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5-16-1961

### Interviews with Walter Williams, Ira Leidig, Troy Thomas Dillinger, Troy Clyde Dillinger, Lelanc C. Rumford, Fred Riddle, Virgil Miller, and Cecil Miller

Carol Jean Brown

Bill Hayse

Doris L. Quinzer

Clair Rumford

Agnes Newbridge

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#### Recommended Citation

Brown, Carol Jean; Hayse, Bill; Quinzer, Doris L.; Rumford, Clair; and Newbridge, Agnes, "Interviews with Walter Williams, Ira Leidig, Troy Thomas Dillinger, Troy Clyde Dillinger, Lelanc C. Rumford, Fred Riddle, Virgil Miller, and Cecil Miller" (1961). *Samuel J. Sackett Folklore Collection*. 54.

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Side # 1 - 3 3/4 ips.

Interview with Mr. Walter Williams on May 6, 1961 at Brewster, Kansas.  
Interviewer - Carole Jean Brown.

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- 5- 13 Brewster, Kansas; then and now.
- 18- 33 His first job; breaking buffalo grass.
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- 67- 92 Hunting quail and preserving them.

Interview with Mr. Ira Leidig on May 20, 1961 at Oberlin, Kansas.  
Interviewer - Bill Hayse.

- 94- 97 Introduction.
- 98-101 An explanation of validity of his statements.
- 102-189 Background of the 1878 Indian raid in Decator County.

Interview with Mr. Troy T. Dillinger on April 21, 1961.  
Interviewer - Doris L. Quinzer.

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- 235-239 Introduction of Arlita S. Dillinger on the same day.
- 240-256 Poem: "Widow Sprigin's Daughter."

Interview with Mr. Troy Clyde Dillinger on April 22, 1961.  
Interviewer - Doris L. Quinzer.

- 257-258 Introduction.
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Interview with Troy T. Dillinger on April 23, 1961.  
Interviewer - Doris L. Quinzer.

- 349-352 Introduction.
- 352-372 Hunting coyotes.

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373-376 BLANK

Interview of Leland C. Rumford of Hanston, Kansas on June 21, 1961  
on dual track at 3 3/4 ips.  
Interviewed by Clair Rumford.

377-379 Introduction  
380-402 Song: "Old Joe Finley"

Interview of Fred (name not clear on tape) of Hanston, Kansas  
on July 21, 1961 on dual track at 3 3/4 ips.  
Interviewed by Clair Rumford.

403-406 Introduction  
407-520 Story of Death of Sam Hooper  
521-580 Coming to Kansas of a Boston millionaire's son and his  
mother's meeting of him.  
581-639 Story of the sheep troubles of the above man

Interview of Virgil E. and Cecil A. Miller of Hanston, Kansas  
on July 22, 1961 on dual track at 3 3/4 ips.  
Interviewed by Clair Rumford.

640-646 Introduction  
647-689 Song: "Little Robbie" (Cecil A. Miller)  
690-710 Introduction to Play Party Games  
The following are play party games, with songs and playing instructions.  
711-747 Miller Boy  
748-791 Skip to My Lou beginning

end of side one

SIDE TWO

same informants

000-016 Skip to My Lou finish  
017-028 Old Dan Tucker  
029-038 Topsy Through the Window  
039-060 The Girl I Left Behind Me  
061-081 Buffalo Gals  
082-119 Farmer Boy, or Oats, Beans and Barley Grow  
120-153 Wabash Bottoms

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Interview of Fred Riddle of Great Bend, Kansas in December, 1960  
at 3 3/4 ips.  
Interviewed by Agnes Newbridge.

194-196 Introduction  
197-249 His experiences as a cowboy  
(he is now in his nineties)

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The following is a tape recorded interview with Mr. Ira Leidig of Oberlin, Kansas. This interview is being taped at 3 3/4 inches on single track by Bill Hayes on May the 20th, 1961 at Oberlin, Kansas.

I. Now Mr. Leidig if you'll tell us something about the Indian raids of 1878 why we'd appreciate it.

N. Now all that I say here I want it to be understood it may not be positively authentic because I am getting it entirely from memory not from my printed notes. The Indian raid of 1878 through Decatur County in the area close to Oberlin has a rather unique background and dates back to 18 hundred and 63. To Sand Creek, Colorado, where the Indians were camped in <sup>their</sup> there winter encampment. They had made a treaty with the whites which guaranteed to them the security of peace at least during that winter. That we had people who honestly believed that the only honest Indian was a dead Indian. And so the hunters, trappers, miners, and those that were at Denver at that time came out in the dead of winter. And the Indians thinking they were coming in peace, met them. And when they did meet them they were fired upon a great many of them were killed. And among those that were able to escape were Dull Knife, the Indian chief who led the raid, or the group of Indians which made the raid on the Decatur County. There were others with him that made up part of the group that went through the county. And so the background was laid. Later in the reservations in the Dakota, the Indians had been assured of peace, but gold would have been discovered. Consequently, the whites were infringing again, and the Indians were smart

