

Arapaho family, the Sankey family. Work should now be undertaken to develop a suitable theoretical framework in terms of which the problems of tribal identity may be stated more precisely and some, at least, of the questions raised may answered. Additional research and appropriate field work may be needed.

At this point all that can be said is that it is felt that many Oklahoma Arapahoes do find a means of expressing their identity as Arapahoes through the Wyoming Sun Dance, some vicariously and some through attending or actual participation in it. The feeling of a common heritage and ceremonial life shared by Oklahoma and Wyoming Arapahoes is strong. Oklahoma Arapahoes, casting about for some visible symbol of Arapaho uniqueness among other Indian tribes, point to the Sacred Pipe--the most important tribal ceremonial object. This Pipe is still kept in Wyoming and is greatly venerated by all Arapahoes. The intensity of feeling connected with this Pipe and its ceremonies contributes greatly to whatever group solidarity exists among members of the Arapaho tribe. "All Arapahoes come under that Pipe," is a statement heard often in talking to Oklahoma Arapahoes. Since the public exhibition of the Sacred Pipe bundle is a prominent feature of the Arapaho Sun Dance in Wyoming, attendance at this ceremonial gives Oklahoma Arapahoes an important opportunity to identify with a tribal grouping whose existence as a discrete social entity is most strongly symbolized by the Sacred Pipe.