

T-263-2

JAY BLACK, CHEYENNE

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

ASSISTED BY: BIRDIE BURNS, INTERPRETER

ENGLISH PORTION TRANSCRIBED BY: J. A. JORDAN

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 05-28-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: TRADITIONAL CHEYENNE STORY--STORY OF SEVEN BROTHERS AND THEIR SISTER LIVING CLOSE TO A LAKE, AND OF AN UNDERWATER MONSTER, AND OF CHILDREN THAT ATE THEIR MOTHER'S FLESH AND WHO WERE CHASED BY THEIR MOTHER'S HEAD

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jay Black was around ninety years old at the time of this interview. He was somewhat frail and perhaps his memory was not as good as it was. He did have the reputation of being a good story teller and very knowledgeable in the traditional Cheyenne way of life. He was formerly a keeper of the Cheyenne Sacred Arrows, but by this day they had been given into the care of his son-in-law, James Medicine Elk. Jay Black lived just west of Canton, Oklahoma. He died a few months after this interview.

EXPLANATORY NOTE: Jay Black told this story in Cheyenne and Birdie Burns furnished an immediate translation, in her own words, of the gist of the story. However, she feels that he mixed two stories and left out some details. See T-264 for Birdie's version of this story. The text here is a transcription of Birdie's English version of the story Jay was telling in Cheyenne.--J. Jordan.

(First part of tape is Jay Black telling story in Cheyenne.)

Birdie: He was telling a story about their life, about where---

(Tell it the way he told it.)

Birdie: He said there were seven brothers. And these seven brothers used to go out and hunt. And when they came home one evening there was a little boy there--their little brother. And when they came home, they found a woman in there. And this little boy said, "Our sister has found us. She has come to live with us. And we will accept her as our sister, as one of us." These six brothers told this little boy, the seventh boy. So his brothers took his word. They agreed that they accept her as their sister. And every time they bring in some kind of animal like deer, antelope or elk, this