

T-455

JESSE ROWLIDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 6-3-69

GENERAL SUBJECT: ARAPAHO KINSHIP TERMINOLOGY AND COMMENTS ON  
KINSHIP BEHAVIOR (PART II)

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jess Rowledge 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 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 had 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. Rowledge was born in 1884.

NOTE: This interview and the one preceding (T-454) was an attempt to collect a complete schedule of Arapaho kinship terms. Assisting in the interview was W. E. Bittle, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Oklahoma, a specialist in linguistics. The transcriptions here presented are, however, my own, made from listening to the tape recorded terms and with reference to my own notes taped during the interview. I have been aided in transcribing the Arapaho terms by Zdeněk Salzmán's article on Arapaho Phonology (see below), but I have attempted phenetic transcriptions only, with no attempt to phonemicize. Since the Arapaho vowel system seems to me to present more difficulties to the novice, I include the following rough guide for the vowel sounds represented:

- i -- similar to "i" in machine
- e -- similar to "a" in say
- ɛ -- similar to "e" in met
- ae -- similar to "a" in hat
- ə -- with low pitch, similar to final "a" in beta;  
with high pitch, similar to "u" in sun
- u -- similar to "oo" in woo
- o -- similar to "o" in oh
- ω -- similar to "a" in caw