

of June, it was. Before that I had come on home to get some buckskin clothes for men and women--moccasins, war bonnets, and a cradle--a beaded cradle. I don't know who's got that cradle--that was the last I saw of it. A Cheyenne woman owned that. It was her cradle. She grew up in it. She kept it. I took that with me. And we rehearsed once or twice that week. Forty-three of us went to Denver, including three of our teachers that help us work out that play. And the manager, and the superintendent--five of 'em. And we put that play--that Hiawatha Play--on at the Auditorium in Denver--Democrat& Auditorium. Course, them days, tourists travelled on trains, you know. There weren't many cars. People from New York, and Wisconsin, and Baltimore, Maryland--and all the East, you know -- Florida. Some of them were vacationing out there. And I got that regular tobacco --Indian pipe tobacco. We'd make that stage smell like Indian, you know. Sitting around and smoking their pipes in the buckskin costumes. I played the part of Gitchee Manitou, the Priest. And Mendawin--the one that wrestled with Hiawatha. (Gee, that's quite a role, there--)

Oh yeah. I've heard--when I played Gitchee Manitou I was dressed all in white. Had my tobacco bag and I even had a bald eagle war bonnet--white. And when another part comes in I play the priest--Father Marquette. I had to 'fix my hair up into a little old cap--you know what they wore. They gave me imitation sideburns here and made my nose red, you know. Came on with a long gown and cross around my neck, here, and come in on a boat, you know. They had the stage fixed like--you come in on a boat. Had wheels, you know, and imitation background. And when Mendawin--I had to wrestle as Hiawatha--I had to. . .as corn. I had green buckskin suit on. And yellow fringes, the color of corn. All those things.

(Did you like being in that play?)

Oh yeah, I enjoyed it. Well, I had a friend at the University of Kansas Museum he was a taxidermist. His name was Bunker. I went up to him and I says, "Say, could you stuff a deer to look like it was just freshly killed? Look like blood was just coming out of his mouth? We're putting on a Hiawatha play and we're going out to Denver.:" "Just give me a couple of days," he says, "and I'll fix it."