T-308-2 (Second of Two Interviews) & BESSIE DOWNING RUSK, CHEROKEE INTERVIEWED BY: J. W. TYNER INTERVIEW DATE: AUGUST 28, 1968 TRANSCRIBED BY: MONETTE COOMBES PROOFREAD BY: NONA KERR

GENERAL SUBJECT: HARD TIMES ENDURED IN EARLY DAYS; PRESENT LIVING CONDITIONS; INDIAN DOCTORS AND INDIAN MEDICINE

## TOPICS DISCUSSED:

BRIEF INTRODUCTION
OAKS COMMUNITY IN EARLY DAYS - SALINE COURT HOUSE
LIVING ALONE OFF THE HIGHWAY IS GOOD BUT THERE ARE PROBLEMS
INDIAN DOCTORS - NAMES AND USES OF VARIOUS WEEDS AND ROOTS
AND HERBS

YOUNGER INDIANS ACCEPTING WAYS OF WHITE MAN
SHE IS PRETTY GOOD SHOT WITH RIFLE - NEEDS ONE IN WOODS
STRONG BELIEVER IN CHURCHES
EARLY SCHOOLING WAS DIFFICULT AND LIMITED
IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE CHEROKEE LANGUAGE BE RETAINED
AND NOT FORGOTTEN
CHEROKEE INDIANS ARE NOT MEAN - SOME ARE LAZY - TOO MUCH

URINKING 'WATER SUPPLY FOR HOME - WOODBURNING STOVES

## BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Bessie Downing Rusk is 78 years of age. She lives alone in Oaks Community, Delaware County, Oklahoma and has lived there all of her life. Her formal education ended after the fourth grade because of difficulties of getting to school. Her present home is quite removed from modern times. Mrs. Rusk reads and speaks both Cherokee and English.

Note: The other interview on this tape is: Ethel Dawes Newton, Creek