

INDIAN POTATOES (Apios tuberosa)

(Tell me about those wild potatoes.)

Well, they just--you know--it's something like this sweet potatoes that you plant--vines. Long vines. But this, it's next to the creek. You know where Charlie High's home is? (1 mile west of Ft. Cobb) You know, there's a creek back there, west. Right there, there always be lot of it. I been trying to get over there and get some. You know, there's a vine grows in the grass, I mean the dirt--it grows in the dirt and then you go ahead and you just get this--see this part--take it like that, and there always be all different sizes on there. You get (dirt) off but don't wash it. Then when you get lot of it, you get it out in the sun and let it dry. All that dirt come off. Then you put it in a pot. Put a little grease in there. All that dirt will washed away. And that thing tastes like a potato! It tastes better than them, though.

(Did you used to get that and eat it?)

Um-hum. We used to get 'em. You know, when we was just kids we used to run around--me and Susie's mother--and the other one--and we go ahead and we go--we know just where to go. We gather 'em. Then when we get it out, why, we didn't care though--we just eat it like that! We stick it in the water and wash it and take the peelings off and we eat it. Cause we don't go home to eat--we just eat anything! Maize (?), dry meat what we--

(Oh. Well, what do you call the name of that Indian potato?)

ada. * o.deh . And there's a sweet potato, too. Same thing--it grows like that potato I'm telling you. It's got vines, too. But these sweet potatoes are never like this--they're long and oh, they're sweet! Yeah, I just wish lots of times that somebody could just--you know that time when I was all right? (before she broke her hip) I told Dr. Bittle, "Well next time--" Well, "next time" don't come!