

FARMING IN THE OLD DAYS:

(How did the Wichita farm in the old days?)

Well, they raised what the people call squaw corn, but it's maize. Squash, beans, pumpkin, sweet potatoes. Watermelon and a...that's the general items that they raise.

(Who did the farming in the old days?)

Well, I would say that perhaps the woman did the greatest work, but the men did help. Because they have to have some kind of help. They raised large acreages I mean, they farmed..I mean they worked quite a strip of land. They had to.

(Could you tell me something about the steps in planting in the old days?)

Well, I think they used this crude make, or primitive make of hoe, I imagine that was the only thing they have. Just a hoe. They get out there. They won't break the soil like the present day farmer does. They get out there and if they want to plant they start making a hole and plant the seed. Then as they went along, they..I guess they would gather up all the dead grass and weed. But outside they would just dig the hole and start planting. And before the weeds get ahead too far, the young weeds, they would just go ahead and clean it out. That's a hard way to garden.

(Did they just plant one crop in a field, or did they mix several crops in the same field?)

Well, yes, they have..they partition the crops, like they have corn here and beans here just like that. It be on one piece of land.

(And then you said after you began going to school, you changed farming methods?)

Yes, well, I guess they began to do..learn to use a horse and implements. Well, you take before my time, I would say they begin to learn to do things. Some of them older generation went to school at Carlyle. I know there's a Winner Wachusi he was out there and he said he learned to..they taught him how to work out there. How to plow. Then some of them went to Hampton Institute, some in Lawrence, Kansas. They learned to do by doing it, in the Government schools.