

(What does it look like?)

It looks like ordinary unjointed grass. It grows about that tall (about one foot tall).

(Can that sweetgrass be gathered any time of the year?)

Yeah. It's a perennial. Oh, it'll die down in the fall and winter, but it comes back up.

(Do they gather it while it's green?)

Green, yeah. Somewhere along about August is when it matures. Full strength and height when it matures. I know one Indian during the pow-wow, or Indian dance up there, had been out gathering it, and we were all eating dinner in the arbor. He stopped by and had a bunch of grass. He said, "Jess, come here." I went out there and he said, "Here." About that much of that grass.

(Could you get it in the winter time?)

It depends on the winter--see, there's very heavy freezes up there and it's way below zero. I doubt whether it survives. But it'll come right back up in the spring.

(You said the old folks said it grew here--was that your parents?)

My parents. My father and mother and my uncle. In fact, this uncle of mine visited a place out here--his boy owns that place --there's one or two creeks and right along one of those places where they used to go they always get it. But that creek don't run any more. They probably got a pond above it or something like that. But that creek don't run like it used to. It used to be a clear running creek. In fact there used to be little fish in there, but you don't see that no more.

(Where is that from here?)