

INFORMANT: MAGGIE DOWNING, CHEROKEE  
INTERVIEWED BY: FAY DELFH  
INTERVIEW DATE:  
TRANSCRIBED BY LISA GARDENHIRE  
PROOFREAD BY: NONA KERR

SIDE A  
PART I

### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(Today I am interviewing Maggie Downing. Maggie is a full-blood Cherokee lady 58 years old - born in 1911. She lives out in Hulbert, Oklahoma. Maggie has lived here all of her life, in and around Hulbert. And she is going to tell us a little bit about her life growing up out here in Oklahoma, back in those days. After she finishes with what she is going to talk to us a little bit about Cherokee medicine and conjuring. Oh Maggie, I'll just let you start talking now if you like and you can just start right in telling us about everything.)

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

When I was a girl, and I was 14 years old, and my mother - her had the T. B., and there was - was a laying in bed two-years and I was take care of my little brothers. And I washed and I take my kettle down to creek. Then I dry clothes, and after drying I started to 'patchin' for little fellow's clothes, and I start a cookin' an' everything and cleanin' house. And every Saturday I took my furniture outside and start scrubbin' and clean'em up and - Sunday, went on Sunday School. We go every Sunday. I took my little brothers with me. And after my mother died, and I take care of my little brothers and I be with them since - until I was 15 years old. And then, all my brother went to school - Indian school at the Wyandotte school. Then and I got married, and I was 15 years old. And I married a man, Hurley Downing, and he was 25 years old - I was 15 - while I still working. And I'm 58 years old now and my husband is 67.

### FAITH IN GOD - EARTH MEDICINE \* CURES

And then - by earth medicine, and I know quite a few medicine. And I try