

T-162

BIRDIE BURNS, CHEYENNE

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 11-21-67

GENERAL SUBJECT:

BIRDIE'S FATHER'S NARRATIVE CONTINUED: CHEYENNE PRISONERS SENT EAST; FOUNDING OF SEGER COLONY; CHEYENNE BANDS; SACRED ARROWS

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

SOLDIERS SELECTING YOUNG CHEYENNES TO BE TAKEN EAST AND HOW BLACK HORSE ESCAPED

PANIC IN THE CAMP AND FLIGHT OF THE PEOPLE FROM FORT RENO

LITTLE BOY WHO WAS ABANDONED AND FOUND AGAIN

CHEYENNE PRISONERS TAKEN EAST (TO FLORIDA) AND THEIR EXPERIENCE

LITTLE CHIEF: A FORMER PRISONER WHO LATER WORKED IN A HOSPITAL

HOW GIRLS MARRIED QUICKLY TO AVOID BEING SENT TO SCHOOL AND HOW YEARS WERE NAMED

CONDITIONS AT TIME SEGER COLONY FOUNDED: WITHDRAWAL OF CATTLEMEN AND PREPARATIONS FOR ALLOTMENT

OUTLAWS HIDING ON THE RESERVATION: JESSE JAMES

CATTLEMEN'S RELATIONS WITH INDIANS AND WIRE THEY LEFT BEHIND

CHEYENNE BANDS; ARROW MEN, RED MOON, CANTONMENT, ETC.

CHEYENNE SACRED ARROWS AND ARROW WORSHIP

SIGNIFICANCE OF PIPE SMOKING IN PREPARATION FOR ARROW WORSHIP

HOW TWO ARROWS CAPTURED BY PAWNEES

ARROW MEN BAND AND THE SOTAH BAND

RULES CONNECTED WITH ARROWS

HOW MAN SPONSORING ARROW WORSHIP PREPARES FOR THE CEREMONY

ARROW RENEWAL

ARROW KEEPER: HIS QUALITIES AND DUTIES

HOW ARROW KEEPER SELECTED AND PRESENT DAY CHIEFSHIP

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Birdie Burns was in her mid-sixties during the time of these interviews. She was born and raised in the Clinton area by traditionally oriented parents, and knows a great many old time stories and much information about the former Cheyenne way of life. Her father was Kias, a sub-chief of band chief, and her mother was Sage Woman. Her father's father was Middle Wolf (Wolf-Going-Through-A-Crowd), and her mother's father was High Backed Wolf, who, among other things, participated in the Battle of Adobe Walls. Birdie was raised in the Mennonite Church but in recent years has joined the Baptist Church. Her father was a peyote man for a time, but gave this religion up when his son, Birdie's brother, died, and became active in the Mennonite movement. Birdie has been married to Ed Burns for many years and they have one son, Edmond Burns, and a daughter. She also has a son by a previous marriage.

NOTE: This is a continuation of an interview begun on T-161. Part of this material relates to events of 1874 and 1875 and the