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enough to see that they were having, going to have trouble with them. Sitting Bull left the reservation and went north. The rest of them came in; made up of leaders such as Dull Knife, Wild Hog, Porcupine, and three or four others whose name I can't think, remember at the moment. But in the meantime, an Indian chief by the name of Broken Dishes, who was in illrepute, came into the Indian agency and offered to trade the Indian's right to the Dakotas for land in the reservation of Oklahoma. He had no right to do it. But the treaty was made, through the Indian agency. The Indians were called in and they, whether they wanted to or not they were forced to give up their equipment, all their supplies with an understanding that if they would move to the Oklahoma reservation they would be given a right of the Indians there, they would be supplied with various medical needs. They would be given their ponies, equipment. But none of that happened. When they got there. And after a short time, the Indians began to become restless. They were sick; they were dying of dysentery; they were dying of measles; they were dying of scarlet fever, all the things that could beset them, they felt them or fell upon them. And so it turned out that the Indians there began calling them squaws, telling them to go back home that they didn't belong there. They weren't welcome. And then in the middle of the summer, they began to get ready to leave. They had a meeting with the Indian agency, at that time it was set to them that they could not return. No way in the world that they would be permitted to return. The Indians then began to become more restless, more determined to go back home and the statement was made by some of the Indians that it was death to stay, it could be no worse to leave, And so in the mid, middle of the night, they left. How they got supplies, no one knows. Immediately the army troops took after them. Weren't very anxious to catch them as evidence will prove. But they

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did follow them, they met with them, a battle was fought, the Indians drove them out and continued northward. And they, inspite of everything that happened the Indians constantly made their way north. As time went on, not only the soldiers were against them, cattlemen, farmers, hunters, trappers, everyone was deceding them at every turn. The Indians stole nothing in the way of food, except green corn, until they had gotten almost to Decatur County, as evidence will show. It was then at Leathermans' Ranch at the very south edge of Decatur County that the first casualty caused by the Indians occured. A couple of boys made their way into Oberlin reporting that the Indians were on the march, that they were close to Oberlin. But no one would pay them any attention because shooting was a very common thing in those days, and figured that, the people figured that these boys had been in a shooting scrape and that the two boys, that one was killed, the other one severly wounded, died later. And so that was on the evening before the raid happened in the area of Oberlin.

I. Do you have those boys names, do you recall?

N. I can't recall those boys names. If I was to go to my records I could, but I can't do it here. On the morning of the raid, many of the early settlers gathered into Oberlin with the intent of getting supplies and going to Buffalo Park to get their families and move them to Oberlin to make permanent homes. While they were in Oberlin that morning the Indians were seen on the hill north of, or south of Oberlin, or rather their scout was seen and they thought that they were surveyors. The Indians thought that Oberlin was fortified for them and they turned west and that's the reason Oberlin was saved. Then as they moved up the creek west, the masacres which we have as a record of their trip through Decatur County is unebited

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by the burials that are in the cemetery at the northeast corner of Oberlin. As these Indians moved up the creek the most devastating massacre occurred at the Lang farm because Langs had lying beside their house a large pile of dried tepee poles that the Indians had used in their summer encampment, while they were here hunting and with all the other things that had piled up against them. They were in a mood to strike and strike hard. And they did, they killed all of the Lang men. They destroyed the property, they even went so far as to flip open a featherbed and throw the feathers into the well, just showing their intent, anger and resentment to the things that they had found there. Several years before between the <sup>for KS?</sup> forts of the north and the south Sappa, a group of Indians that were there hunting for the summer were massacred by a group of buffalo hunters, campers, some soldiers in the group. And all of these things combined made the raid in Decatur County much more severe than it probably would have been because of the fact that the Indians had been, in 1863, Dull Knife had had the experience with the whites, knowing that they would massacre them to a man and a woman and a child if they got to them. And then through the experience that they had, not only through Decatur County, but through Scott County, and then finding what they did at the Lang Ranch, knowing what they did of the massacre that had occurred a few years before, west of Oberlin; all of these things were instrumental in making the raid at Decatur County one of the most brutal, one of the most severe and outstanding of the whole trip across the state and on into Nebraska and finally landing back at the reservation from which they had started.

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I: Hayes, Bill

N: Ira Leidig

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8 min.

