

T-255

Informant: Minnie Elkins Smith, Osage

Interviewed by: Katherine Red Corn

Interview date: May 1968

Transcribed by: Cathy Griffin

--from Pawhuska.

(Well, how old were you when you got married?)

Thirteen.

(I guess you didn't get married Indian way?)

No, run off.

SENT TO BOARDING SCHOOL AT AGE OF SIX YEARS - LIFE THERE

(Let's see, you went to the boarding school?)

Yes, so that was one--when we lived in Indian camp. When I got six years old, they put me up there. I never will forget--I went up there and I had a little shawl that I put on when I went up there, and oh, they couldn't take it off for a long time, I'd hold on to it. Finally, two or three days they just took it away from me and put them old uniform on us. And from there I went on.

(Did they make you wear those uniforms or, did you talk in Indian?)

They didn't want us to but some of them did. Some of 'em would. First time we're hauled back it's just like that Navajo they showed. They said that's the way they done us, they didn't want us to talk Indian. I know the girls talk around, slip around and talk. The girls from Honiny and there weren't very many from here, except--they drilled us just like soldiers. They'd get us up at daybreak and drill us and sometimes it would be so cold. And one time when Ed Campbell was up there he had charge of all and he would just drill us too, girls. And so one time he made Dora Strikæ her and I went up there and they said to go up there and help him. So made us a broomstick and he put a nail in it and we'd go around picking up. We had to do chores over there--cooking, and laundry, cleaning up.

(Well, was it a government school?)