

T-264

BIRDIE BURNS, CHEYENNE

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 05-28-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: TRANSLATION OF TRADITIONAL CHEYENNE STORIES  
TOLD IN CHEYENNE BY JAY BLACK

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

STORY OF SEVEN BROTHERS AND THEIR SISTER, AN UNDERWATER  
MONSTER, AND OF CHILDREN WHO ATE THEIR MOTHER'S  
FLESH AND WHO WERE CHASED BY THEIR MOTHER'S HEAD  
TRANSLATION OF ANOTHER STORY TOLD BY JAY BLACK: CHILDREN  
CHASED BY A BUFFALO AND WHO BECAME STARS  
ANOTHER VERSION OF THE STORY ABOUT THE CHILDREN WHO WERE  
CHASED BY THEIR MOTHER'S HEAD  
STORY ABOUT A CHEYENNE WOMAN CAPTURED BY AN ENEMY TRIBE  
AND SAVED BY A LEG MUSCLE

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, Robert Ann Burns, and Edmund Burns. Birdie also has a son, Cedric Alirunner, from a previous marriage.

NOTE: This tape was made in the car during the ride back from Canton where Jay Black had told Birdie Burns and I several stories in Cheyenne. (See T-263-2) Here Birdie gives a lengthier translation of the main story Jay told, as well as a somewhat different version of this story. --J. Jordan.