

SERVICE CLUBS STARTED IN WORLD WAR II: MYRTLE'S CLUB AND OTHERS

(When did they start doing this Round Dance to honor the boys--you know, when the service clubs have their blankets, and so forth?)

I'm going to tell you--we were the first ones that organized a club. Over here in Canton. They used to talk about it. They didn't know how they was going to honor the boys. So this Saul Birdshead, He said, "Well, let's elect a woman and have a club, and name it 'Lewis Howling Buffalo' Club." It was my boy. So they elected officers. We had a president and a vice-president and a secretary and a treasurer. And we used to have pie suppers and box suppers and everything like that--bingoes. So when the Cheyennes seen what we done, boy, they elect two clubs in each community! Let's see--that Steve Dawes was the first one to come home. And we had dance--just regular army mothers would dance, you know. And we gave him some money and we had dinner for him, and his folks gave away for him. That's where it all started. And I heard a man over there at Clinton, one time, he said they were the first ones. Here we were the first ones that organized this war mother club.

(Was your boy--was he still living at that time?)

Yeah, he was in the service, and then when he got killed--well, we didn't have--after he got killed we organized it. We named it the 'Lewis Howling Buffalo Club.' That was his name. That's when these Cheyennes started, and boy, there was two or three clubs out there--Clinton about four clubs--

(Had he been overseas very long when he got killed?)

He was over there a year, I think. ✓

(What year was it that he died?)

Oh, gosh--it was just at the end of the war, I think, when he got killed.

But this young one, he was in there--he was overseas for five years.