

T-308-2 (Second of Two Interviews)

BESSIE DOWNING RUSK, CHEROKEE

INTERVIEWED BY: J. W. TYNER

INTERVIEW DATE: AUGUST 28, 1968

TRANSCRIBED BY: MONETTE COOMBES

PROOFREAD BY: NONA KERR

GENERAL SUBJECT: HARD TIMES ENDURED IN EARLY DAYS; PRESENT LIVING CONDITIONS; INDIAN DOCTORS AND INDIAN MEDICINE

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

OAKS COMMUNITY IN EARLY DAYS - SALINE COURT HOUSE

LIVING ALONE OFF THE HIGHWAY IS GOOD BUT THERE ARE PROBLEMS

INDIAN DOCTORS - NAMES AND USES OF VARIOUS WEEDS AND ROOTS  
AND HERBS

YOUNGER INDIANS ACCEPTING WAYS OF WHITE MAN

SHE IS PRETTY GOOD SHOT WITH RIFLE - NEEDS ONE IN WOODS

STRONG BELIEVER IN CHURCHES

EARLY SCHOOLING WAS DIFFICULT AND LIMITED

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE CHEROKEE LANGUAGE BE RETAINED  
AND NOT FORGOTTEN

CHEROKEE INDIANS ARE NOT MEAN - SOME ARE LAZY - TOO MUCH  
DRINKING

WATER SUPPLY FOR HOME - WOODBURNING STOVES

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Bessie Downing Rusk is 78 years of age. She lives alone in Oaks Community, Delaware County, Oklahoma and has lived there all of her life. Her formal education ended after the fourth grade because of difficulties of getting to school. Her present home is quite removed from modern times. Mrs. Rusk reads and speaks both Cherokee and English.

Note: The other interview on this tape is: Ethel Dawes Newton, Creek