

forty-seven years old then. "Here I looked older than he was! Older than this Indian!" Now he said, "Mike, how come you look a whole lot younger than I am?" He said, "I don't know--maybe nature. I live outside all the time. Fresh air. You stay in the house all the time." "So he taught me those things. I learned some of those things from him" So from that, Dr. Michelson said, "I believe that peyote had an effect on the joints." That's what he told me. So it much be that it has that effect. They (his joints) don't bother me.

EXTENT OF JESS'S PARTICIPATION IN PEYOTE RELIGION

(Did you ever lead meetings yourself?)

No, I never have. No, I never have led no meeting.

(How does a person come to conduct meetings?)

Well, there's various ways. When I had the chance, I was taught by a Comanche relation--the Comanche way to run that meeting. And I was taught by a Kiowa cousin of mine. He's part Kiowa and Arapaho and he's in with the Kiowas. He taught me. Bob Koomsa. Bill Koomsa and them's father. He used to come here and we'd go to those meetings together. And he taught me. But then the Arapahoes--Jim Hudson taught me the genuine Arapaho way. But I thought, well, there's got to be some (people in) attendance at peyote meetings--not all leaders. So I thought I'd just be one of those in attendance. Participants, you know--a member--and not be head of it. That's my decision. That's why I never run no meeting. Then I could look on. I could do any part. I could drum. I could make fire. I could be Cedar Man. I could sit on the side. Sit anywhere except the leadership (in the leader's place). Because I knew all the ways--the rituals, songs. I just decided I'd rather not run the meeting. So that's my experience.