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JESS ROWLIDGE, ARAPAHO

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW 11-2-67

INTERVIEW BY JULIA A. JORDAN

GENERAL SUBJECT: RECENT ARAPAHO CLAIMS SETTLEMENT; ARAPAHO HISTORY; LIFE HISTORY MATERIAL

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

RECENT CLAIM SETTLEMENT, CONTROVERSY OVER MANNER OF PAYMENTS
RECENT CLAIM SETTLEMENT, REASON FOR
LIFE HISTORY MATERIAL
EARLY ARAPAHO HISTORY
ATSINA-ARAPAHO RELATIONS
CHEYENNE-ARAPAHO LANGUAGE SIMILARITIES
EARLY ARAPAHO HISTORY, AFFILIATION WITH CHEYENNES
SHOSHONE-ARAPAHO RELATIONS
JESS' SECOND WIFE (A NORTHERN ARAPAHO): HER FAMILY HISTORY
NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS
JESS' SECOND WIFE: LIFE HISTORY MATERIAL, INCL. HER DEATH AND BURIAL
LIFE HISTORY MATERIAL: EDUCATION AND WORK WITH ANTHROPOLOGISTS
ARAPAHO PEYOTISM

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jess Rowlidge is between 82 and 84 years old and is a well-known and respected leader among the Arapahoes. He is fairly well educated and articulate, and has travelled extensively on tribal business, having visited Washington, D. C. a number of times. He has been active in tribal politics for many years and has helped the Arapahoes in pressing their claims cases against the government. Nevertheless, Jess is well-versed in the traditional culture of his tribe and anxious for at least some parts of it to be preserved. He is one of the two surviving members of the StarHawk Society, one of the old age-graded warrior societies. And has often expressed hope that this organization would be revived in modern times. He is a peyotist, as well as a member of the Baptist Church, and feels that the peyote ceremony has given him some of his greatest personal fulfillment as well as inspiration. Jess is no stranger to the role of teacher-informant in communicating knowledge about Arapaho culture. He has known and worked with such people as A. L. Kroeber, James Mooney, Morris Smith, Sister Inez Hilger, and Fred Eggan. Mr. Rowlidge was born in 1884.

INTERVIEW SITUATION:

Interview took place in front room of Jess's small three-room house in Geary, Oklahoma. I had just become acquainted with Jess at the celebration at Medicine Lodge, Kansas during October of the preceding month, and we started visiting and talking about that. Conversation soon drifted to discussion of the recent claims settlement of \$15,000,000 which the Arapahoes and Cheyennes have won. This money is to compensate them for tribal lands which were purchased at a very low price per acre when the reservation was opened for settlement by whites. The money has not been paid out yet, however.