

T-675

BERTHA PROVOST, WICHITA

INTERVIEWED BY: WILLIAM E. BITTLE

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 7-18-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: WICHITA FOODS; LIVING ROUTINES IN EARLY DAYS

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

HAND GAME

USE OF ACORNS AS FOOD

MORNING STAR AND EVENING STAR

PECANS AND CORN DISH

MEAT (BEEF): BUTCHERING, DRYING, ETC.

COOKING MEAT

WICHITA SELLING THEIR PRODUCE TO OTHER TRIBES

MORE ON PREPARATION OF MEAT

UTENSILS USED

MAKING ARROWS

WICHITA HOUSES AND HOUSEHOLDS

PLURAL MARRIAGE

ALLOTMENT

RELATIONS WITH CADDO AND OTHER TRIBES AND MEXICANS

TOWAKONIE JIM, SOME WHITES IN EARLY DAYS, AND OTHER

REMINISCENCES

ANNUITIES, STORES, AND RATIONS

FISHING; RELUCTANCE TO EAT PORK

NAME OF MORNING AND EVENING STARS

WICHITA DIVISIONS AND DIALECTS

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Bertha Provost is in her early sixties. She knows a great deal about traditional Wichita horticulture and food preparation and other subjects. 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 among the Wichitas.

HAND GAME

You, would tie. And then we do it again. Supposing you didn't find mine, I didn't have it in that hand. You hide yours, and I find yours, well, it's yours...no, it's mine. I take it.

(Speaking of the handgame)

(Are these people on the same team guessing each other?)

These two. One that starts off. Those two. Well, if I found yours, well I have to take it, and I give it to my side. We have certain sides. That's where the game starts, right there. Two of them. Oh, it's fun though. Have you ever played.

(Discussion about camp-out during previous summer.) (Can you play