

Mabel Kirk
3-1-67

long strip of land there and we all have about that much garden. Onions. There'd be one big long row there. We plant two rows apiece. Then we'd plant lettuce and radishes--everything--beans and peas. So that made a big garden. Whole bunch of us. During the school hour they take us down there. So, the last day of school they checked the garden. See who got the best garden. I got the first prize. All the Kickapoos got the first prize and some of the matrons didn't like it.

(Why not?)

I don't know. 'Cause all the Kickapoos got it. They wanted some other-- see, there's lots of different tribe there. So they wanted some other ones. I got prize to go to the state fair and I didn't go. And another boy named Ernest Stevens, he got second prize. He got ten dollars. I didn't get nothing for my first prize. 'Cause I didn't go back to school that year. See, that fall I could have went to State Fair. That was 1916. Ted Reid, he got third prize. He got two and a half.

(Was he Kickapoo?)

Um-hum. They were Kickapoos, Kickapoo boys.

(Why do the Kickapoos have the best gardens?)

I don't know why. I guess they worked in 'em more. Maybe they had to learn how to work more. Maybe they had to learn how to work gardens, maybe.

(Didn't the Kickapoos make gardens anyway, at their homes?)

Yeah, they make gardens.

(What about things you didn't like at school. Was there anything you didn't like?)

Well, in school, I didn't like my arithmetic. I didn't like to do that 'cause I just couldn't. Last year we went to school we had this community house. I really liked it. I'm just now learning how to do my arithmetic. I was catching on. I said, "Well, you never get too old to learn!" So we was going to have another school this year but they never did have it.