

peyote--once you find indications--you can find lots of it around there.

(Have the Arapahoes used it a long time?)

They're still using it and they've used it a long time.

ROOT USED AS PHYSIC OR PURGATIVE

(Is it just the root that they use?)

Yeah, just the root. There's one root that grows around here-- I haven't been able to find it. It has the color of a carrot. But the root's about that big around, ordinarily. It grows in the ground. That thing--the root--if you've been bound up in digestion, you take and chew that root. It works on you right now. On the other hand, on the top of that root, the whole stem of the weed is gray, like sage. It grows about that tall. It grows in clusters--on this North Canadian river, here. The top has a bunch of little old pods, and the root of those pods, the Indians get, and if you want to experience a staunch physic, right there is where it is! Just opposite from the root. Ain't that wonderful?

(You mean it's the pods that are taken?)

Yeah--where the pods starts--there's a little old thing about that long--in clusters, and it's right in there.

(When is that ready to gather?)

Any time in the summer. It's gray and the stem's about that big, and the root's also about that big. Sometimes they may grow bigger. Then when they mature--when the whole thing matures, well, it's short--just right below the ground--it breaks off and the weeds blows off, and then another spot comes out the next year. One half-breed Indian told me, he said, "Brother, I'm bound up," he said. "If I can find that weed--" "Well," I said, "Where can you get that?" "Well, around here at Coyote's place, over there a little northwest of Calumet." I said, "Let's drive over there. I'd like to see it." And I seen that weed many times. "Here it is," he said. He got down on his knees and took his knife. It was just about right then. "Here it is." And he said, "I'm going to save this top," he said. "It's also a good physic." Those things like that,