

Uh-huh. Yes, or fried potatoes or something like that.

(Did you have beans?)

Yeah, we took beans and fried eggs or something like that. Lunch come, we all, Cherokees--we'd all get together and go behind the schoolhouse and sit down and eat--in back of the schoolhouse. And they was kind of--Cherokees is bashful and backwards.

(Well, were there very many white kids going there at that time?)

Yeah, there was quite a few of them going.

(Were there more Cherokees than white kids?)

Yeah, there's more Cherokees. Yeah, we'd sit out there, back side there and we sit down there and eat. And be away from the white people.

(When you first started to school, could you speak English?)

I didn't understand.

(How long did it take you till you understood what was going on?)

I don't remember how long it took me. But I sure didn't learn it right quick. And my mother, I think she left us about a year or two and we was living with my grandmother--took care of us. But my grandmother and my step-daddy was there and they talked only Cherokee. Well, me and my sister talked only Cherokee when my mother come in. Our mother didn't talk Cherokee. She talked English. And when our mother come back, we didn't understand a word what she was saying. We just stand there and laugh at her (laughter) But finally though we caught on and learned. That's how come we learned our English. Listening to our mother.

(Well, would the teacher let you all speak Cherokee in school?)

No, not in school. But we could talk it outside at recess.

(At recess--she wouldn't say anything to you?)