

T-677

JIM WARDEN, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 2-28-72

GENERAL SUBJECT: ARAPAHO TRIBAL DIVISIONS AND NAMES; STORY ABOUT SLEEPY-HEADED BOY; NAMES OF OTHER TRIBES; RELATIONS WITH CHEYENNES

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

ARAPAHO TRIBAL DIVISIONS AND NAMES  
DIFFERENCES IN SPEECH OF MEN AND WOMEN  
MEN LEARNING WOMEN'S WORK  
STORY ABOUT SLEEPY-HEADED BOY AND BALD-HEADED TRIBE  
ARAPAHO RELATION TO GROS VENTRE (ATSINA)  
ARAPAHO NAMES OF OTHER TRIBES  
ARAPAHO RELATIONS WITH CHEYENNES AND STORY ABOUT MEDICINE LODGE TREATY AND FIRST RATIONS  
DIFFERENCES IN CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO SUN DANCES

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: This interview is concluded on T-678.

ARAPAHO TRIBAL DIVISIONS AND NAMES

--Jesse Rowledge, his mother, my mother, and Henry Bates' mother --they were all full sisters. And their husbands--of these ladies--they were of another tribe. Which were descendants of the first Arapaho tribe, that came over from Colorado. But as they moved on down, there were two different tribes. Really, in the beginning, they weren't Arapahoes at all. They were called two different tribes. And they had two different languages. I, myself, and Jess, Bird Head, and Henry Bates, we understand the two different languages. Now I can talk it, as