

Side A

T-198

Informant: Mrs. McElhaney, Kiowa

Interviewed by: Boyce Timmons

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Transcribed by: Linda Butler

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(This is Boyce Timmons and this is March the third, isn't it? Today's the Third, and I'm in Geary, Oklahoma in the home of Mrs. McElhaney and I'm going to--we have a little time here to ourselves and I'm going to ask her to tell me a few things about herself and her work in the missions and some of the things that she thinks they might do to change. What effect the mission has had. It's kind of unusual to find an Indian missionary that's had the experience that she has and I want her to relate some of them. Why don't you just tell me your name and your birthdate, Mrs. McElhaney, and your maiden name. I'll just hold this and you won't have to fool with it.)

Well, my name is Mrs. Ioleta Hunt McElhaney--

(Hunt was your maiden name?)

Yes.

(What was your Indian name?)

I didn't have one. You mean the one my grandmother gave me?

(Your parents, uh-huh.)

Don ti yuma, means "walking on the earth." That's, she had a dream that she saw in her vision, someone standing and look back and there were footprints disappearing as far as she could see, and that meant long life on earth and so she wanted to name me that. With a Indian name there's always a story. You have to tell the story if you're going to tell your name.

(To understand the name.)

It really is necessary. I was born in September in what is now near the Wichita Mountains, Saddle Mountain. There use to be a post office