

invited me to come over. My father had died, you know, and they told me to come over--those men that were active. And they prayed for me and prayed for my mother. That's where I got that sense. I love that peyote way. Preachers and missionaries buck it, but no, they don't know. If God intended me to live that way--directed me through that influence--it's not nobody on earth--it's God's plan. God's future hope for me. And I took that and I live by it today. You don't see no scars on me. You don't see no defects on me, for my age I'm solid and my mind is clear and my health is good. I think it is a blessing to me, and I'm thankful. I'm not rich. I got lots of land, about over eleven hundred acres of land in Colorado and Wyoming and California and here, but you don't see--I'm a mason. I'm a shriner. I'm a consistory. I could wear a double-eagle and that knife and that what-you-call-it. But you don't see no jewelry on me--just plain every day Jess Rowledge! Common. Just so I'm clean and got things to eat--simple life. But I helped my kids through school. My grandkids all got good jobs and are going to colleges. I help them with their clothes. Every birthday all of them--I have eleven--every birthday I just give them ten dollars. That's the way I like to live.

(Do you go to peyote meetings very often?)

Once in a while--I can't sit through them good any more. You know how they have to sit. I don't like to sit cross-legged--that's considered an improper way. I got a drumstick here that's over fifty years old. I'll show it to you--it's hand-carved.

(Have you ever conducted meetings yourself?)

No. No. I never conduct meetings.

(Interruption)

JESS'S DRUMSTICKS, AND EAGLE BONE WHISTLE FORMERLY USED IN SUN DANCE AND DOG SOLDIER SOCIETY

This was made for me by a cousin of mine--a Comanche-Arapaho over fifty years ago. It's hardwood. It's rosewood. No, it's not native to this country--it's imported. And then when I grew up my brother made me this--he passed away about seven years ago. This is walnut. He cut the tree down and season it and made me