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JESSE ROWLDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 12-12-67

GENERAL SUBJECT:

PEYOTE RELIGION AND NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

AN EXPERIENCE WHICH JESS HAD IN A PEYOTE MEETING WHICH HELPED
SHAPE HIS LIFE
MORE OF JESS' PEYOTE EXPERIENCE--SEEING A SNAKE
MISINTERPRETATION OF SOME INDIAN NAMES
PEYOTE MEETING
NOTED ARAPAHO COMPOSERS OF PEYOTE MUSIC
NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH AND EARLY ARAPAHO PEYOTE RELIGION
ARAPAHO SUN DANCE AND OTHER CEREMONIAL LODGES
JESS' GRANDFATHER PARTICIPATED IN WATER DRIPPING LODGE
MORE ON CEREMONIAL LODGES
ARAPAHOS GOT PEYOTE RELIGION FROM KIOWA-APACHES
STRUCTURE OF PEYOTE MEETINGS
A WOMEN'S SOCIETY--THE BUFFALO LODGE
DISAPPEARANCE OF THE CEREMONIAL LODGES
ARAPAHO SUN DANCE REGARDED AS "SACRIFICE LODGE," AND KINDS OF
SACRIFICE
TERM FOR "WATER DRIPPERS" AND FORMER STARHAWKS LIVING TODAY
ANOTHER OF JESS' PEYOTE EXPERIENCES
MORE ON JESS' PEYOTE EXPERIENCE THAT HELPED HIM SHAPE HIS LIFE
JESS' CONCEPTUALIZATION OF PRAYERS OFFERED AT PEYOTE MEETINGS
WHAT PEOPLE TALK ABOUT IN PEYOTE MEETINGS, AND CONTENT OF PRAYERS
JESS' PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY
ARAPAHO PEYOTE WAY
WOODEN OBJECT PUT INSIDE PEYOTE DRUM TO MAKE CERTAIN SOUND.

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jess Rowldge 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-grade 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. Jess was born in 1884.