



MHA Women's History Month

2019



Dorreen Yellow Bird

Dorreen Yellow Bird, Medicine Rattler Woman, 78, is the third child of Dorothy (Felix) and Grover Yellow Bird. Her father was 20 years older than her mother and Dorreen remembers hearing him speak Sahnish (Arikara) in her home with her grandmother Philomena. Because of hearing the language in the home, Dorreen can remember many Sahnish words when they are spoken to her today. She has gone to 26 sun dance ceremonies and danced fully in 16 of them.

She was taught traditional uses of plants and animals from her grandmother Philomena and Westley Plenty Chief. She is active in many Sahnish ceremonies in the White Shield community.

Dorreen also received her Master's degree in Education in Eugene, Oregon.

Among her many accomplishments: She helped the Siletz Tribe in their battle for federal recognition; was an editorial columnist for the Grand Forks Herald for many years; works for MHA councilman Fred Fox as a public relations specialist and elder liaison; and currently serves on the board of directors for the Fort Berthold Communication Enterprise, White Shield Housing and the MHA Justice Commission