

situation among the Oklahoma Arapahoes.

While noting the lack of distinctively Arapaho activities in the areas where Oklahoma Arapahoes are concentrated, I also heard a great deal said about the Wyoming Arapaho Sun Dance, and learned that many Oklahoma Arapahoes attend this ceremonial every summer. Most Oklahoma Arapahoes have attended at least one Sun Dance. Those who have never been to Wyoming--mostly younger persons and persons without financial means--express hopes of being able to go some day. Indeed, many Oklahoma Arapahoes seem to be absent from Oklahoma for long periods in the months of July and August--months when the Arapaho Sun Dance and two Arapaho tribal pow-wows are held on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. There seems to be no local pow-wow or ceremonial--with the possible exception of the Barefoot Park Wow-wow held in late August--which the majority of Oklahoma Arapahoes feel the need to attend. Rather the distinctively Arapaho expressions of group identity seem to be localized now in Wyoming, on the Wind River Reservation. Those Oklahoma Arapahoes who feel the need of reinforcing their identities as Arapahoes journey to Wyoming to participate in or attend the activities surrounding the Sun Dance. The ceremonial leaders of the Wyoming Arapahoes are accepted as acting on behalf of all Arapahoes and are known and respected by most Oklahoma Arapahoes. Occasionally these ceremonial leaders come to Oklahoma to perform certain services for the Arapahoes here. For example in the spring of 1969 some of these leaders came to Oklahoma to perform a ceremony at which all Oklahoma Arapahoes were invited to be painted with red-paint (Indian paint). These men were asked to perform this ceremony at that time because an unusually large number of Oklahoma Arapahoes had died during the preceding year.

The questions raised above concerning the present status of the Arapahoes as a tribal grouping in Oklahoma and the means of maintaining a separate tribal identity must remain unanswered for the present. The remainder of this report is primarily descriptive of the Sun Dance ceremonial and attendant activities as performed today, with special attention given to the participation of one Oklahoma