

T-634

ARTHUR SUTTON, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 12-1-70

GENERAL SUBJECT: ARAPAHO MEN'S SOCIETIES; CHIEF SYSTEM;
TRIBAL GATHERINGS AND POW-WOWS

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

ARAPAHO MEN'S SOCIETIES

REORGANIZATION OF STAR OF STARHAWK SOCIETY TODAY

NAME FOR STAR CLAN AND SPEAR LODGE

HOW POW WOWS IN CANTON AREA GOT STARTED AND WAR DANCING

ARTHUR'S EXPERIENCE WAR DANCING

ARAPAHO TERM FOR "WAR DANCE" (CROW DANCE)

WAR DANCE BUSTLE CEREMONY

OUTSTANDING ARAPAHO SINGERS

ARAPAHO CHIEF SYSTEM

ARAPAHO BANDS OR DISTRICTS

RELATIONS AMONG MEN'S SOCIETIES: "OLDER BROTHERS," ETC.

ARAPAHO TERMS FOR "BROTHER"

HOW CHIEFS DELEGATED TASKS TO SOCIETIES

SELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF CHIEFS

PIPE CEREMONY FOR INSTALLING NEW CHIEFS

GIFT EXCHANGE AND GIVING AWAY TO VISITORS

VISITING OTHER DISTRICTS AND CAMPING

HOW CHIEFS USED TO INVITE OTHER DISTRICTS BY SENDING
HAND GAME STICKS

HOW FRIEND WERE SELECTED AND GIFTS GIVEN

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.