

ptomaine poisoning. He had opened a can of meat, I think it was meat. I guess the poor old man he didn't take it out. He just left it in there, and he ate it again.

(What was his name?)

Melvin Hoover. He was an old man.

TOWAKONIE JIM, SOME WHITES IN EARLY DAY, AND OTHER REMINISCENCES

(What were the white people doing out here then?)

I don't know. I remember when I was a little girl, he went to... he used to be our chief...Towakanie Jim...Chief Towakanie Jim... and he went there...that old man went to school in olden days. I guess they must have been among the white people, some time. Long years ago, he was an old man, but he sure did speak good English. Towakanie Jim. They used to...white people...oh, just admire him when they heard him talk. He never did wear pants. He always wear leggings, and then he always...in summer time...he had an old sheet he wrapped around, tied at his waist. He never did wear any pants. And he'd wear a shirt, a coat and a hat. And they used to tell him he was half-breed. And that's where this Melvin Hoover...he got started, and he wind up down here at the old church...Rock Springs church. He had a missionary house there. And we had a missionary from out east. Why he had to live in there, by the church. And this old man used to live in there. And that's when he got sick. We buried him at our cemetery. Every memorial day, somebody always takes... just one little flower. Graves always covered. We thought a lot of that old man. He was a nice old gentleman, harmless. Never did give any trouble to nobody. Was just a nice old man. (When you were little, were there traders out here?)

I don't remember. Cause I tell these children. Every time the car moves, you want to go. In my days, I had to stay home all the time. I never did know what town looked like. And then you told me about a white man coming. We had a white man used to come...he died here several years ago. He was around yet. I think he was...I don't know whether he was old as Melvin Hoover. I'm trying to think of his name. I can't think of his name right now. Now he used to come around the Wichitas. Every time