

T-262

BIRDIE BURNS, CHEYENNE

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 05-27-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: CHEYENNE STORIES AND STORYTELLING

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

STORY OF A CHIEF'S DAUGHTER WHO MARRIED A DOG-BOY

STORY ABOUT SEVEN BROTHERS WHO BECAME STARS

WHAT CHEYENNE GRANDPARENTS TAUGHT THEIR GRANDCHILDREN

STORY ABOUT HOWI"SHINIXIV (A BIRD-MAN)

DISCUSSION OF HOW STORIES ARE NAMED

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Birdie Burns was born in August of 1902. Agency records give her year of birth as 1901. She was born and raised in the Clinton area. Her parents and grandparents were traditionally oriented and Birdie learned many oldtime stories and much information about the former Cheyenne way of life. Her father was Kias, a sub-chief and head of the Bowstring Clan. Her mother was Sage Woman. Her father's father was Wolf-Going-through-A-Crowd (Middle Wolf), who was one of the four chiefs of the Arrow Tipi. Her mother's father was High Backed Wolf, who, among other things, fought at the Battle of Adobe Walls. Birdie's father, Kias, was a peyote man for some time, but later became active in the Mennonite movement. Birdie was raised in the Mennonite Church but in recent years has joined the Baptist Church. She attended the Colony Indian school for one year but finished her elementary education and attended high school in the public schools of Clinton. She has been married to Ed Burns for many years and they have two children, Roberta Ann Burns, and Edmund Burns. Birdie also has a son, Cedric Allrunner, from a previous marriage.

(This opening anecdote is a continuation of T-261.)

--and then they said, "Who is that person?" These northern Cheyennes said, "Who is that person?" "It's Wildcat Woman." That's the one whose land my folks lost--east of this hospital. "Wildcat" allotment, they call is down there. And so they beat them northern Cheyennes. There wasn't a thing that the northern Cheyennes did that they could beat--that the Oklahoma Cheyennes couldn't beat.