

T-681

JOHN SLEEPER, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

TRANSCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 3-7-72

GENERAL SUBJECT: ARAPAHO CHIEFS AND HOW SELECTED; MODERN  
ARAPAHO STARHAWK SOCIETY; ARAPAHO PEYOTE MEN AND PEYOTE  
WAY

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

ARAPAHO CHIEFS AND HOW SELECTED

PRINCIPAL CHIEFS

ARAPAHO BUSINESS COUNCIL AND PRESENT DAY PROBLEMS,  
INCLUDING HEIRSHIP

NUMBER OF ARAPAHOS TODAY

MODERN STARHAWK SOCIETY: HOW ORGANIZED, ETC.

COSTUME AND PARAPHERNALIA

ARAPAHO TERMS FOR STARHAWK

STARHAWK SOCIETY: INVITATIONS, ETC.

STARHAWK WOMEN'S AUXILLIARY ORGANIZATION

ARAPAHO SACRED PIPE AND PAINTING CEREMONY

STARHAWK MEMBERS

SUN DANCE

ARAPAHO DIVISIONS

HOW ARAPAHOS GOT PEYOTE AND OLD TIME PEYOTE MEN: RE-  
LATIONS WITH KIOWA-APACHE

ARAPAHO PEYOTE PARTICIPATION TODAY AND CHANGES IN OLD RITUAL  
SWEAT LODGES

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

John Sleeper was born in 1909 and has lived most of his life in the Geary district. His wife, Josephine, was born in 1910 and is from the Yellow Hair family. John's father was known as John Kendrix Sleeper and attended Hampton Institute. A grandfather, Old Man Sleeper, was a noted Indian doctor. John was raised by this grandfather and speaks Arapaho fluently and knows much Arapaho history. His mother was Cordelia Geary. John's father was a peyote man and John continues to participate in the peyote ceremonies and conducts meetings in the old Arapaho way learned from his mother's brother, Cecil Geary. He has been active in tribal affairs, having served five terms on the C & A Tribal Council. He and his wife usually go to Wyoming every summer to observe the Northern Arapaho Sun Dance and visit with relatives there. John was instrumental in the organization of the present Arapaho Starhawk Society which took place in 1970. John was educated at Concho Boarding School and Haskell Institute, completing the eleventh grade.

NOTE: Josephine Sleeper, John's wife, was present at this interview and occasionally participated and made some comments. Unfortunately the Side B of this needs to be played on a machine which can slow down the speed of the tape, as the batteries of the recorder became weak during the interview. The transcription of Side B is accurate, however.--J. Jordan