

T-340

Informant: Myrtle Unap, Osage

Interviewed by: Katherine Maker

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(Today is November 30, 1968. I am Katherine Maker, full-blood Osage and we are in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Unap of Hominy, Oklahoma. We are talking with Mrs. Unap.)

MRS. UNAP RELATES THE STORY OF HER OWN ENGAGEMENT AND WEDDING IN OSAGE WEDDING CEREMONY

I am Myrtle Morrell Unap, full-blood Osage, fifty years old. I want to relate the story, first about my life and then my experience as a bride, of the Osage Indian traditional ceremony. I was raised in a christian home with a loving mother and father, who taught me the good things in life and we lived in a rambling comfortable home in the country. I was the fourth child of eight children. I have an older sister and I have two older brothers and four younger sisters. In 1934, my mother was still living. In the traditional Osage wedding, the first, you approach my family. That was in 1933 and as I recollect, it was a usual day in the household--my mother was busy around the home and I believe my father was gone at that time and my younger sisters were there and there was the usual day, daily household, going about our ways. And the starting of the wedding, the first procedure in an Osage wedding, is the bridegroom, prospective bridegroom's older members of his family approach the girl's family. They come and talk and ask for this girl, this family. It's between the families, not the boy and girl. And from there, if they are accepted, they return to the other members of the bridegrooms family and they get together. And the next procedure is to bring groceries, and if the girls family eats these groceries and has a dinner and call the girl's family, that means they are accepted. So my family did this. They accepted the boy for me and I had nothing to say about it and neither does the boy. And as the