

T-682

JOE WHEELER, WICHITA

WICHITA JOKE FOR WANTING CORN

---I ask my wife, I told her, "You ask me here (Wichita Indian word)."

That's a corn.

(Yeah.)

"Well," she says. I told her, "Well, I just forgot." They always say, "When you hear a red bird, spring, you know--when the spring is here, you hear a red bird." Then, I don't know. We don't have any here. We're out in the open.

(Yeah.)

But I thought about it afterwards.

(Yeah.)

I asked her, you know, I asked her--you know, she knows this life here.

I don't know too much.

(Yeah.)

Well, the reason why I asked her--I told her--I didn't know. I didn't know, but I just couldn't think of it.

(Yeah.)

Yeah, when the red bird first makes his sound, well, that's the reason why they use this word among our tribe.

(Mmm-hmm.)

'Cause I went to--I went to my cousins. They live east of there--east of (not clear) about--she's deceased, you know, a long time. I went over there one time. Some--and my cousin, you know, I ask her, "I want some corn." That's the way the Wichita is. It's just kind of a joke. Then, in a way, I guess, it's a--it's really means it--means it, you know.

(Yeah, yeah.)