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JESS ROWLDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 3-19-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: INDIAN MEDICINES; STORIES AND STORYTELLING

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

ARAPAHO MEDICINE FOR SORE THROAT AND ITCH

ROOT USED AS PHYSIC OR PURGATIVE

WEASEL FUR BURNED FOR MEDICINE

SOME OTHER INDIAN MEDICINES, INCLUDING A SNEEZE MEDICINE

STORY ABOUT ARAPAHO WOMAN CAPTURED BY UTES, HER ESCAPE,

AND HOW RESTORED TO HER PEOPLE BY A WHITE MAN

STORY CATEGORIES

WHITE MAN WHO PARTICIPATED IN ARAPAHO SUN DANCE

HOLY WATER DRUNK AT END OF SUN DANCE

MORE ON WHITE MAN SUN DANCER AND COMMENTS ON SUN DANCE

PROCEDURES

SACRED PIPE AND DANCING BY THE PIPE

END OF SUN DANCE AND THE FORTY-NINE THAT FOLLOWS

WHITE MEN CALLED "SPIDER"

STORIES AND STORYTELLING

STORY ABOUT ABANDONED OLD WOMAN AND HELL'S HALF ACRE

VULGAR STORIES NOT TOLD IN FRONT OF A MAN'S SISTER

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jess Rowldge was born 1884 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 Star Hawk Society, one of the old age-graded warrior societies, and he 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.

ARAPAHO MEDICINE FOR SORE THROAT AND ITCH

--I always give Mary (Poafpybitty, a Comanche woman doctor and relative of Jess') some and these other Arapahoes give her some. The Comanches like it for medicine--for sore throat and itch, and anything like that. And I know Mary, she sells it to those