

T-676

JIM WARDEN, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

TRANSCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 9-22-71

GENERAL SUBJECT: ARAPAHO SONGS AND SINGING; SPIRIT DOCTORING

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

LIFE HISTORY MATERIAL

STORY ABOUT INDIAN SPIRIT DOCTORING

HOW AN ARAPAHO MAN OBTAINED HIS DOCTORING POWER

OKLAHOMA ARAPAHO SUN DANCE

ARAPAHO SONGS AND SINGING

WAR BONNET SONGS AND FORM OF WAR BONNET DANCE

HOW OLD DAYS WERE GOOD DAYS

STORY ABOUT HOW NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ARAPAHO DIVISIONS  
QUARRELED AND SEPARATED

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

James Warden was born July 2, 1908 at Carleton, Oklahoma in Blaine County, and has been a resident of the Canton area all of his life. His father was Cleaver Warden (Gros Ventre Man), a noted peyote man and singer. Cleaver Warden also worked with the first anthropologists, A. L. Kroeber and James Mooney, as a translator. James Warden's mother was Traveller, who was from the Canton district. Cleaver Warden was from the Geary district. James went to school at Cantonment Boarding School in 1918, 1919, and 1921. In 1921 he began to learn Indian singing, and today is the best-known Arapaho singer in Oklahoma. He is head singer at many pow-wows, and knows a great deal about the techniques of drumming and singing. He knows many traditional Arapaho songs and songs of other tribes, and composes songs, also. He speaks Arapaho fluently, and often visits the Wyoming Arapahoes and sings at the Sun Dance and pow-wows of the northern Arapahoes.

NOTE: In this tape Jim sings several Arapaho songs as well as provides background information on these songs. Another recorder using reel tape was used at the same time to record the songs only, to get a better quality recording than would be possible with the Norelco carrycorder. This reel, tape is numbered as T-688.

LIFE HISTORY MATERIAL

I was born July 2, 1908, in Blaine County--Carleton, Oklahoma. The parents are as follows. The father is Cleaver Warden, Arapaho, who resided near Geary, Oklahoma in Blaine County. The mother, Traveller, that was her Indian name translated into English, Arapaho, who resided near Cantonment Indian Agency, Canton, Blaine County, Oklahoma. I, James Warden, went to school at Cantonment Boarding School in the years of 1918, 1919,