

T-679

JIM WARDEN, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 3-1-72

GENERAL SUBJECT: ARAPAHO SUN DANCE AND PARTICIPATION OF MEN'S SOCIETIES IN SUN DANCE ACTIVITIES

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

NAMES OF ARAPAHO DISTRICTS

ARAPAHO SUN DANCES, WHERE HELD

AN ARAPAHO SOCIETY WITH SAME SONGS AS KIOWA-APACHE BLACK-  
FEET SOCIETY

JOINING A LODGE

TOMAHAWK LODGE

WILLOW USED IN CEREMONIAL LODGES

ERECTING SUN DANCE LODGE, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION OF  
MEN'S SOCIETIES

RAISING THE CENTER POLE AND PUTTING UP THE RAFTER POLES

ROLE OF DOG CLAN: SINGING, CEDARING, ETC.

RECENT CHANGES IN SUN DANCE ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY OF SUN DANCE ACTIVITIES DISCUSSED IN THIS TAPE  
(including diagrams)

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-680. A summary of the sun Dance activities discussed herein and diagrams of the floor plan are included in the last section of text. Also a xeroxed copy of Jim Warden's own preliminary sketch and notes is included as the last page.--J. Jordan.

NAMES OF ARAPAHO DISTRICTS

Now I've got these Arapaho district names down here. There's only three important Arapaho districts. But in the tribe, (southern and northern groups combined) there's more than three.