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JESS ROWLIDGE, ARAPAHO AND

BOB STEGALL, NON-INDIAN

INTERVIEW OF DECEMBER 20, 1968

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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GENERAL SUBJECT: JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AMONG INDIANS IN THE CANTON AREA;  
PRESENT DAY FUNERAL AND DEATH CUSTOMS

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AMONG INDIANS AT CANTON

USE OF CANTON CITY PARK BY INDIANS FOR DRINKING, ETC.

THE LIME FAMILY OF CANTON

DRUNK INDIANS, THEIR BEHAVIOR

STEGALL'S COMMENTS ON HIS WORK WITH INDIANS

MORE ON THE LIMES, AND COMMON LAW MARRIAGE

PRESENT DAY INDIAN FUNERALS AND DEATH CUSTOMS

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANTS:

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

Bob Stegall is a Visiting Coordinator (Truant Officer) for the Indian Education Division of the State Department of Education. His job is to check on the Indian students in the schools of Geary, Canton, Watonga, and other towns to see if they're having any problems and to encourage them to stay in school. In the line of his work he has visited many Indian homes and talked with many Indian boys and girls, and is well aware of the problems facing Indians in receiving an education. In addition to his job with the Department of Education, Bob farms and ranches on about 340 acres west of Geary. He has lived in the Geary area since 1930, and has thus witnessed the changes which have taken place in small town and rural life since that time, both for whites and Indians. Bob seems to be very interested in the Indians, and recognizes many of the problems they face in their daily lives.