Interview with Mr. Walter Williams in  
1961 at Brewster, Ks. tells of people coming  
to town to do shopping - now paved streets + very  
muddy - paved now - Tells of first job,  
in working fields - Working in Oklahoma  
later at Cimarron River bottom - noticing good  
+ clean young man + visiting with him -  
later found out he was the "Oklahoma Kid" -  
Sheriff chased him - he had killed people +  
found him week later + killed him -  
about quail hunting and preserving them -

Tape #	Time	Break between side A and B
RT 398 F666m 1961 no 5 Index (continued)	13 min	Interview with <u>Ira Leidig</u> at Oberlin, Ks - in 1961 - Speaks about Indian Raid in 1863 at Decatur County - at first a peaceful encounter was understood until gold was discovered + whites were encroaching in Oklahoma - number Indians were killed - Indian chief of Broken Dishes made a treaty for land + give up their supplies + none was there for them - many died of sickness - Indians moved on to Oberlin + raid followed by Indians One of the most brutal in the state
continued on tape	4 min	Interview with <u>Mr. Troy T. Dillinger</u> on April 21, 1961. at Brewster, Ks - Tells of dust storm episode with horses + couldn't even see horses + got lost - Recites a poem "Excuse me If I Shed a Tear" followed by <u>Arlita S. Dillinger</u> who too recites a poem "Widow Sprigin's Daughter"
continued on Tape	4 min	Interview with <u>Mr. Troy Clyde Dillinger</u> at Goodland, Ks - Sang 3 songs
continued on tape	2 min	Interview with <u>Troy T. Dillinger</u> at Brewster, Ks - Tells about hunting coyotes with hand made instrument on horse back
continued on tape	2 min	Interview with <u>Leland C. Rummford</u> at Hanston, Ks - Sang a song "Old Joe Tinley"

Tape #

Time

Break between side A and B

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(continued)

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3 min.

Interview with (couldn't hear name) Mrs -  
Sings of song her grandmother (an Irish) sang -  
tells of grandmother given away at 2 weeks old,  
because of trouble in home & was raised by  
different people -

INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY, FORM B

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1. Name <u>Mr. Walter Williams</u>		2. Date: <u>May 6, 1961</u>	
3. Address: <u>Brewster K</u>		4. County: <u>Thomas</u>	
5. Age: <u>86</u>			
6. Place of Birth: <u>Council Bluffs Iowa</u>			
7. Ancestry <u>unknown</u>		9. Education (circle highest) Grade School 1 2 3 4 5 <u>6</u> 7 8 High School 1 2 3 4 College 1 2 3 4	
8. Language spoken: <u>English</u>			
10. Places of residence		Dates:	
<u>Harrison County Iowa</u>		<u>?</u>	
<u>Sidney Iowa</u>		<u>?</u>	
<u>Dingwood Oklahoma</u>		<u>?</u>	
<u>Brewster Kansas</u>		<u>now</u>	
11. Present occupation: <u>odd jobs</u>		12. Former occupations: <u>odd jobs</u>	
13. Father's name: <u>James Williams</u>		17. Mother's name: <u>Mary Young</u>	
14. Father's place of birth: <u>Georgia</u>		18. Mother's place of birth: <u>Missouri</u>	
15. Grandfather's place of birth: <u>unknown</u>		19. Grandfather's place of birth: <u>Illinois</u>	
16. Grandmother's place of birth: <u>unknown</u>		20. Grandmother's place of birth: <u>Illinois</u>	
21. Place and condition of interview:		<u>Living room of Mr. Charles Williams</u>	
22. Remarks: <u>His memory was failing</u>			

Collector's name: Carole Bacon  
Address: Agnew Hall Hays, Kansas

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INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY, FORM B

1. Name <i>Troy Clyde Dillinger</i>		2. Date: <i>4/22/61</i>			
3. Address: <i>Goodland, Kansas</i>		4. County: <i>Sherman</i>		5. Age: <i>80</i>	
6. Place of Birth: <i>Clay County Nebraska</i>					
7. Ancestry <i>German-Dutch</i>			9. Education (circle highest)		
8. Language spoken: <i>English</i>			Grade School 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
			High School 1 2 3 4		
			College 1 2 3 4		
10. Places of residence					
<i>Clay County Nebraska</i>			Dates: <i>1882-1886</i>		
<i>Sherman County Kansas</i>			<i>1886-Present</i>		

