

T-28

JOSEPH WHEELER, WICHITA
INTERVIEWED BY: WILLIAM BITTLE
INTERVIEW DATE: JUNE 24, 1960
TRANSCRIBED BY: WILLIAM BITTLE

GENERAL SUBJECT: BRIEF LIFE HISTOR: DATA; RAIN CEREMONY; CUM OLS;
CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC AND LAND PROBLEMS;
ALLOTMENTS; WICHITAS IN KANSAS

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

RAIN CEREMONY
CONTEMPORARY AND ECONOMIC AND LAND PROBLEMS
WICHITAS IN KANSAS

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Joseph Wheeler was born in 1904. He and his wife Ethel, live on Ethel's allotment, some five miles west of Fort Scott and one and one half miles north of State Highway 4. Both are relatively traditional in their outlook, and both are active participants in Wichita affairs. Ethel's brother, Louis Saluka, 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 neat, furnished and well-kept. Although there are several out-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, potatoes, cucumbers, beans and Indian pumpkin. Joseph Wheeler has had a late interest for many years, and as a result has lost the use of his right leg and is confined to a wheelchair. He is quite deaf again the result of mumps and has some difficulty in hearing. Both are extremely amiable and responsive, and both are interested in talking with interviewers. They are not at all secretive about Wichita culture and affairs, and have freely with almost any subject which is raised.