T-658
MYRTLE LINCOLN, ARAPAHO
INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN
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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 9-4-69

GENERAL SUBJECT: ARAPAHO FOODS OF MYRTLE'S GIRLHOOD DAYS, AND WILD PLANT FOODS

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION ON ARAPAHO FOODS OF HER GIRLHOOD DAYS
CORN: VARIETIES RAISED, HOW PREPARED, ETC.
PLANTING: DIGGING STICKS AND SHOULDER BLADE TOOLS
CORN PLOTS AND FENCES
ROASTING CORN IN PIT TO DRY AND STORE
MORE ON COOKING CORN, CORN BREAD, AND CORN MEAL GRAVY
MAKING HOMINY
PARCHED CORN
PUMPKINS AND SQUASH
GOURDS
RAWHIDE RATTLES
BEANS AND BLACK-EYED PEAS
DIVISION OF LABOR: WOMEN IN CHARGE OF GARDENS
DRYING MEAT AND ROASTING COFFEE
STONE SLABS USED IN PULVERIZING SALT
GATHERING SALT AT SALT CREEK
ELM BARK TEA
OTHER WILD PLANT TEAS
BEANS FROM COFFEE BEAN TREES USED AS COFFEE SUBSTITUTE
WILD PLUMS, DRYING AND PREPARATION OF
WALNUTS GATHERED AND MORE ON PLUMS
FLOWERS OF SOAPWEED (YUCCA) EATEN; ROOT USED AS SHAMPOO
MAKING BASKETS
WILD POTATOES
WILD ONIONS
WILD GRAPES
CHOKE CHERRIES
HACKBERRIES AND CHITTAM TREE FRUITS

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT: Myrtle Lincoln was born at Cantonment June 25, 1888. Her father was Bad Man, an Indian policeman, and her mother was Red Feather. Myrtle was an orphan by the age of 13. A grandmother helped raise her, and later an aunt took her, but she stayed at Cantonment boarding school much of the time. Myrtle's marriage to Howard Howling Buffalo or Howard Lincoln was arranged by her uncle, Coal Fire. Myrtle and Howard had seven children, two of whom--daughters--are living today. One son was killed in World War II, and two other sons were killed in local accidents. Myrtle and her husband supported themselves by farming on tribal land and doing farm labor for neighboring white farmers. They moved to a place near Cantonment in 1936, and Myrtle has lived at this place ever since. Myrtle has also worked as a cleaning woman in Canton. She now lives on a very small Social Security allotment and a small income from a land lease. She is well-known to Indians and whites in the Canton area and her status as a Gold Star mother has earned her a great deal of respect. She appears to be in very good health, for her age, and is active and quick and alert.