

in the primer up until you left about 1918 or 1919.)

Well, lot of our Indian children those days, couldn't speak a word of English. And we went to school, in just one big building. Off-hand I don't know how many classrooms we had. We must have had about four classrooms. I suppose. And we went to school with the colored children. I imagine those colored children were Freedman's children. And lot of them spoke Indian. And then when we couldn't talk English, well we tried to talk in Indian. We'd get caught. Why we'd get demerits for it. But it was good for us. That was encouraging us to learn how to talk English. We tried hard. And I don't think school half as hard at all if we want the education. We had to suffer for it. Like everything else.

(How old were you when you started at Mekasukey?)

I was nine years old.

(That was in 1910.)

Yes.

CHILDREN OF FREEDMEN AND SCHOOLS

(Did you know a Freedman by the name of Primus Dean, who went to Mekasukey?)

Yes I did. I knew his mother, Polly. And Primus--Primus' brother, Dick.

And they had another brother, but I can't think of his name.

(He lives in Wewoka now. And he was telling me about going to Mekasukey until he got "Jim Crowed" out. (laughter) And that must have been about 1912 or '14 when they quit accepting Negroes there at Mekasukey. Do you remember when it was. What grade you were in?)

That, I don't really remember. But I do remember them quitting school, I didn't know for what reason.

(As I recall, it had something to do with the state wouldn't permit--)

yes.