

T-588

INFORMANT: MYRTLE LINCOLN, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: OCTOBER 23, 1969

GENERAL SUBJECT: ARAPAHO GOURD DANCE AND TOMAHAWK DANCE; LIFE HISTORY MATERIAL; ARAPAHO STORYTELLING; YOUNG GENERATION TODAY

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION: RECENT INTER-TRIBAL GATHERING AND GOURD DANCE  
ARAPAHO GOURD DANCE (STARHAWK DANCE) AND TOMAHAWK DANCE  
MYRTLE'S CHILDHOOD AND HER UNCLE'S ADVICE AND HER ARRANGED MARRIAGE  
HUSBANDS PUNISHING WIVES  
WHY/WHITE MEN ARE CALLED "SPIDERS"  
WHITE PEOPLE IN EARLY DAYS: TRADING WITH SOLDIERS AT CANTONMENT  
COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CHEYENNES AND ARAPAHOS  
MYRTLES CHILDHOOD AND YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY  
HOW MYRTLE'S SON WAS KILLED BY ANOTHER ARAPAHO: HER HUSBAND'S REACTION  
FAMILIES' BEHAVIOR AFTER A MURDER  
HOW MYRTLE LEARNED ARAPAHO TRADITION  
MYRTLE'S GRANDFATHER, SITTING BULL  
STORY TELLING AND TWO OF SITTING BULL'S STORIES  
MORE ON STORIES  
ARAPAHOS TAKING CAPTIVES  
STORY OF ARAPAHO ORIGIN--THE "LOST TRIBE"  
ARAPAHO NAMES FOR TRIBAL DIVISIONS  
STORY CATEGORIES AND TERMINOLOGY  
"WHITE MAN" STORIES (NIGHT STORIES)  
ORIGIN OF RITUAL THROUGH SEEKING VISION AND FASTING  
CREEK IN CANTON PARK AND RABBIT DANCE

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Myrtle Lincoln was born at Cantonment June 25, 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.