

Mabel Kirk
3-1-67

everything. That's where I learned everything.

(Did you stay there at night, too?)

Yeah, we stay there nights. We get to come home--See, we lived here, back in the woods here when we were kids. So we come home once in a while, just week ends. We liked it. Of course we didn't stay too long. Some was raised there at that school till they finished, and then they go off to another school.

(Did you have sisters or brothers going to school too?)

Yeah, I had one little brother, and my sister over here, Mattie. She didn't stay very long. When I left my little brother was there. He didn't stay very long after I left.

(Above conversation of a preliminary nature to get informant used to taping and test volume of machine, etc. Interview resumes concerning Mabel's school days. Mabel begins telling story about what happened to her when she first went to school.)

I used a dirty word, Indian. The girls tells me to say it. They tell me, "If your teacher tells you anything, tell her 'shit.'" So I tell my teacher that every time. 'Shit' means--that means you're dirty, when you pee, you know. So she get a soap and rag and wash my mouth every day. Teacher kept wanting to know, "Well, who told you to say that?" You know I don't talk English. So they ask me and they made me tell. I finally told. So they got her and punished her for it. And they tell me, "Don't ever say that any more." So I never did say it any more. That's what I did when I first got to school.

(Did it take you very long to learn English?)

Oh no, it didn't take very long. But I stayed way down in the first grade long time. I just went far as third grade.

(Did the teachers know any Kickapoo?)

Oh yeah, there's lots of Kickapoo there. Lots of Indians there. Nothing but Indians.