T-633
ARTHUR SUTTON, ARAPAHO
INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN
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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 11-18-70

GENERAL SUBJECT: MENNONITE AND OTHER CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AMONG THE ARAPAHOES

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

THE MENNONITE CHURCH AMONG THE ARAPAHOES AND CHEYENNES
SOME LIFE HISTORY MATERIAL
RECENT CHANGES IN MENNONITE INDIAN CHURCHES
LIFE HISTORY MATERIAL: EXPERIENCE AT HASKELL INSTITUTE AND CANTONMENT SCHOOL
BAPTIST MOVEMENT
MENNONITE CHURCH AT CANTON
DECLINE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP TODAY
MENNONITE BELIEFS
ARTHUR'S WORK AT INTERPRETER IN MENNONITE SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES AT POW-WOWS
OTHER CHURCH DENOMINATIONS WORKING WITH INDIANS
NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH
INDIANS CAN'T BE MADE INTO WHITE MEN
COLONY CHURCHES; CANTONMENT SCHOOL
ORIGIN OF ARAPAHO TRIBE
MORE LIFE HISTORY INFORMATION

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Arthur Sutton was born July 7, 1907. He was raised in the Canton District by his grandmother, Red Face, and later his aunt, Grass Woman. His father was a white man, and his mother died when he was six months old. He attended Cantonment School. When it closed he attended Concho Boarding School and finished the sixth grade. He attended Haskell Institute at Lawrence, Kansas for three years, leaving there about 1926. As a young man he learned to war dance and did a lot of exhibition dancing at pow-wows and Indian gatherings. His wife, Sally, came from the Geary District and they lived there for a time. They moved back to Canton about 1938 and are still living on an undivided 160-acre allotment three miles south of Canton which he inherited from his grandmother. The Suttons have eleven children, nine girls and two boys. Arthur affiliated with the Mennonite Church one mile north of his present home in the late thirties. He served as interpreter for the pastor to the older Arapahoes in the congregation at that time. He has been active in the Mennonite organization ever since, and assists with preaching and other duties at this same church at present. He is an Arapaho chief, and also works closely with the Barefoot Pow-wow Committee and the Arapaho Starhawk organization. Presently (1972) he is serving on the C & A Tribal Council. He understands and speaks the Arapaho language well.