

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