

MRS. WAKON IRON RECALLS WEDDING CUSTOMS

(I'm going to talk with Mrs. Wakon Iron, who is a fullblood Osage. Mrs. Iron is going to tell us about the old Osage wedding customs and recall the marriage of her older sister when she was a child of 12 or 13.)

I recall the year - that - my sister, my older sister, Mary Red Eagle Big Elk - She married Don Big Elk. In our Indian - we call them Indian wedding, but it was a custom of our people to marry their children in Indian way. That's the way they use to talk. And ah - I was a small girl a young girl, probably 13 years old or so, and she was a year or two older than I when she married. Our people - seem like age didn't make too much difference. The sooner they got married - ah - they liked it better. So it was customary for the groom's people to come and ask for the hand of the girl of their choice. It was never the choice of the couple themselves - ah - the young man in a lot of cases - well - they never knew who they were marrying and they didn't even - ah - even - ah - some - I use to hear them say, they never even saw their bride before their marriage 'till the wedding procedure started. So in this case, they came and asked for my sister and ah - my parents talked to my grandparents, who was living, and they were quite happy about it, and they gave their consent for them to marry. So they come and camped in here, - on this reservation. My parents lived right here, where my husband and I have our home built. They lived here and - ah - the grooms parents, Mrs. Cora Big Elk was his - Don's mothers name, camped up here block from here, on the corner across from the Wakon Iron Hall. And - ah - I remember they brought food three times a day, for number of days, and