

Mattie Murdock-8

J. Jordan

(Does it take them very long to get done?)

It takes bout three hours. One time we used to go way down north here to dig 'em and this colored man always go by everytime, I guess, when we was on the road digging. And so one time he stop. And he come from town. My brother was with us--there was four of us. And he went to my brother and "What you doing?" "Oh, well I'm getting potatoes, Indian potatoes." "How do they look like?" He want to find out how they look like. And, "I seen you all out here lots of times, and I didn't know what you all was doing. I thought I'd stop today and ask."

So he asked, and after that I guess he went home. Later on, he come back and dig them. He's gonna try 'em, took some home and start to peelin' them.

See, he fried them. They ain't no good, I don't think, when you fry 'em.

And he didn't like 'em. So next time when he see my brother, "Them potatoes ain't no good--I tried them and they ain't no good!" So they told him to cook it. So he tried it; and he like 'em.

(Do you think it's too late to get any this year?)

It's too late now. They start diggin' 'em around March.

(Did they ever save those potatoes long time ago?)

Yeah, they kinda cook 'em just a little while. And then they dry 'em, and then they'll keep. That's they way they keep 'em.

(What would they keep them in?)

Oh they just put 'em in a sack like that and put 'em away.

(Well did they have to wash them up or anything?)

No.

(Just cold?)

Uh-huh, just cold. They're not big. They don't boil 'em long enough. Just when they start boiling, they take them out and they dry them after, when they dry 'em then they'll keep.

(They dry them in the sun? How long does it take for them to get good and dry?)