

symbolism--like the thunderbird--?)

Yeah. In fact in Oklahoma we're known--the Arapahoes are known as the only ones that has this thunderbird symbolism. Now the Hopis have the thunderbird, but ours, the wings are spread out like that. It's in the Fourteenth Annual Report of the American Anthropology--(Bureau of American Ethnology). It always be in blue. That thunderbird--blue. And the background has always got to be blue. The thunderbird is a rain bird, and it always have to be depicted with sky-blue. That's the Arapaho thunderbird. But this Thunderbird Division (45th Division, Oklahoma National Guard), that has a red background with yellow thunderbird (referring to the division emblem). The shape of that bird is like that of the Hopi. It's wings are down and it's got a collar. The Arapaho one doesn't have no collar or nothing--it's just outright spread wings with shaking bolt lightnings from his nostrils--I mean from his eyes. Four. Four thunderbolts, or lightning bolts.

(Is there any meaning behind those lightning bolts?)

It means life, action (or live-action) to the Arapaho. It means that that bird has a life-power of rain, and life and all that.

(Is there a story behind that?)

Well, only one story I heard when I was a boy and heard once or twice after that, is that the Arapahoes got the thunderbird from some man during warfare, that because of some defeat that they met, that he was going to find a bullet that would have that power--from the thunderbird. But how it was gone into, I don't know that part. But they said when he shot that powered bullet --through the thunderbird's power--that bullet's going to go