In Canton there seems to be a wall between the Indians and the white people. They don't have anything to do with each other. The white people, including the people in the school system ignore the Indians, care nothing for them. There's lots of dropouts among Indians in the school, and what I call "kickouts." There were 20 Indian kids "kicked out" of the high school there. Here's the way it happens. They have to pay a home economic fee, typing fee, get various materials for their classes. And Indian girl goes to her home economics class and her teacher notices her just sitting there and says, "What's the matter--why aren't you working on your dress like everybody else? Where is your material? And why haven't you paid your fee yet?" And she syas this in a loud voice in front of the whole class. Doesn't ask the girl to stay a minute after class so she can talk to her, etc. Naturally the Indian girl is embarassed. She doesn't want to say that she didn't have the money to pay her fee or buy her dress material. So she goes on to the next class, already having taken a beating. Say her next class is typing. The teacher tells her she can't have a typewriter because she hasn't paid her typing fee. So she sits there and doesn't get in any typing. And so it goes, all down the line. That kind of treatment is why a lot of these kids drop out or stop going. What's the use in going to school to be humiliated like that. One girl I visited, Wilma Cedartree, of Watonga, didn't have the fees for home ec or the money for dress material. She had asked her old grandmother for money but the old lady didn't understand and just thought she wanted to spend it on something foolish. She was failing in typing. I talked with her and encouraged her. Arranged with the teachers to find a time and place where she could get caught up on her typing practice. I talked to the grandmother and explained about the dress material, and she got that. Seems to be doing all right now.

Another boy that was a real problem was Henry Shawnee. He had various troubles in high school. Had a record of burglary and various delinquencies. But he was very intelligent. I managed to get him into this "UPWARD BOUND" program sponsored by the federal government at Weatherford. Blaine County had five places in this program, and I got him in first on the list. He did well. The important thing is to get these kids away from the environment at Canton. The boy seemed to be doing all right and then there was another incident--he shot the man who was living with his mother in the chest. Came within a quarter of an inch of killing the man. I talked with the County Attorney, other people; the welfare people helped. Finally they decided not to file charges on him. Anyway, he did continue in school and finished high school and even went out for the track and became a state champion. He's in college now.

A former superintendent of schools at Canton said he hoped he lived to see the day that Canton would be an all-white school. He had no use for the Indians. He wanted them to drop out of school. But he didn't quite make it. He's been retired for about two years, and the new superintendent isn't that bad. Canton High School has a counselor for the students, but the Indian kids never get to see him. They're too beat down to ask to see him. The teachers and the people in Canton turn their backs on the Indians. And we have untapped intellects and talent here among the Cheyennes and Arapahoes. Some of the students are extremely intelligent.