

Willie Kirk, Kickapoo

J. Jordan

(Does it mean something?)

Well, I heard that means something, but I don't know, myself. Some of my old grandpa, he give me that name. So he knew what that means, but me, I don't know. All I know is, it's my Indian name.

(Did your father's father give it to you?)

No, that's my mother's father. But my father's father is Potawatomie. So my father's kinda about half Potawatomie. I don't know about me--maybe a quarter, I guess..

WHY OKLAHOMA KICKAPOOS WENT TO MEXICO

(Why did your father leave Oklahoma and go to Sonora?)

Well, the way I learned, the kids around here, the white people tried to get young boys like that and put 'em out to school. Any my old people, he don't believe in that, see. He don't know nothing about that. So he don't want to be sending kids way up to school, you know. So just like that he run away from here so not to be go to school. That's what I learned, now I don't know. I guess that's why we left. Lot of Indians.

(Did your father's parents go down there too?)

Yeah. Both sides--my mother's and my father's--went. Both my grandmas. But my grandpa--my father's father--the Potawatomie--he died before that.

(What did your father do down in Mexico?)

Oh, he didn't do nothing. Just hunting, that's all. Well, he'd worked a little bit, planting some corn, or wheat, but most the time hunting. Kill deer and bear, and something like that.

(Did he have any way to earn money?)

Well, sometime he earned money when he sold a hide. But he gets money from here. He's got an allotment around here. That's what he gets money from. He rented it and they send it over there, pay him the rent, you know. They send it over