

T-323

Stella Rivera, Kiowa

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CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS: GOVERNMENT INDIAN HOSPITAL AND INDIAN SCHOOLS

After all, the land that was Fort Sill's on and all that property Lawton owns I'm part owner of it. But all that--you know what was done to that? Our old men like Guy Quoetone. He's one of the oldest men. I went down there....

(Question not clear)

No. I went down there and told him, I said, "Guy, when you go to Washington and speak for our Indian people, you tell them....". He said, "Will you be a witness if it comes to that?" I said, "Yes, I will." I said, "I went to the Indian hospital and because my husband is a non-Indian they won't take my little baby." He went to Washington and he told them my name and he says "Mrs. Rivera will be a witness." Did you know he came back and said, "Mrs. Rivera, anytime you want to, you can go to the Indian hospital." And through old men like him--that the young people don't want and say he's uneducated. Yet he gets more done and he knows what it's all about. And that's what I like about our old people. So this is--we can get in there now and then the Indian boarding schools that the government promised that they'd educate our children--this is one of their promises in the Treaty. They didn't stand up to their promise and they're bringing the Navajo children in by the hundreds! But that reservation right here in our own area, with the tribal money that the government built Indian schools and our children can't get in there. I've got a lot of them (children).

(Bonnie: Where did you go to school?)

I went to Riverside Indian School. It's up in Anadarko--a boarding school. After they talked about that and I don't know who it was that told me Guy had done all that for my children I thanked him. I've got a senior and I've got