

T-670

BERTHA PROVOST, WICHITA

INTERVIEWED BY: WILLIAM E. BITTLE

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 7-10-68

GENERAL SUBJECT WICHITA HORTICULTURE: PLANTING, VARIETIES OF
CORN, PREPARATION OF CORN, ETC.

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

WICHITA HORTICULTURE: WHEN TO PLANT, VARIETIES OF CORN
RAISED, ETC.

INDIAN BALL GAME OF SHINNY

SHOULDER-BLADE HOE AND POUNDERS FOR CORN

PLANTING CEREMONY

BEANS PLANTED

PUMPKIN

INTRUSIVE GRASSES

PLANTING AND CARE OF CORN, AND HARVESTING

PREPARATION OF CORN FOR STORAGE, COOKING CORN, ETC.

HOMINY

MORE ON FOOD DISHES MADE WITH CORN

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Bertha Provost is in her early sixties. She knows a great deal about traditional Wichita horticulture and food preparation. She is fairly well educated and has lived in the Western Oklahoma area near Anadarko most of her life. She is active in the Baptist mission work.

WICHITA HORTICULTURE: WHEN TO PLANT, VARIETIES OF CORN
RAISED, ETC.

(I'd like to ask you a couple of questions today about the old days, and the ways that the Wichita grew corn and beans and various things. You told me a little bit about the kind of land that the Wichita used?)

Well, you know my grandparents used to always talk about. . . that's why I said to this day, oh, I could just beat myself that I never listened. As close as I should. I know it meant a lot. Like evening star, I couldn't tell you. And no one knows it, no one hasn't found it out yet. And I used to hear my grandpa, standing outside, winter nights when the stars was pretty bright, you could see pretty near every star. There's so and so star, there's so and so star, there's the other one over there. Now if I had thought this would ever have come about, I would have gone out, said, grandpa, what is that star over there. And he would have told me. I know a little, not much of that.