

(What kind of land did the Wichita use in the old days?)

You know, Wichitas travelled...now you take in these Wichita mountains, and up in Kansas, most of the time, and some in Texas. Well, they always look for a place where the dark-looking, kind of a sandy soil, and they always plant there...mostly corn, pumpkins, beans. I have never found those beans yet. Maybe they're all gone now. They look something like pinto beans. They speckled on one end, and the other side they...two kinds. They all white like. I remember when grandma used to say this is so and so beans.

(What time of the year did the Wichita plant?)

Well, I don't quite remember. But it was always early part of the spring.

(Well, did they look for any kind of a sign before they planted?)

If I could just think. What kind of sign....Now I don't know what it is, it's been so long I've forgotten, but I remember my grandma used to say when these old native elems...these Chinese elems are new to us....Well, it says whenever the elem trees begin to kind of show signs of buds...them little round things... they'd say it was getting toward planting time. And something else, it seems to me...if I could think.

(Were there any birds that you especially waited for?)

The only birds they used to go by, is the cranes, when they start going over. It seems to me like something else. There is a sign for a mockingbird, but it's way later. And I can't quite get what....The only thing that I could remember...I don't know about the planting part and this and that. My grandmother was blind, but oh I tell you, she was smart. She'd listen to the birds, you know. She knew what it was. One day, she said, go see what that bird is. I think that bird's on the ground now. It's a mockingbird. I went out, and sure enough. She said, sign of that mockingbird, when it comes on the ground, it's half starved. Because if its on the tree, it sings and sings, and sings. All kinds of a birds it's a mocking. Say, never think about eating. When it comes on the ground, it's just skin and bone. And she used to say that mockingbird too. She just listen, see if it'll ever mock. Never mock. Dove, never mocked.