

(Were they all Indians that went to it?)

Yeah, Indians. Just Indians.

(Did you have to live there?)

We stayed there. We stayed there all year 'round, All winter long till May.

I guess in May, sometime. They tell us, "No more school! You all just stay around here till your folks come and go home!" They have our clothes ready, what we're gonna take home. And somebody come after their kids, well they take 'em. We don't go school--we just go in the dining room and eat--cook.

(How did you like school? When you first started?)

Well, I liked it. See I didn't have sense enough to know nothing. I liked it.

That eating that got me. See that's how come I like it. At home, when I stay home, I do nothing but swim around, swim, swim. I don't get 'ruff eating I guess, till I went to school.

SCHOOL EXPERIENCES: THANKSGIVING DINNER

(You mean they fed you a lot in school?)

uh-huh. Oh, they have lots to eat. One day, it must be November, this girl told me, she said, "Hey!" she said. "We gonna have big dinner tomorrow!" she said.

I say, "What for?" "Well, there's gonna be big dinner. Gonna be turkey, chicken day," she said. "Do we have to kill chickens?" I said. She said, "No! They're going to, not you!" she said. "You'll find out tomorrow," she said. And then next morning we got up. We eat breakfast. We had oatmeal and stuff like that. I said, "They ain't no chickens," I said. "You just wait!" she said. And right at noon they rang the bell. We all line up. We went in dining room. And there it is on the table--all kinds to eat--chicken, turkey, pork meat, beef meat--all kinds! Potatoes.

(I bet that was good.)

Yeah, that was good. It's first time I seen something good. I stand up. We're all standing up. Wait till-- Our matron was praying. When she got through, well, she tapped that bell. We all sit down. She said, "You all wait." She went 'round.