11. Present occupation: <i>Retired</i>		12. Former occupations: <i>Farmer</i>	
13. Father's name: <i>Daniel W. Dillinger</i>		17. Mother's name: <i>Minnie J. Fixsen</i>	
14. Father's place of birth: <i>Iowa (Close to Burlington)</i>		18. Mother's place of birth: <i>McCannellsburg, Penn.</i>	
15. Grandfather's place of birth: <i>Pennsylvania</i>		19. Grandfather's place of birth: <i>Germany</i>	
16. Grandmother's place of birth: <i>Pennsylvania</i>		20. Grandmother's place of birth: <i>Canada</i>	
21. Place and condition of interview: <i>Home of Informant - visit</i>			

22. Remarks: *She informant is the collector's grandfather*

Collector's name: <i>Doris Quenzen</i>
Address: <i>Utica, Kansas</i>



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INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY, FORM B

1. Name <i>Mrs Leland Rumpford</i>		2. Date: <i>Summer 1961</i>	
3. Address: <i>Hanston, Kansas</i>		4. County <i>Hodgeman</i>	5. Age: <i>50 1/2</i>
6. Place of Birth: <i>Barton County</i>			
7. Ancestry <i>Scotch - Irish</i>		9. Education (circle highest) Grade School 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 High School 1 2 3 4 <input checked="" type="radio"/> College 1 2 3 4	
8. Language spoken: <i>English</i>			
10. Places of residence <i>Barton County</i> <i>Hodgeman County</i>		Dates: <i>1904 - 1906</i> <i>1906 - 1961</i>	
11. Present occupation <i>Housewife</i>		12. Former occupations: _____	
13. Father's name: <i>Leonard Avey</i>		17. Mother's name: <i>Grace Avey</i>	
14. Father's place of birth: <i>Illinois</i>		18. Mother's place of birth: <i>Iowa</i>	
15. Grandfather's place of birth: <i>Ireland</i>		19. Grandfather's place of birth: <i>Unknown</i>	
16. Grandmother's place of birth: <i>Unknown</i>		20. Grandmother's place of birth: <i>Iowa</i>	
21. Place and condition of interview: <i>Family kitchen at Hanston, Kansas</i>			
22. Remarks: <i>Superstitions, remedies &amp; sayings</i>			

Collector's name: *Clair Rumpford*  
Address: *Manter, Kansas*



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INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY, FORM B

1. Name *Cecil A. Miller* 2. Date: *Summer 1961*

3. Address: *Hanston, Kansas* 4. County *Hodgeman* 5. Age: *40 1/2*

6. Place of Birth: *Hodgeman County*

7. Ancestry *Scotch-Irish* 9. Education (circle highest)  
Grade School 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
High School 1 2 3 4  
College 1 2 3 4

8. Language spoken: *English*

10. Places of residence *Hodgeman County* Dates: *1917-1961*

11. Present occupation: *Farmer* 12. Former occupations: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Father's name: *Allen Miller* 17. Mother's name: *Lois Miller*

14. Father's place of birth: *Butler Co.* 18. Mother's place of birth: *Hodgeman Co.*

15. Grandfather's place of birth: *Ireland* 19. Grandfather's place of birth: *Missouri*

16. Grandmother's place of birth: *Ireland* 20. Grandmother's place of birth: *Missouri*

21. Place and condition of interview: *Family living room at Hanston, Kansas*

22. Remarks: *Sayings*

Collector's name: *Clair Rufford*  
Address: *Manter, Kansas*

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INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY, FORM B

1. Name *Virgil E. Miller* 2. Date: *July 22, 1961*

3. Address: *Hunter, Kansas* 4. County *Hodgeman* 5. Age: *40's*

6. Place of Birth: *Hodgeman County*

7. Ancestry *Scotch-Irish* 9. Education (circle highest)  
Grade School 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
High School 1 2 3 4  
College 1 2 3 4

8. Language spoken: *English*

10. Places of residence *Hodgeman County* Dates: *1913-1961*

11. Present occupation: *Farmer* 12. Former occupations:

13. Father's name: *Allen Miller* 17. Mother's name: *Lois Miller*

14. Father's place of birth: *Butler Co.* 18. Mother's place of birth: *Hodgeman Co.*

15. Grandfather's place of birth: *Ireland* 19. Grandfather's place of birth: *Missouri*

16. Grandmother's place of birth: *Ireland* 20. Grandmother's place of birth: *Missouri*

21. Place and condition of interview: *Family living room at Hunter, Kansas*

22. Remarks: *Sayings*

Collector's name: *Clair Pumphrey*  
Address: *Hunter, Kansas*

Song or Story Information, Form C

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1. Informant's name: <i>Leland C. Rumpf</i>	2. Date <i>Summer 21 1961</i>
3. Informant's name of song or story: <i>Old Joe Finley</i>	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story:	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? <i>Father</i>	
7. Approximate date of learning: <i>1910</i>	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No. <u>X</u> (Where and when)	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate): <i>None</i>	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant: <i>The song was sung to the informant by his father and brothers.</i>	
12. Remarks <i>A novelty song about a farmer, his wife, and their pig.</i>	
Collector's name: <i>Clair Rumpf</i> Address <i>Manter, Kansas</i>	

