

(Did you speak English?)

Huh-uh, no not a word of English. (Laughter)

(They said that they was that way in all them schools, you know, They couldn't learn English very well, you know, quick.)

See our people didn't talk English like we do nowadays, see? My father and mother, course, my mother didn't, all she knew was French and Ponca. That's all she knew. And my father, oh, he went to school, but they don't talk English like we do. They talk Ponca all the way through.

(Yeah)

And then one month, last March, I believe, it was, I believe that's when it was. Them folks come here wanting me to translate the Ponca language, uh, the English language to Ponca certain scripture of the Bible cause they give me a script, see? To what they wanted to learn about to talk on, and I had to tell it in Ponca all the way through, no English word in it. Now, we used to talk, you know, among ourselves. I don't know. Maybe your people are that way too. We mix it up in English and Indian, you know. We talk part English and some part Indian, just that way. And I'm used to that, and I kinda hard time, you know. I told that lady, "Ya'll can give me about two weeks." I said, "I'm gonna practice. I'm gonna work on it." "Well, I got, I got so I can talk. Well, I had to pray and work for about two weeks, and finally I understand just how it was. We didn't know how, we didn't know a word of English, you know, when we went down there. They told me Ponca School. Well, that's all I knew. I knew that, I didn't know what it meant, but that's what they told me, you know. I guess, that's, they said I was going. That's all I knew, but we didn't know how to talk English. And I don't know how we got along. I couldn't say. But, anyway, we had a teacher there we called