

T-632

MYRTLE LINCOLN, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: DECEMBER 1, 1970

GENERAL SUBJECT: SICKNESS, DOCTORING AND MEDICINES; FACE PAINTING CEREMONY.

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

MYRTLE'S INCOME AND INELIGIBILITY FOR WELFARE
TREATMENT OF FEVER
TREATING SWOLLEN GLANDS WITH PIPES
"WHITE MEDICINE" FOR SWELLING
FACE PAINTING CEREMONY TO END PERIOD OF MOURNING
USE OF SAGE FOR STOMACH TROUBLE
TREATMENT OF ILLNESS BY PRESSING ON BACK
TREATMENT BY SUCKING AND CUTTING
TREATMENT BY TAPPING ARM VEIN AND DRAWING BLOOD
WHY MYRTLE GAVE UP HITTING VEINS
BLOOD LETTING TOOLS
HOW MYRTLE LEARNED TO HIT VEINS
PLEURISY
TOOTHACHE MEDICINE
INDIAN PERFUME
SORE THROAT
EAR PIERCING
MYRTLE'S VA PENSION

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Myrtle Lincoln was born at Cantonment June 25, 1908. 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 Indian 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.