

MYRTLE LINCOLN, ARAPAHO

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GENERAL SUBJECT: WAR SONGS; A DANCE GIVEN TO ARAPAHOS BY GROS VENTRES; SOME OTHER ARAPAHO DANCES

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

WAR SONGS: SONGS SUNG WHEN A BOY IS AWAY AT WAR

SPOON DANCE: A VICTORY ROUND DANCE

SCALP DANCE

WAR DANCE SONGS OR CROW SONGS

MORE ON SCALP AND SPOON DANCES

ROUND DANCE

DANCE GIVEN TO ARAPAHOS BY GROS VENTRES: DESCRIPTION OF DANCE FORM AND PARAPHERNALIA

WAR DANCE, OR CROW DANCE

BUFFALO DANCE AND SNAKE DANCE

MORE ON DANCE BROUGHT BY GROS VENTRES

ARAPAHO NAMES OF SOME WELL-KNOWN ARAPAHOS

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.

WAR SONGS: SONGS SUNG WHEN A BOY IS AWAY AT WAR

(Myrtle sings three or four songs.)

This first one, whoever you got in the service, you sing about him--his name. That's the one. Then this one, you just sing it. Then this one. Then this--the last one, the words are: "It's all right to be off on the warpath a long time. Because it's no good--" (you know, when you go back). "There is a big mountain where you could stay over." That's them words. There was one