

T-682

JOE WHEELER, WICHITA

INTERVIEWED BY: WILLIAM BITTLE

INTERVIEW DATE: JUNE 26, 1968

TRANSCRIBED BY: MARJORIE MURDOCK

TRANSCRIPTION CHECKED BY: NONA KERR

GENERAL SUBJECT: WICHITA AND PAWNEE TRIBES EXCHANGE VISITS -  
CEREMONIES - USE OF TOBACCO, DANCES AND SONGS

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

WICHITA JOKE FOR WANTING CORN,  
WICHITA TRIBE AND PAWNEE TRIBE EXCHANGE VISITS  
FAITH IN GOD - PRAYERS - FEASTS  
GIVEAWAY AFTER FEASTS  
PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE  
TOBACCO - PREPARATION AND USE IN CEREMONY  
DUTIES OF THE TWO MEN WHO ARE SELECTED TO HELP  
VISITS ARE ALTERNATED EACH YEAR  
MORE ABOUT PROCEDURE IN USING THE TOBACCO  
MORE ABOUT TOBACCO - MIXING FOR USE  
SELECTION OF DATES FOR VISITS  
MORE ABOUT TOBACCO USED IN CEREMONY  
THE DAY FOR GIVEAWAY - THINGS GIVEN AWAY  
THE DRUM - MANY SONGS  
DANCES IDENTIFIED - SEVERAL  
MUCH ABOUT GOURD DANCE -  
TURKEY DANCE - WORSHIP - MANY SONGS  
DRUM DANCE - MORE SONGS - DANCES  
FIRE DANCE - WORSHIP

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Joseph Wheeler was born in 1902. He and his wife Ethel, live on Ethel's allotment, some five miles west of Fort Cobb and one and one half miles north of State Highway 9. Both are relatively traditional in their outlook, and both are active participants in Wichita affairs. Ethel's brother, Louis Sadoka, is currently chairman of the Wichita Tribal Council. Joseph Wheeler has had acute diabetes for many years, and as a result has lost both legs by amputation and is confined to a wheelchair. He is quite deaf (again the result of diabetes) and has some difficulty in seeing. He is extremely affable and responsive, and is interested in talking with interviewer. He is not at all secretive about Wichita culture and affairs, and deal freely with almost any subject which is raised.