T-248
JESS ROWLODGE, ARAPAHO
INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN
DATE OF INTERVIEW: FEBRUARY 20, 1968
TRANSCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

GENERAL SUBJECT: PEYOTE RELIGION AND NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

YOUNG MEN PARTICIPATING IN PEYOTE MEETINGS
LEARNING TO CONDUCT MEETINGS
NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH AND OTHER CHURCHES
JESS'S EARLY EXPERIENCE IN A PEYOTE MEETING: DECISION TO PURSUE FORMAL EDUCATION.
AMOUNT OF PEYOTE TAKEN AT A MEETING
TEA MADE FROM PEYOTE AND OTHER FORMS OF PEYOTE
DRYING PEYOTE FOR LATER USE
PEYOTE : ITS FLOWER AND THE FUZZ ON THE PLANT
PEYOTE MEETINGS : DOCTORING
JESS'S THOUGHTS, DURING A PEYOTE MEETING, ON INDIAN PEOPLE AND RELIGION
THE BIBLE AND PEYOTE
NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH : MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION
NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH : MONEY FOR HOLIDAY DINNERS
WHY PEYOTE MEETINGS HELD
SELECTION OF MAN TO RUN MEETING
LEARNING TO CONDUCT MEETINGS : DESCRIPTION OF PEYOTE RITUAL
JESS'S PEYOTE PARAPHERNALIA : DISPOSITION OF TO YOUNGER RELATIVES
GETTING A CHIEF PEYOTE
NUMBER SYMBOLISM
ARAPAHO SACRED BUNDLES AND LODGES
LODGE MEMBERSHIP INCOMPATIBLE WITH MODERN LIFE
INDIANS CAN PERFORM MYSTERIOUS FEATS

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jess Rowlodge 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 Washingon, 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 this 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.

NOTE: This is a continuation of the interview begun on T-247.