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MABEL KIRK, KICKAPOO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

INTERVIEW DATE: MARCH 6, 1967

TRANSCRIBED BY: LINDA BUTLER

TRANSCRIPTION CHECKED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

GENERAL SUBJECT: LIFE HISTORY MATERIALS AND KICKAPOO WAY OF LIFE IN OKLAHOMA
IN TWENTIETH CENTURY: INFORMATION ON FARMING, WORK EXPERIENCES, AND
KICKAPOO FAMILY LIFE

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION

LIFE HISTORY: CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY LIFE

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO INDIANS

MIGRATING TO MEXICO AND MOVING BACK TO OKLAHOMA

LAND SWINDLES

SUBSISTENCE IN EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

CHILDHOOD: PLAY

CATCHING AND EATING FISH

TOBACCO AS MEDICINE

DRESS AND FACE PAINT FOR MEN

KICKAPOO HOUSES

DIVISION OF LABOR IN MABEL'S FAMILY

GETTING CAT-TAILS FOR MATS

LIVING ROUTINES IN MABEL'S CHILDHOOD

FOODS EATEN

TRADING HANDICRAFTS FOR FOOD

HUNTING: ANIMALS KILLED

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

RELATIONS WITH WHITES THEN AND NOW

INDIAN DANCES AND POW-WOWS

SQUAW HOPS

SCHOOLING OF MABEL'S CHILDREN

WORKING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

CARING FOR OLD MAN IN RETURN FOR BEING MADE HIS HEIR

COMMUTING TO WORK IN OKLAHOMA CITY FROM McCLOUD

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Mabel Kirk (nee Mabel Fry) was born in 1900 in a Kickapoo village near Shawnee and has lived most of her life in the Shawnee-McCloud area. She attended Shawnee Mission boarding school and speaks English fairly well. She and her husband, Willie Kirk, both speak Kickapoo fluently, and Kickapoo is spoken in the home. Mabel and Willie have been raised in traditional Kickapoo ways. Mabel has belonged to the Quaker church and to the Baptist church. Both participate in Native American Church activities in recent years. They maintain a traditional Kickapoo winter house, and maintain social and trading ties with a number of Mexican Kickapoos.

NOTE: This interview took place in the living room of Mabel Kirk's house near McCloud, Oklahoma. Her husband, Willie, was present in the room and participated a little in the interview.