## Song or Story Information, Form C

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1. Informant's name: <i>Cecil A. Miller</i>	2. Date <i>Summer 1961</i>
3. Informant's name of song or story: <i>Little Robbie</i>	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story:	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? <i>Father</i>	
7. Approximate date of learning: <i>1920</i>	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No. <u>X</u> (Where and when)	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate): <i>None</i>	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant: <i>The song was sung to him by his father. The informant said that he thought that he had also sung it in grade school.</i>	
12. Remarks <i>A novelty song about a little boy who comes back from his grave to frighten an old woman.</i>	
Collector's name: <i>Clair Rufford</i>	
Address <i>Montez, Kansas</i>	



Poem Song or Story Information, Form C

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1. Informant's name: <i>Arleta Fae Dillinger</i>	2. Date <i>4/21/61</i>		
3. Informant's name of song or story: <i>Widow Sprigin's Daughter</i>	4. Record or tape Number		
5. Standard name of song or story: <i>SAME</i>			
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? <i>From father</i>			
7. Approximate date of learning: <i>1957</i>			
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No. <u>X</u> (Where and when)			
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No _____ Describe:			
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):			
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant:			
12. Remarks			
<table border="1"><tr><td>Collector's name: <i>Doris Quenzer</i></td></tr><tr><td>Address <i>Utica, Kansas</i></td></tr></table>		Collector's name: <i>Doris Quenzer</i>	Address <i>Utica, Kansas</i>
Collector's name: <i>Doris Quenzer</i>			
Address <i>Utica, Kansas</i>			

Poem Song or Story Information, Form C

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1. Informant's name: <i>Troy Thompson Dillinger</i>	2. Date <i>4/21/61</i>
3. Informant's name of song or story: <i>Excuse Me If I Shed a Tear</i>	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story:	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? <i>From his father, T.C. Dillinger,</i>	
7. Approximate date of learning: <i>1925 - 1930</i>	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>4</i> (Where and when)	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant:	
12. Remarks	

Collector's name: *Doris Quenzer*  
Address *Utica, Kansas*

Song or Story Information, Form C

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1. Informant's name: <i>Troy Clyde Dillinger</i>	2. Date <i>4/22/61</i>		
3. Informant's name of song or story: <i>"The Matinee"</i>	4. Record or tape Number		
5. Standard name of song or story:			
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? <i>From mother as a beginner-age youngster</i>			
7. Approximate date of learning: <i>1890</i>			
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No. <u><i>X</i></u> (Where and when)			
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No <u><i>X</i></u> Describe:			
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):			
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant:			
12. Remarks			
<table border="1"><tr><td>Collector's name: <i>Doris Quenzer</i></td></tr><tr><td>Address <i>Utica, Kansas</i></td></tr></table>		Collector's name: <i>Doris Quenzer</i>	Address <i>Utica, Kansas</i>
Collector's name: <i>Doris Quenzer</i>			
Address <i>Utica, Kansas</i>			



Song or Story Information, Form C

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1. Informant's name: <i>Troy Clyde Dillinger</i>	2. Date <i>4/2/61</i> <del>3/2/61</del>
3. Informant's name of <u>song</u> or story: <i>Old Farmer or Farmer's Daughter</i>	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story:	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? <i>From his mother</i>	
7. Approximate date of learning: <i>1890 (As long as he can remember)</i>	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No. <u>X</u> (Where and when)	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant: <i>Mother used to sing it and he would ask for the song about the little chickens in the garden.</i>	
12. Remarks	

Collector's name:  
*Doris Quenzer*  
Address  
*Utica, Kansas*

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No. 5

1. Informant's name: <i>Troy Clyde Dillinger</i>	2. Date <i>4/2/61</i>
3. Informant's name of song or story: <i>Katie Lee and Willie Gray</i>	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story: <i>SAME</i>	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? <i>From his girl while courting, who later became his wife</i>	
7. Approximate date of learning: <i>1900</i>	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No. <u>X</u> (Where and when)	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No _____ Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant: <i>His Girl used to sing it, but she wouldn't sing the last 4 verse until after they were married.</i>	
12. Remarks	
Collector's name: <i>Doris Quenzer</i> Address <i>Utica, Kansas</i>	