

SCALP DANCE SONGS

(Tape opens with Myrtle singing Scalp Dance Songs. First one she sings she calls the "Ocean Song.")

'That's the Ocean Song.

(What do the words of that mean?)

It says, "The ocean is deep but it didn't amount to nothing. I went across."

That's what it means.

(Is that a Scalp Dance song?)

Yeah.

(Who made that song--do you remember?)

I don't know. I just heard it when they was dancing. It's Arapaho.

(That was World War I song?)

Yeah.

(Sings another song.)

(That was real pretty. Was that another Scalp Dance song?)

Yeah. And the words in there says, "German, you was--" just like he didn't believe that the United States could whip them. "You didn't believe your friend, and what for you run away and hide?"

(Did they ever sing those during World War II also?)

Oh, yeah, they use them. World War I is when I first heard them. I used to never hear them. I used to never hear them, but that's when I heard them.

And they use them now.

(Can you think of any others?)

(Pause. She tries to think. Starts one and stops, saying she's already sung it. Hums a little bit, trying to get a tune. Finally sings a song.)

(What kind of song is that?)

The same--Scalp song.