

T-238

JESS ROWLIDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 4-9-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: HIDE SCRAPING TOOLS AND HIDE DRESSING; SULLIVAN'S
STORE AT DARLINGTON AND GOODS STOCKED FOR INDIAN TRADE

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

ELKHORN HIDE SCRAPING TOOLS

ELKHORN SCRAPERS, HOW MADE

SANDSTONE ABRADING TOOLS AND WHETSTONES

JESS FINDS AN ABRADER AT A PREHISTORIC INDIAN SITE

MAKING ELKHORN SCRAPERS AND FITTING BLADES ON

USE OF SCRAP METAL AND TECHNIQUES OF WORKING METAL

HIDE DRESSING: DEFLESHING AND DEHAIRING TOOLS

MAKING OF ELKHORN SCRAPERS

ELK AT BUFFALO MOUNTAIN AND IN WYOMING

WEARING OF A BELT A SIGN OF REACHING WOMANHOOD

KEEPING RECORD OF CHILDREN'S AGES ON ELKHORN SCRAPERS

JESS'S WORK AS CLERK IN DRY GOODS STORE

JESS'S WORK AT STORES IN ANADARKO AND FORT SILL AREA AND MEETING

HIS COMANCHE RELATIVES

QUANAH PARKER'S FAMILY

OTTER SKINS AND BUCKSKINS SOLD AT SULLIVAN'S STORE

BEADS SOLD AT STORE

INDIAN GERMAN SILVER WORK

IMPORTED FACE PAINTS

SKINNING OTTERS AND BEAVERS; USE OF BEAVER SKINS FOR POUCH

EAGLE FEATHERS SOLD AT STORE

OTTER FUR HATS AND HAIR WRAPS

BLANKETS SOLD

PIECE GOODS, PREFERENCE IN, ETC.

LIST CLOTH IMPORTED AND SOLD

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT: Jess Rowlidge was born in 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.