

T-161

BIRDIE BURNS, CHEYENNE

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

TRANSCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 11-9-67 and
11-21-67

GENERAL SUBJECT:

STORIES, STORYTELLING, AND FATHER'S STORY OF HOW CHEYENNES WERE
BROUGHT TO FORT RENO

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

CONTINUATION OF STORY ABOUT RACE BETWEEN WHITE HORSE AND BLACK HORSE
INDIAN DOCTORS TELLING STORIES TO A YOUNG PATIENT

STORYTELLING FOR ENTERTAINMENT

STORY ABOUT MONSTER COMING OUT OF A BIG LAKE

STORY ABOUT WHITE MAN KILLING PRAIRIE DOGS AND GETTING TRICKED
BY COYOTE

STORY ABOUT BAD SPIRITS BOTHERING A CHEYENNE CAMP

A CHILDREN'S SONG--"OWL SONG"

BIRDIE'S FATHER'S NARRATIVE OF LIFE IN THE OLD DAYS AND TRYING
TO AVOID WHITE SOLDIERS AND HOW THEY WERE FINALLY BROUGHT
TO FORT RENO

DIGRESSION ON BIRDS AND ANIMALS WHICH COULD NOT BE EATEN

FEAR OF OWLS

FATHER'S NARRATIVE RESUMED

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Birdie Burns was in her mid-sixties at the time of these interviews. She was born and raised in the Clinton area, by traditionally oriented parents and know a great many of the 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.

NOTE: Side A of this tape is a continuation of the interview begun on T-160. Side B is the beginning of a new interview on 11-21-67, and this interview is continued on T-162. The events described in Birdie's father's narrative probably took place in 1875 and 1874. --J. Jordan.

CONTINUATION OF STORY ABOUT RACE BETWEEN WHITE HORSE AND BLACK HORSE

This boy on the white horse switched his horse, whether at the neck or back here. Just as soon as he switched his horse, snowflakes