

T-152

BIRDIE BURNS, CHEYENNE

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 11-30-67

GENERAL SUBJECT:

BOWSTRING CLAN, CHIEFS, AND GRANDMOTHER'S NARRATIVE OF SAND CREEK MASSACRE

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

DANCE OF THE BOWSTRING CLAN
RECRUITING NEW BOWSTRING AND HOOF RATTLER MEMBERS
ALL-NIGHT DANCE
DRUM CEREMONY AT BEGINNING OF DANCE
CEREMONY AT DEDICATION OF A NEW TIPI
BOWSTRING MEMBERS FOUND IN ALL CAMPS
INSTRUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND TALKS BY ELDERS
SELECTION OF CHIEFS, AND CHIEF'S DUTIES
RETIRED CHIEFS
DUTIES OF CHIEFS AND THEIR QUALIFICATIONS
INVITING CLAN MEMBERS TO MEET TOGETHER
EDUCATION OF YOUNG MEN IN A CLAN (SOCIETY)
STORYTELLING
BOWSTRING CLAN AND ARROW KEEPER IN 1920's
ARROW KEEPERS AND THEIR PIPES
BIRDIE'S GRANDMOTHER'S RECOLLECTION OF HER GIRLHOOD TRAINING AND
THE SAND CREEK MASSACRE

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Birdie Burns was born in August of 1902. Agency records give her year of birth as 1901. She was born and raised in the Clinton area. Her parents and grandparents were traditionally oriented and Birdie learned many old-time stories and much information about the former Cheyenne way of life. Her father was Kias, a sub-chief and head of the Bowstring Clan. Her mother was Sage Woman. Her father's father was Wolf-Going-Through-A-Crowd (Middle Wolf), who was one of the four chiefs of the Arrow Tipi. Her mother's father was High Backed Wolf, who, among other things, fought at the Battle of Adobe Walls. Birdie's father, Kias, was a peyote man for some time, but later became active in the Mennonite movement. Birdie was raised in the Mennonite Church but in recent years has joined the Baptist Church. She attended the Colony Indian School for one year but finished her elementary education and attended high school in the public schools of Clinton. She has been married to Ed Burns for many years and they have two children, Roberta Ann Burns and Edmund Burns. Birdie also has a son, Cedric Allrunner, from a previous marriage.

NOTE: This is a continuation of the interview begun on T-171, although, through clerical error, the tapes were not given continuous numbers.