

T-352

JESS ROWLDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: DECEMBER 11, 1968

GENERAL SUBJECT: ARAPAHO SUBSISTENCE PATTERNS IN EARLY ALLOTMENT PERIOD: ALLOTMENT, SALE AND LEASING OF ALLOTMENT, CROPS RAISED, INHERITANCE OF LAND, ETC.

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

JESS'S JOB AS FIELD ASSISTANT (OR FIELD FARMER) FOR BIA
LEASING OF INDIAN LANDS BY WHITES
ARAPAHOS FARMING

JESS'S FATHER'S FARMING AND STOCK RAISING

HORSES A SOURCE OF INCOME TO INDIANS

LEASING OF INDIANS SURPLUS LAND

GOVERNMENT-ISSUED WAGONS AND FARM IMPLEMENTS

CROPS RAISED AND SHARECROPPING: STORY ABOUT JESS'S LEASE MAN

INDIANS LEASING LAND TO WHITE NEIGHBORS

LAND USE IN JESS'S FAMILY

CATEGORIES OF LAND AND LEASE PRICES

USE OF GRASS LANDS

JESS'S FAMILY'S ALLOTMENTS: HOW USED AND DISPOSITION OF

SOME CASES SHOWING INHERITANCE OF INDIAN LANDS

INHERITANCE CASES AND AMOUNT OF INCOME FROM OIL LEASES

USE OF JESS'S FATHER'S LAND FOR HAY AND CULTIVATION

HAYING OPERATIONS

JESS AND HIS BROTHER SELLING LAND INHERITED FROM THEIR FATHER

SCHOOLING OF JESS AND HIS BROTHER AWAY FROM HOME: HASKELL AND CARLISLE

OTHER PEOPLE, INCLUDING RELATIVES, SUPPORTED BY JESS'S FATHER

RIDING HORSES KEPT AND JESS'S FATHER'S ADVICE TO HIS SONS

JESS'S CLASSIFICATORY SISTER

CROPS RAISED BY INDIANS

RAISING COTTON FOR HOLIDAY CASH

INDIANS WORKING AT FARM LABOR: PICKING COTTON

INDIANS RAISING WHEAT: DISPOSITION OF

JESS'S JOB AS FIELD ASSISTANT (OR FIELD FARMER)

INDIANS THRESHING THEIR OWN WHEAT

INDIANS WORKING AT FARM LABOR: THRESHING WHEAT

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jess Rowldge is between 82 and 84 years old 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 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 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. Mr. Rowldge was born in 1884.