

T-160

BIRDIE BURNS, CHEYENNE

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

INTERVIEW DATE: NOVEMBER 9, 1967

TRANSCRIBED BY: LINDA BUTLER

TRANSCRIPTION CHECKED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

GENERAL SUBJECT: COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE; TIPI MAKING; STORY  
OF RACE BETWEEN BLACK HORSE AND WHITE HORSE

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

HOW GOOD FAMILIES RAISED THEIR DAUGHTERS  
FAVORED DAUGHTER  
COURTSHIP: BOY FRIENDS  
MARRIAGE BY PURCHASE: OBTAINING A WIFE  
CEREMONY BETWEEN MOTHER-IN-LAW AND SON-IN-LAW  
REFUSAL OF MARRIAGE OFFER  
DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS OF A HUSBAND AND A WIFE  
PLURAL MARRIAGE - POLYGAMY  
MARRIAGE BY ELOPEMENT  
MARRIAGE FEAST  
DISPOSITION OF GIFTS AT MARRIAGE GIFT EXCHANGE  
ADOLESCENCE: GOOD GIRLS  
BIRDIE'S FATHER  
SOCIAL DANCES: THE DOUBLE HEADER  
RESIDENCE AFTER MARRIAGE  
TIPIS: MAKING OF  
MENNONITES  
SOCIAL DANCES: THE FORTY-NINE  
STORY ABOUT BOY WHO FOUND SKINNY BLACK HORSE AND FACED IT  
AGAINST WHITE HORSE

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Birdie Burns was in her mid-sixties during the time of these interviews. She was born and raised in the Clinton area, by traditionally oriented parents and knows a great many old time stories and much information about the former Cheyenne way of life. Her father was Kias, a sub-chief or band chief. Her mother was named Sage Woman. Her mother's father (or her mother's father's brother) was High Backed Wolf. Birdie was raised in the Mennonite Church. Her father was a peyotist for a while, but gave this religion up when his son, Birdie's brother, died. Birdie has been married to Ed Burns for many years, and they have one son. She also has a son by a previous marriage. (2-23-72).

NOTE: THIS INTERVIEW Continues on T-161 and T-162.