I first start school over there. I had to ask what they say. Ask somebody that knows English alright. And I always ask what they say. When they talking English I don't know what they talking about. And when I went to school in class I met that teacher, told me to come up to him come up to blackboard, write something on it. I didn't know what to write. I didn't know what he said. So I ask a guy, Robert Clarence, what'd he say. What that lady, he said. She said for you to run out. Boy I jumped up and grabbed my cap and away I went. I went plub back to our boy's building. She come down there and got me. They punished him. (Clarence, too)?

(What was the boy's building?)

That's where we stayed. See we stayed different from the girls, separate. See, the boys' got their own building and the girl's got their own. We not allowed to talk to the girls. We never did get to talk to any girls. Just about to ourselves down there. Only time we get to talk to any girls was in school.

(How long did you stay the whole week right at the school?)

Yea, we board there. They board us. We go like from September till school's out. They board us like a boarding school. The government pays at that time.

(How often did you get home?)

We get home well we get out of school in summer, in June. June till September.