

all around. They turn it. Then they shuck it and cut it off the cob. They roast it on the fire first, and then they could put it in the sun. In the early days, they had buffalo hide bags. In my younger days, they used flour sacks. They used big sacks, they stowed it in a cool dry place. Still in kernels. Some people used to roast wagon loads of corn, would really make a lot of dry corn. Some few people did that much corn.

(Where was the corn stored after it was sacked?)

Well, in cellars. They keep the food there, the corn and pumpkins and beans. They store it there, and then close it over with dirt. They had something to hold the dirt from going in. The same for sweet potatoes. They didn't store those together, all separate. The potatoes weren't in bags. (For corn) they made the hole, and then lined it with grass. The hole would be four or five feet around, maybe five feet deep. It would hold a lot of grain.

(How did they keep the holes dry?)

Well, they don't go in there very deep, they don't hit water. They build a fire inside before they use it, and that dries it out. They line it with grass, prairie grass. Nothing more. Whenever they wanted some food, they uncovered it, and they would get what they wanted.

(Where were these "cellars" usually dug?)

Well, outside the house. They know where to dig. When they are going to leave the village, they've got to store their food. They can't carry it all. Later, when they come back, they can get it. They keep plenty of food in the grass houses, too. About 1867, after the Civil War, they had villages right over here, southwest of here. All along the Washita River. Clear up to the hill, on the east. It wasn't too big, that village. Just scattered here and there until they got up to the hill, then there was a big village. Then there was another one north of here, about three or four miles north, in that same year. (Informant then dragged out a mass of papers and booklets, primarily dating from the period of the Wichita claims. He has combed these, and gotten much of his information from them.)