

EXPERIENCES WITH INDIANS:

MY experiences in teaching has been from 1916 to 1967. 21 years of it in Seminole County, Oklahoma. The last eighteen years--18 1/2 years, Carnegie, Oklahoma--in the middle of the Kiowa Indian area. Our student Indian proportions about 36 and I find the Kiowa Indian is very intelligent. And capable of doing good academic work. But, because of his primitive background and social life he is inclined to become native in the years, about the sophomore or junior year, but there are few exceptions which make the work well worth while. And those exceptions are the exceptional students who continue their work regardless of their background and handicaps and generally make good in whatever field they take part, especially the athletic field in education and the athletic fields in various sports. But, on the -- the Indian is not responsive to oral recitation. He hesitates to express himself in the presence of teacher and white students. And he dislikes to intergrate with them. If you'll permit me, they'll sit in the corner, as far back in the room as possible, but if you give them written assignment, we find that they do exceptionally well, even compared to the white areas, white people students. They, Kiowa Indian is of large physical Indian and most of them are exceptionally well, even athletic material for in both boys and girls sports fields and it's in these fields we've been able to reach them and get more constructive work than the academic fields. However, that doesn't mean that they can not do the academic work, because of their background and their handicaps of their race.

Don't think then that their social background is a drawing back to them. I do. I think the--we are encouraging that somewhat and encouraging the Indian to retain much of his social customs and religion and in the form of pow-wows and other celebrations--costume and so forth and it makes it more difficult for him to pick up the white man's way of living and we encourage him in his war dancing, not that it is well worth their retaining but, it's a hindrance to the Indian himself. In our experience with him on the basketball floor and