

With our school, at our Indian schools in Phoenix. It showed all the way long the Indians were, that had this particular talent, capacity. They were always out in front. No matter what we used. So, we felt they are so endowed that our greatest quest perhaps was what we were going to do about it. So we sought then to find ways to develop. If they have this thing by natural course, well my prime reason would be then let's develop it. So this I think was evident even at an early age, the youngster had a creative capacity. But this went on I suppose til I was eighteen years old. I left that reservation setting, and went out to work on my own, from time I was thirteen til I was eighteen. I started high school when I was 18 years old and I skipped the ninth grade, the only--

SCHOOLS ATTENDED:

(Where did you go to high school?)

To Haskell, Institute in Lawrence, Kansas. And there for the first time I had the first taste of anything in the realm of formal art. We had some charcoal figure study, but the teacher was a student of Tony Sard, the great marionette, puppeteer. So our instructor got involved in the Indian students creating these marionettes. And puppets, but we did learn a lot of sculpture technique which was still figure study in a sense, we did create these things out of wood, carving, and plastic, wood, molding but we made, girls got involved making costumes, and we depicted Indian legends with these marionettes. But that lasted through my high school years, and I took an extra year of vocational work, painting and interior decoration. Which the authorities felt would help me, in color sense, etc. But as with most Indian schools at that time was stressed was the vocational, very little opportunity to develop your artistic abilities.

(Is the native ability that you've been talking about in the schools such as Haskell like you were saying, did they recognize at that time they have to have arts, and crafts, and some vocational work, of some sort, rather than just the artistic development view point?)

Yes, I think the stress literally was vocational and I think at the time the only facilities they had was another Indian school in Sante Fe. Where they had started the