

T-667

MYRTLE LINCOLN, ARAPAHO

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 1-31-72

GENERAL SUBJECT: ARAPAHO SONGS

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

GHOST DANCE SONGS

WAR SONGS

FORTY-NINE SONGS

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.

NOTE: This is a continuation of the identification and explanation of Arapaho songs put together on T-665. See T-666-2 for fuller details. This identification is continued on T-668.

GHOST DANCE SONGS

(I wonder if you would give me the Arapaho word for Ghost Dance?)
k'w'w'yei.n'w'hw'w'.t That means "Round Dance." That's what they used to call it.

(Song Number 17 played. Ghost Dance Song.)

Now, whoever this is singing said, "While I was dancing, I seen them chasing buffalo. My father told me to come." And you know, they used to eat raw liver. "I went and I ate raw stuff." Now, that's it.

(When he said that, did he just say "something raw" or "raw stuff", or --)