

T-628

CHEYENNE ARAPAHO GOURD DANCERS  
VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION  
RECORDED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN  
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DATE OF CELEBRATION: 11-11-70

GENERAL SUBJECT: VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION AT WATONGA COMMUNITY HALL  
SPONSORED BY THE CHEYENNE-ARAPAHO GOURD DANCERS

PARTICULAR TOPICS INCLUDED:

NAMES OF MANY PARTICIPANTS

SPEECHES AND TALKS OF ANNOUNCERS

SPECIALS AND GIVEAWAYS

JOKES AND COMMENTS BY ANNOUNCERS, ESPECIALLY CLINTON YOUNGBEAR (ARAPAHO)

COMMENTS ON COSTUME AND JOKING BEHAVIOR BY JESS ROWLDGE

NOTE: T-628 and T-629-1 were recorded at the Veterans Day celebration held at the Watonga Community Building, November 11, 1970, sponsored by the Cheyenne-Arapaho Gourd Dancers organization. Officers at this time of the organization were: Guy Hicks, Cheyenne from Watonga, Chairman; Walter Roe Hamilton, Cheyenne from Geary, Treasurer; Arthur Madbull, Cheyenne from Seiling, Vice-Chairman; Clarence Stoneroad, Cheyenne from Clinton, Secretary.

Veterans Day is an important day for the Indian groups of western Oklahoma. Most Indian dance organizations and service clubs either sponsor or participate in some day-long celebration in their area. Programs are usually going on at Tia-peh Park near Fort Sill, at Carnegie, at Indian City in Anadarko, at Colony, at Watonga, and perhaps some other places. Groups such as the various Gourd Clan organizations, the Kiowa-Apache Blackfeet groups, and the service clubs are invited to participate. Programs usually include at least one public meal--at noon or in the break between the afternoon and evening programs--sometimes two. The whole day is devoted to honoring veterans and service men and women through the singing of patriotic songs memorial songs, war dance songs, victory and round dance songs and other special numbers. Service men present are honored publicly through special songs, dances, and giveaways on their behalf. Men who died in the service may be honored by their families through a memorial special song, and giveaway. Even persons who are deceased but who had a service record may be remembered publicly on this day.

This particular celebration was one of several going on in western Oklahoma on this day and the participants here were mostly Cheyennes and Arapahoes, with a few visiting Indians from Montana and Wyoming. Almost no Kiowas were present, probably being committed to Veterans Day celebrations further south. The singers were practically all Cheyennes, and included Alfritch Heapofbirds, Roy Nightwalker, and a Wyoming Arapaho. Other singers were unknown to me at this time and their names not recorded. The main announcer was Clinton Youngbear, Arapaho, a favorite of this particular group, and other announcers helping out were Roy Nightwalker, Cheyenne, and David Fanman, Cheyenne.