

JIM WARDEN, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 2-28-72

GENERAL SUBJECT: ARAPAHO DANCES AND SONG CATEGORIESPARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

VICTORY AND SCALP DANCES
 SINGERS AND RESPONSIBILITY OF A HEAD SINGER
 APACHE BLACKFEET SINGERS
 ARAPAHO RABBIT DANCE (TWO-STEP)
 FORTY-NINE DANCE AND RELATION TO WARPATH DANCE
 ROUND DANCE
 HOW NEW SONGS ARE MADE
 MORE ON ROUND DANCE
 MORE ON RABBIT DANCE (TWO-STEP)
 SNAKE DANCE AND BUFFALO DANCE

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: The first interview on this tape is with Myrtle Lincoln, Arapaho (T-678-1).

VICTORY AND SCALP DANCES

--besides me and--I and Henry Bates--and these two northern guys--one they call Harry Behan--he lives at Custer City. And there's another one--they call him John Oldman. He lives at Canton. Well, there's four of us that we can come out with original Victory Dance songs. We know them. Them boys knows it. But the northern Arapaho victory dance songs, they have a different tune. Because they talk faster and we talk slower. And then they sing their songs, well, they sing their songs a little faster than we do. They got a faster beat. That's the