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JESSE ROWLIDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 4-4-68

GENERAL SUBJECT:

ARAPAHO HISTORY OF THE 1890's

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

SITTING BULL AND MANNER OF SIGNING OF THE JEROME AGREEMENT  
MONEY WITHHELD FROM INDIANS' PER CAPITA PAYMENTS AND USED TO PAY  
DEPREDACTIONS CLAIMS  
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON SITTING BULL  
MORE ON JEROME AGREEMENT AND MISUNDERSTANDING WITH GOVERNMENT  
HOW UNEDUCATED INDIANS CALCULATED MONEY SUMS  
INDIANS' FEELING ABOUT LAND  
MANNER OF CHOOSING ALLOTMENTS, AND FAMILY GROUPINGS  
STOCK RAISING AND FARMING BY INDIANS IN EARLY DAYS  
OPENING RESERVATION TO WHITES: INTERACTION OF SETTLERS WITH  
INDIANS  
ATTORNEYS TRYING TO BE HIRED BY INDIANS, AND AGENTS' MANIPULATIONS  
JESSE'S INTEREST IN ARAPAHO HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGISTS HE WORKED  
WITH  
AGENT WOODSON IMPORTING DRAFT HORSES FROM FRANCE AND INDIANS'  
DISLIKE OF HEAVY BREEDERS  
JAMES MOONEY'S WORK WITH ARAPAHOS IN THE 1890's AND INDIANS'  
FEELINGS TOWARD HIM  
"YELLOW MEDICINE" GATHERED BY COMANCHES AND KIOWA-APACHES AND  
TRADED TO ARAPAHOS  
MORE ON JAMES MOONEY

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jesse Rowledge 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, Jesse 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. Jesse 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. Kroeger, James Mooney, Morris Smith, Sister Inez Hilger, and Fred Eggan.