

T-156

BIRDIE BURNS, CHEYENNE

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

TRANSCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 11-2-67

GENERAL SUBJECT:

STORYTELLING AND SOME TRADITIONAL STORIES: DOGS AND THEIR USE

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

ED BURNS' BACKGROUND AND THE BENT FAMILY

HOW STORIES WERE TOLD AT NIGHT BY AN OLD LADY

BIRDIE'S GRANDMOTHER'S STORY OF HOW CORN AND BUFFALO WERE GIVEN TO  
THE CHEYENNES

MAN WHO PROPHECIED COMING OF HORSES AND WHITE MEN LONG AGO

DOGS USED TO CARRY BURDENS IN DAYS BEFORE HORSES

HOW DOGS WERE NAMED

A WOMAN WITH VERY THICK, HEAVY HAIR

THE CHEYENNE PROPHET WHO FORSAW WHITE MEN AND GREAT CHANGES

USE OF DOGS TO CARRY BURDENS AND IN HUNTING

WATCHDOGS POISONED AND DOCTORED

HOW A DOG THAT ATE POISONED FOOD WAS DOCTORED

RABBITS HUNTED BY OLD LADY WITH HELP OF DOGS

STALKING BUFFALO ON FOOT DISGUISED AS WOLF OR COYOTE

BIRDS HUNTED AND DOGS TRAINED TO GET WILD TURKEYS

YOUNG DOGS EATEN AND HOW PREPARED AND COOKED

JOHN H. SEGER AND BIRDIE'S FATHER

CHEYENNES GETTING SALT EAST OF WATONGA

BIRDIE'S GRANDMOTHER'S LARGE HERD OF HORSES AND GIVING HORSES AWAY  
TO HONOR A GRANDSON

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 or 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: Birdie's husband, Ed Burns, was present at this interview and participated a few minutes at the beginning of each side of the tape. The transcriptions of the Cheyenne terms given here are only approximate.--J. Jordan.