

JESS ROWLDGE, ARAPAHO
INTERVIEWED BY: J. JORDAN
TRANSCRIBED BY: J. JORDAN
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GENERAL SUBJECT: CHIEFS AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION: GIFT EXCHANGE

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

PIPES, DANCING WITH
CEREMONY FOR NEW CHIEF

TRADITIONAL RELIGION: TERM OF BLESSING RECITED IN PRAYERS

WHY JESS NEVER JOINED CERTAIN SOCIETIES: CONFLICT BETWEEN TRADITIONAL
CEREMONIALISM AND CONDITIONS OF MODERN LIFE

CHIEFS

INITIATION CEREMONY WITH A BROTHER SUBSTITUTING FOR A PERSON WHO IS
ABSENT

REFUSAL OF INDIVIDUALS TO JOIN A SOCIETY: AVOIDANCE OF MEMBERSHIP
BY FLIGHT

RECENT TRIBAL ELECTION: GETTING VOTES BY BUYING LIQUOR FOR VOTERS
TRIBAL CHIEFS ON TRIBAL COUNCIL

CONTEMPORARY POLITICS AND PERSONALITIES

DUTIES OF TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS: SCHOLARSHIPS

CHAIRMAN OF TRIBAL COUNCIL: HOW SELECTED

TRIBAL COUNCIL

CHARITABLE ACTS IMPORTANT FOR MAN RUNNING FOR TRIBAL COUNCIL

SUPPORT OF RELATIVES: RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS BETWEEN
RELATIVES

IMPORTANCE OF ABSENTEES AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS

VOTING REQUIREMENTS: DISQUALIFICATION FOR FELONY

PRESENT CHAIRMAN LIVES OUT OF STATE

ARAPAHOS AND CHEYENNES LIVING IN WICHITA AND OKLAHOMA CITY

RAISING COTTON: USE OF THE PROFIT FOR HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

CHILDHOOD: CHILD'S FAMILY GIVING AWAY ON CERTAIN OCCASIONS

GIVEAWAYS: PERSONS GIVEN TO

DISTINCTION BETWEEN GIVING AND TRADING

GIVING TO FRIENDS: BESTOWING OF A NAME

JESS'S FRIENDSHIP WITH APACHE BEN: ARAPAHO RELATIONS WITH KIOWA-
APACHES

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jess Rowldge was born in 1884 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.