T-672
ETHEL WHEELER, WICHITA
INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN
AND WILLIAM E. BITTLE
TRANSCRIBED BY: WILLIAM E. BITTLE
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 7-12-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: PRESENT DAY CONDITIONS AND PROBLEMS IN INDIAN COMMUNITIES

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

INDIAN HOUSING PROBLEMS AND PROGRAMS
UNIVERSITY INDIAN EDUCATION CENTERS AND TRIBAL DIVISIVENESS
DISCUSSION OF WHEELER'S CHILDREN AND THEIR INCOMES AND PROBLEMS
PROBLEMS OF ALCOHOLISM AND LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
USE OF LIFE INSURANCE MONEY FOR BURIAL, AND RED TAPE IN GETTING V.A. MONEY
DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND LACK OF HELP FOR INDIANS
FEAR OF LOSING LAND IF INDIANS TERMINATED, AND DISCUSSION OF INDIAN HOSPITAL
CROPS AND RENTS FROM LAND
MORE DISCUSSION OF INDIAN HOSPITAL AND DOCTORS
INDIAN RADIO PROGRAM
PROBLEMS OF MARKETING INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS; LOW PRICES PAID BY LOCAL STORES

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Ethel Wheeler was born in 1900. She and her husband, Joseph, live on Ethel's allotment some five miles west of Fort Cobb and one and one-half miles north of the state highway 9. Both are relatively traditional in their outlook, and both are active participants in Wichita affairs. Ethel's brother, Louis Sadoka, is currently chairman of the Wichita Tribal Council. The house in which they live was built in the early twenties and is a typical rural Indian home, in poor repair, but neatly furnished and well-kept. Although there are several out-buildings close to the house, none but the latrine are in use. Ethel maintains a small garden (about an acre) south of the house, in which she grows corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, and Indian pumpkins. Both are extremely affable and responsive and both are interested in talking with interviewers. They are not at all secretive about Wichita culture and affairs, and deal freely with almost any subject which is raised. Ethel's husband, Joe, is a diabetic and double amputee.

NOTE: This interview was made jointly by Julia A. Jordan and William E. Bittle for the purpose of sounding out grass roots Indian attitudes toward current conditions and problems in western Oklahoma Indian communities. This tape is the conclusion of the interview begun on T-671. Ethel's husband, Joe, participates a little in this interview.--J. Jordan.