

T-261

BIRDIE BURNS, CHEYENNE

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW; 5-27-68

GENERAL SUBJECT:

SOME TRADITIONAL STORIES; DISCUSSION OF TRADITIONAL WAYS OF
KEEPING TRACK OF YEARS AND INDIVIDUAL AGE, AND HIDE PAINTING

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

ROLE OF CHIEFS IN HONORING SERVICEMEN

TRIBAL COUNCIL ORGANIZED AND AUTHORITY OF CHIEFS TAKEN AWAY

RELATIVES USUALLY VOTE THE SAME WAY IN ELECTIONS

LAND WHERE INDIAN HOSPITAL IS LOCATED

STORY ABOUT CHILD FOUND BY OLD COUPLE, WHO RAISED HIM, AND HIS
POWER TO DO MIRACULOUS THINGS

STORY ABOUT WHITE MAN TAKING HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW ON A WAR JOURNEY
KEEPING TRACK OF YEARS ON HIDE DRESSING TOOL, AND HOW YEARS WERE
NAMED

STORY OF BIRDIE'S FATHER REMEMBERING WHERE BOUNDARY STONES PLACED
MORE ON KEEPING TRACK OF YEARS AND STORY ABOUT MAN WHO FROZE
TO DEATH

HUNTING IN EARLY RESERVATION PERIOD

WAR DANCE AND THUNDER RELIGION

DRAWING AND PAINTING ON HIDES: ROBES, TIPIS, ETC.

CHEYENNE BELIEFS ABOUT SNAKES AND FROGS

MORE ON HIDE PAINTING

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF AN EVENT BY WHICH A YEAR WAS REMEMBERED

CHEYENNE NAME FOR FORT SUPPLY

BIRDIE'S GREAT-GRANDMOTHER HAD HERD OF FIVE HUNDRED HORSES

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 old-time 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.