

T-684

JOSEPH WHEELER, WICHITA

INTERVIEWED BY: WILLIAM BITTLE

INTERVIEW DATE: JULY 22, 1968

TRANSCRIBED BY: MARJORIE MURDOCK

TRANSCRIPTION CHECKED BY: MARY HOMER WINKA

GENERAL SUBJECT: ORIGIN OF WICHITA NAMES; WICHITA GAMES; WOMEN'S
GAMES; DANCES.

TOPICS DISCUSSED

DISCUSSES "INDIAN DOINGS"

ORIGINATION OF WICHITA NAME

SIMILARITY BETWEEN PAWNEE AND WICHITA LANGUAGES

INDIAN GAMES

WOMEN STICK GAME

MOCCASIN GAME

ARROW THROWING GAME

GHOST DANCE

PEYOTE MEETING - AMERICAN NATIVE CHURCH

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. The house in which they live was built in the early twenties and is a typical rural Indian home, in poor repair, but neatly furnished and well-kept. Although there are several buildings close to the house, none but the latrine are in use. Ethel maintains a small garden (about an acre) south of the house in which she grows corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans and Indian pumpkin. 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. Both are extremely affable and responsive, and both are interested in talking with interviewers. They are not at all secretive about Wichita culture and affairs, and deal freely with almost any subject which is raised.