

draped from the top of the open portion of the casket to the bottom part. As we entered a man rose quickly and threw back both of these coverings so that we might view the body. A large cross, fully covered with beadwork, had been placed upright at the back of the casket, behind the boy's arm. There were at least 4 shawls and 4 Pendleton blankets draped over the lower part of the casket and on the raised lid.

Since I didn't know anyone present except Jess and was ill at ease, I did not go forward to view the body. Jess did, and he shook hands with the boy's mother. Then he sat down and someone furnished me with a chair beside him. Later Jess introduced me to the boy's mother and we shook hands. The man who had thrown back the coverings came and shook hands with me and asked me to sign the guest book and put down my address. This man seemed to be in charge of things in this room. I later learned that he is a Northern Arapaho and that his last name is Old Man. His wife, Lena, is a southern Arapaho and they had both just hitch-hiked to Oklahoma.

Jess spoke to people in Arapaho. Then he asked about Myrtle. She was in another room. Someone went to get her and soon she sat out. Jess had me move so I would be sitting by her, and then proceeded to introduce me to her and tell her I wanted to study Arapahoes, etc. Myrtle looked worn and sad. She had been crying. The mother of the dead boy is her niece. She is a fairly heavy woman and has an enormous bosom. She was dressed in a calico squaw dress with light-colored stockings and a scarf tied about her head. Myrtle has kinky hair, and Jess told me that her father was a colored cowboy.

Another man came over and shook hands with us. I learned later he was David Hamilton, Cheyenne, a Mennonite minister. He is a brother of Walter Hamilton who is Jess's son-in-law. They are not related to the Hamilton family whose boy was killed.

Jess seemed to want me to start talking to Myrtle right there but I was embarrassed and told her I was sorry I had come at such a sad time and that I would talk to her later. We sat there for about 40 minutes. During this time several groups of people came in. Each time the northern Arapaho man would remove the coverings