

said Mr. McCook, I understand that you said that nobody has the preference, only the fellow..I mean this fellow has the preference. Then my father asked the superintendent would you prefer a man that's willing to help you at all times. This other man, he's my leasee, but he doesn't give me any kind of assistance, only when he pays my money. But between times, this man, this hired hand, he helps me all the time. He said, of the two which would you have? This man that helps me. Did you say that this man have preference. He said no. So he called him, he got the buzzer and this man came up. He say you go down there and make the lease for this man here..for the hired man. That was transpiring in those days. The boys said there was a regulation, there was a rule. We learn them. So is the Bureau. They began to realize they had the respect to us just like..now, we just don't call for anything that's beyond reason, as far as I can remember now. But altogether they trying their best, they not entirely satisfactory ever time, but they trying. One thing they have improved on..on this leasing. Now you take a good piece of land that's worth about thirty, thirty five thousand. Well, the lease they pays on it is by way up maybe sixteen hundred dollars per annum. That's 1600. But back there in days gone by, they were way down. Just about like I said, this preference man, well he get the lease almost for nothing. But now, they have a staff of appraisers over there land lease appraisers, I think it's really nice. It is helping our people in that respect.

(How much land has gotten away from the Wichita? Have a lot of them sold their land?)

Yes, ah..you take a..let's put it like this, back there, it was during the Woodrow Wilson administration, you know they issue a certificate of competency. Well, I would say ten twelve applied for that. On every one of them sold their land. And well, after I would say 1940, much land had been sold. Fractionated land, that's what ..it's very complicated Mr. Bittle, because well we have a place up here that's inherited land. My wife's grandfather owned the place and her grandfather married my grandmother. So well we came in through my mother. I was about twenty