

T-421

MARY RED EAGLE, QUAPAW

INTERVIEWED BY: PEGGY DYCUS

INTERVIEW DATE: MAY 18, 1969

TRANSCRIBED BY: LISA GARDENHIRE

GENERAL SUBJECT: LIFE HISTORY, MATERIALS; QUAPAW BURIAL CEREMONY

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

EARLY DAYS BEFORE GOING AWAY TO SCHOOL
SCHOOL DAYS AT HASKELL INSTITUTE AND SISTERS OF
LORETTA ACADEMY
STORY OF HOUSE BUILT WITH OPENING FOR THE CAT
MUSICAL TRAINING AND NOTED PEOPLE IN HER LIFE
CEREMONY FROM DEATH THROUGH BURIAL
FASTING, CLOTHING, PERSONAL ITEMS, USE OF TOBACCO
AND DINNER PREPARED
MORE ABOUT TOBACCO
DESCRIBES QUAPAW DRESS AND BEADS
USE OF FEATHERS
MUCH MORE ABOUT BURIAL CEREMONY
BODY MARKINGS
SPECIAL TABLE FOR MOURNERS
GRAVESIDE CEREMONY
BODY POSITION OF DECEASED
DECEASED MUST WEAR MOCCASINS
PRAYERS: WHO, WHEN, HOW AND WHY
USE OF CEDAR AT TIME OF DEATH
HEAD OF COFFIN MUST BE FACING EAST
REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY AFTER ONE YEAR
THE PERSON WHO IS ASSIGNED TO HANDLE ALL DETAILS

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Mary Red Eagle was born on Spring River in northeastern Oklahoma. She lived with an aunt until she was sent to Seneca Indian school at Wyandotte and then Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas. Her aunt died while she was attending Haskell, and she then went to the Sisters of Loretta Academy in Kansas City. She studied music and was a student at the Kansas City Conservatory of Music where she met Madame Schuman-Heinke and Lily Pons. Mrs. Red Eagle has traveled extensively and has sung before many audiences. She came back to Miami, Oklahoma to make her home and has lived here for several years. She was born around 1891. Mary was married to Wa-Go-She, an Osage and inherited his headright when he died. Her first husband was Leroy Red Eagle. Her father was a medicine man (Big Jim Lane).