

makes signs. When that teacher's down like that (her back is turned), he talks signs. Everybody look, you know. And first thing she does, she calls roll every day, after we pledge allegiance to the flag, you know. You know, I never did learn that, you know. That's how smart we was! And she calls roll. Stecker never did say, "present". He goes "Yup!" Teacher looks at him a long time. "Yes, ma'am." He gets by with it. He won't say "present". Teacher is sure mean. So she sat down and pull out that drawer. It's about that wide. Pull it out and boy, that snake come out and boy, that teacher run out of that room!

#### ELEVENTH ANECDOTE

And we had a what you call a "superintendent". He's not with the county-- he's with the government and comes in here. We call him Mr. Swink.

I don't know if it's his right name or not, but anyway, we call him Mr. Swink. He's kind of an old man, you know. Them peoples my age, they know him. Boy, he's never got a hair right here (on his head)-- it's just slick! He come in, you know, and look over records. Why someone's not going to school and why someone's got poor grades and all that stuff. All that time Seecker is putting paper wads in his mouth! You know, he chew it. Carrie and them, they know it, you know. We're all in the same grade. Pretty soon they put all the Indian names on the board--this one is absent so many days, and --like that. Boy, that water just run through his mouth! Boy, he throw it! Boy, it just gray--when it hit that blackboard, that thing just bust! (Everyone laughs.) He picks up a book. Look like he's studying, you know.

Boy, he feel guilty. We sat there. We didn't know what to do. Boy, he turned around, Mr. Swink. Oh, he'll whip you--that's how much authority he had. "Who done it? Who done it?" Boy, he just sat there act like he's the head of his class! "Stecker! You know you're going to get punished! I want you to go down there and cut me a dogwood!" He give him a knife--one of them what you call paring knife. He went out.