

(This is Bill Savage with Mrs. E.F. Kelley. The date is June 16, 1967. And Mrs. Kelley is going to talk some more about Indian use of herbs grasses and this sort of thing.)

INDIANS USE OF HERBS AND GRASSES:

He cut this prairie grass and they, you know, made baskets. And how they wove that inside, oh, they did out a little hole, I guess you'd call it a dugout, you know. And they weave that in there in such a way and mat it real good that this food they'd put in there, would stay dry. And it would stay clean. Now there's a lot of people right today, think of Indian people as having been dirty. Well, not all of 'em are dirty. There's just as many white dirty people, you know. But anyway, food would stay not only dry but clean. Now, they'd take these berries, course they had already had already had these acorns that they'd gathered, they'd take you know, in the Fall and they roasted those in the hull and hulled them out. And they kept them that way till they got ready for those blackberries and they crushed those blackberries cause I guess they didn't have no way of cooking 'em, you know. But anyway, they made this into a patty, so big, maybe like a hamburger patty, only much thicker. And when they got 'em so they'd hold their shape, then they lay them out on a clean rock in the sun and dry 'em. When they'd dry hard, well, they would place 'em in these little dugouts. Now they didn't call them dugouts. They have a name for 'em, I can't say it. Something like Cash, you know. You probably could find that word you want. Then they put 'em there. And some of 'em they made these baskets out of willows, some out of grass and you, Johnson grass with long stems. They would use that sometimes, and weave a basket