

INFORMANT: MYRTLE LINCOLN, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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INTERVIEW DATE: JUNE 18, 1969

GENERAL SUBJECT: LIFE HISTORY WITH ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON FARMING, INDIAN WEDDINGS, AND ARAPAHO DANCES

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

MYRTLE'S CHILDHOOD AND MARRIAGE
 HOW MYRTLE AND HER HUSBAND LIVED
 LIFE IN OLD DAYS
 JOKING RELATIONSHIPS
 INDIANS HAVE MANY RELATIONS
 SENDING HER CHILDREN TO SCHOOL
 WORKING AT FARM LABOR
 ARAPAHOS FARMING AND MYRTLE'S FARMING EXPERIENCE
 CATTLE OBTAINED THROUGH STOCK REDUCTION PROGRAM
 MYRTLE'S GARDEN
 NAMING CUSTOMS AND HAIR CUTTING CEREMONY
 INTERMARRIAGE WITH CHEYENNES
 ARAPAHO LANGUAGE AND DIRTY WORDS
 ARAPAHO MARRIAGE CUSTOMS
 EXCHANGE OF GIFTS AT INDIAN WEDDINGS
 INDIAN WEDDINGS
 MARRIAGE TO MORE THAN ONE WOMAN AND GOVERNMENT ABOLITION OF PLURAL MARRIAGES
 MYRTLE DISLIKED BY HER SISTER-IN-LAW
 GIRL WHO DIDN'T LIKE HUSBAND SELECTED FOR HER
 MYRTLE'S COUSINS GOOD TO HER HUSBAND
 ARAPAHO SUN DANCE: LAST SUN DANCES IN OKLAHOMA
 GOURD DANCE
 STAR HAWK AND TOMAHAWK LODGES
 OLD TIME WOMEN'S SOCIETY

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Myrtle Lincoln was born at Cantonment in 1888. Her father was Bad Man, an Indian policeman, and her mother was Red Feather. Myrtle was an orphan by the age of 13. A grandmother helped raise her, and later an aunt took her, but she stayed at Cantonment boarding school much of the time. Myrtle's marriage to Howard Howling Buffalo or Howard Lincoln was arranged by her uncle, Coal Fire. Myrtle and Howard had seven children, two of whom--daughters--are living today. One son was killed in World War II, and two other sons were killed in local accidents. Myrtle and her husband supported themselves by farming on tribal land and doing farm labor for neighboring white farmers. They moved to a place near Cantonment in 1936, and Myrtle has lived at this place ever since. Myrtle has also worked as a cleaning woman in Canton. She now lives on a very small Social Security allotment and a small income from a land lease. She is well-known to Indians and whites in the Canton area and her status as a Gold Star mother has earned her a great deal of respect. She appears to be in very good health, for her age, and is active and quick and alert.

Note: This interview took place in shade of trees outside Myrtle's one-room house west of Canton. Her daughter, Imogene Mosqueda, is present and participates in the interview.