

PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION ON ARAPAHO FOODS OF HER GIRLHOOD DAYS

--wild potatoes and wild onions, --

(What did they do for flour?)

Well, they had flour. Cornmeal, corn. They used to have these coffee grinders, you know. They used to grind it.

(Did people grind it themselves or did you used to take it to the mill?)

No, they grind it themselves. They used to grind it. I used to help my grandma. I used to like to turn that coffee grinder.

(Did it make it fine like cornmeal that we buy?)

Yeah. They used to set it. They used to wind it up where it would make it fine.

(Why don't you just tell whatever you'd like to about the kind of Indian foods you used to eat when you were young, and how they used to fix them.)

Oh, we used to eat funny things. We used to live over here by Cantonment, where that old brick building it--that stone building there--south of there.

That's where I was raised. I been living here all my life. And my grandmother, she used to go out and gather this soapweed. When it blooms, that white stuff (the blossoms), they used to boil it and make gravy out of it.

I've ate that. And then--I don't know--they used to call them potatoes.

Along the creek these old women would go around. They used to call them

"willow potatoes." They used to--at the root--they get them out and it was

just like they were on a string. They used to eat them. Boil them. And

then these wild grapes, they used to get them and dry them. They used to

mash them up--just mash them and put corn meal or flour on there, and then

make cakes out of them. They used to dry them. Wintertime they used to

make gravy out of them. And plums the same way. They used to dry them,

too. And my uncle used to make a big hole on the ground. Dig a hole there.