

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.