

M-17
ARAPAHO FUNERAL
DESCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

DESCRIPTION OF ARAPAHO FUNERAL AND BURIAL CEREMONY OF JUNE 10, 1969

I attended the funeral of Bobby Hamilton, Arapaho-Cheyenne, age 16 years, killed in a motorcycle accident June 6. I had planned to go over to Geary and interview Jess Rowledge on Tuesday, June 10, but he wanted to go to the funeral so I agreed to take him to Canton. I had thought I would leave him and pick him up later, but it worked out so that I attended the dinner given before the funeral, the funeral, and the burial rites.

I had wanted Jess to introduce me to Myrtle Lincoln, an 81 year old Arapaho woman who lives in Canton. We got to Canton about 11:30 A. M., and Jess asked some Indians at the main intersection where Myrtle was. One of the men was an uncle of the dead boy, and he came over and grasped Jess's hand, and they both were silent for a moment. Jess spoke to him in Arapaho, and then asked about Myrtle. Myrtle was reported to be at home of the dead boy's folks, 2 miles south of Canton.

We drove back toward the Hamilton residence, located 2 miles south and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Canton. The house was located on the corner of a rural intersection and faced east. Cars were parked on the road and in the yard. At least two horses were tethered at the edge of the yard. Jess said they were probably going to give them away. We went up the front walk and up the steps onto the porch and into the front room of the small frame house. I had to help Jess up the porch steps as there was no rail and he has a hard time walking. There were a number of people in the front room, and the open casket containing the body of the dead boy was on the north side of the front room.

A woman, the mother of the boy, was seated at the head of the casket. She was dressed in black and her face looked tired and haggard. The casket was open. The upper part of the body was hidden from view by a large square silk handkerchief. Over this was a larger covering of transparent material or lace,