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SUBJECT: AN ARAPAHO POW-WOW. BAREFOOT  
POW-WOW, AFTERNOON PROGRAMS

DATE: AUGUST 8 and AUGUST 9, 1971

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GENERAL SUBJECT: AN ARAPAHO POW-WOW, BAREFOOT POW-WOW, AFTERNOON PROGRAMS

NOTE: THIS MANUSCRIPT CONSISTS MAINLY OF TRANSCRIPTION OF THE VERBAL PORTIONS OF THE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAMS OF THE 1971 BAREFOOT POW-WOW, HELD NEAR CANTON, OKLAHOMA AUGUST 26, 27, 28 and 29. SOME OF THE EVENTS GOING ON IS ALSO INCLUDED.

The Barefoot Pow-wow is the only pow-wow at present organized and put on by all-Arapaho group. That is, the Indian members of the Pow-wow committee are usually Arapahoes, and the pow-wow tends to be under the influence of the Sankey family as the grounds are located on land belonging to Warren Sankey, and which was part of the original allotment of Ira Sankey, Warren's grandfather. The Barefoot Pow-wow is the present day expression of a traditional Arapaho annual celebration held by Arapahoes of the Canton District. Many years ago an annual celebration was held on the land of Old Man Hoof, about three miles south of Canton, and after he died the celebration was held many years on Striking First's land east of Canton and close to the present Barefoot Park grounds. When Old Lady Striking First died, the celebration was moved to land owned by the Sankey family, and the pow-wow grounds were named "Barefoot Park" in memory of J. M. "Barefoot" Haigler (1845-1932), an early white settler in the country who had many dealings with the Arapahoes and earned their confidence and respect.

Arthur Sutton showed me a carbon copy of a brief biography of "Barefoot" Haigler evidently prepared as a press release or publicity release soon after the opening of Barefoot Park as the Canton district Arapaho dance grounds. There was no date on the paper and so far I have not been able to pin-point the year in which the Arapaho pow-wows began at Barefoot, but I believe this was in the middle forties. At any rate, the background material on Haigler is as follows:

"James Marion Haigler was the English name given to the man who was later known to be 'The Barefoot Man of Carlton.' He was born in Washington County, Iowa on January 2, 1845. He grew up in Iowa and then he joined the Union Army and fought with Sherman in the Civil War. He was in the famous 'Sherman March from Atlanta to the Sea.' After the war he returned to Iowa and there he married his wife, Lorinda. To this union was born ten children, five boys and five girls. Three of the boys and two of the girls are still living, and they all live near Carlton except one daughter, who lives in Wichita, Kansas. In 1892 he made the run in the Cherokee Strip Run and settled near Okeene. Not being satisfied with the flat lands he came to Carlton and leased his first Indian land in 1897. His first two leases were with Old Lady Traveler and Old Knock-in-Face. He leased this land for thirty-five dollars a quarter (160 acres)