

asked what grade I was in I told them the fourth grade. I was in the fourth grade for one year and when I started back to Chilocco the second year I had passed to the fifth grade. I was in the fifth grade for only three days. They passed me to the sixth grade. From this grade I was entitled to join an organization so I joined the Minehaha Club. At one of our monthly meetings I was to debate against two others. There were two of us and we won our debate of the dish rag and mop. I also joined the YWCA. In my fourth year I was vice-president. Being a cripple at an early age I was assigned to the sewing room. I was unable to work at the other places and in this I got to be boss of the mending room where I taught the girls their first stitches, darning and patching the clothing of the whole school of boys and girls. And when World War I was fought we in the sewing room had to knit, sleeveless sweaters, socks, wristlets, gloves and helmets. We carried our work everywhere, to school, to work, and in our spare time.

The school was run under military rules. We had officers--captains, 1st and 2nd lieutenants, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd sergeants. We marched to school, work and to Leupp Hall. In this military rule of school I became 1st sergeant. So my schooling ended in April of 1918 in the eighth grade at the age of 17.

I had to write this because of this work that has been given me. I will do my best. I guess I will start with my vowels of a, e, i, o, u, of the English language that I have to borrow. The Ponca language as I know it today is mixed with the slang of children of today and the last generation older than me and those of us that are here today are trying to salvage the remnants of our language. It saddens me because of the Department of Interior is sending men and women all over our nation to take everything that was Indian from us. What is there to tell about? I question myself, my children and their children. Someday I hope they will be able to say a sentence of Ponca words. Friday October 24, 1969.

One word in the Ponca language sometimes has two meanings. Also the way the men talk is different from the women. Some words have a clearing of the throat sound so I will try to mark these in my own way. This mark will be used in the throat clearing sound )-( for the letters. - QKG.