

T-220

JESS ROWLIDGE, ARAPAHO

TRANSCRIPT OF TAPE MADE: MARCH 19, 1968

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GENERAL SUBJECT: STORY TELLING; BURIAL CUSTOMS; KEEPING TRACK OF YEARS AND METHODS OF ESTABLISHING CHRONOLOGICAL AGE

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION AND COMMENTS ON ARAPAHO BOY KILLED IN ACCIDENT, ETC.

STORY TELLING

ELK HIDE WITH PICTOGRAPHS BURIED WITH LITTLE RAVEN

LITTLE RAVEN'S ORIGINAL BURIAL AND RECENT DISINTERMENT FOR REBURIAL AT FT. SILL

BURIAL CUSTOMS: WRAPPING BODY IN OLD TIPI COVER

DIFFICULTY IN LOCATING SOME GRAVES OF OLD ARAPAHO CHIEFS

BURIAL CUSTOMS: SCAFFOLD BURIAL, FOOD OFFERINGS, DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY OF DECEASED, LOCATION OF GRAVES

ANECDOTE ABOUT GERONIMO SELLING HAWK FEATHER FOR FIVE DOLLARS

MORE ABOUT BURIALS

STORY ABOUT CUSTER'S LAST STAND HEARD FROM NORTHERN ARAPAHO WOMAN

OLD BEAR: AN OLD BLIND MAN WHO KEPT TRACK OF YEARS AND SEASONS IN HIS HEAD

METHOD OF ESTABLISHING AN INDIVIDUAL'S CHRONOLOGICAL AGE: HOW JESS' MOTHER ESTABLISHED HER SISTER'S AGE

KEEPING TRACK OF CHILDREN'S AGES ON ELK HORN FLESHER

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 traveled 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. Mr. Rowlidge, was born in 1884.