In Geary most of the Indians live in town. At Canton they mostly live in the country. Many of them have no refrigerators, no way to keep milk fresh, etc. Indian kids lack fresh milk. It's hard to get to town and get it, and then there's no refrigerator to put it in at home. So what's the point in getting it? So they have lots of teeth problems. The milk that these kids get in schools is very important. It may be all they get.

The infant mortality rate, for Indians, is comparable to that of whites--for about the first thirty days of life. That's because the mothers go to the Indian hospital to have their babies, and the babies are well taken care of and checked and watched. After that, after the mothers take the babies home, the mortality greatly increases--because there may be no refrigeration, lack of sanitation, and so forth.

Alcoholism is the biggest problem of the Indians here, in my opinion. The worst thing they ever did was open all these beer joints to Indians and make it easy for the Indians to drink. I would say that more than two-thirds of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes in the county drink, and most of these are alcoholics. Indians cannot drink without becoming alcoholics. I contend that the Indian does not have the right to drink like a white man because he can't carry his liquor. A white man can drink a little and quit. And Indian can't--he goes all the way. No doubt there's a reason why they drink this way, but that's the way it is (Jess Rowlodge agrees). I think the veterans are the ones that are responsible for making drinking such a problem today. When the Indian boys were in the armed forces, naturally they felt they had as much right to go into the canteen and get served a drink as anyone else. They demanded their right to be served, and they got it. And when they came home they kept on drinking, and they've influenced a lot of others to start. The Indian doesn't really have a choice between drinking and not drinking, because if he drinks, he can't carry it. Most Indians have inferiority complexes when they get grown. Some people think they're born with it, but it's being beat down all their lives that causes it.

That's another thing--everytime an Indian is about to get on his feet and make a go of things, someone kicks him down. If you and the people in Norman wanted to seewhat the Indian situation is like, you should come out and go around with me and see what some of these people live like. I helped Laura Thunderbull get electircity in her house through REA. Now REA is a federal organization, and you wouldn't think they'd discriminate against anyone. But they required her to pay the minimum bill for five years in advance. That come to $210.00. The total bill for five years could be more than that, if she added appliances that used electricity, etc., but that was a five years deposit from her, the minimum. They don't require five years deposit from whites or Negroes--just Indians. And the wire they used leading up to her house was used wire, and even had the insulation gone from it in spots. And from the pole to her house they also used old wire with insulation missing in places. I put up the $210.00 for her. I have been paid back now.

I've seen this happen. An Indian needs money, and he goes to the bank and borrows $100.00 They count out nine ten-dollar bills--ninety dollars. At the end of two weeks he pays back one hundred. Figure what interest that amounts to on a yearly basis.