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JESS ROWLDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 6-4-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: DOCTORING, ARAPAHO SACRED OBJECTS

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

SHAMANISTIC TRICKS

HOW AN OLD MAN DOCTORED JESS'S BURNED FOOT

JESS'S AUNT DOCTORING HIS SORE HEAD

PLANT USED AS MEDICINE ON HAIR

DOCTORING SOCIETIES OR CLANS

LITTLE RAVEN'S PICTOGRAPHIC HIDE

ARAPAHO SACRED OBJECTS

SACRED PIPE--HOW MOVED AND TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES

STORY OF ARAPAHO WOMAN CAPTURED BY UTE AND WHO LATER  
ESCAPED AND REJOINED HER TRIBE

PIPE CUSTODIAN COMING TO OKLAHOMA WITH RED PAINT

ARAPAHO TRIBAL DIVISIONS AND DIALECTS

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jess Rowldge was born in 1884 and is a well-known and respected leader among the Arapahoes. He is fairly well educated and articulate, and has traveled extensively on tribal business, having visited Washington, D. C. a number of times. He has been active in tribal politics for many years and has helped the Arapahoes in pressing their claims cases against the government. Nevertheless, Jess is well versed in the traditional culture of his tribe and anxious for at least some parts of it to be preserved. He is one of the two surviving members of the Star Hawk Society, one of the old age-graded warrior societies, and he has often expressed hope that this organization would be revived in modern times. He is a peyotist, as well as a member of the Baptist Church, and feels that the peyote ceremony has given him some of this greatest personal fulfillment as well as inspiration. Jess is no stranger to the role of teacher-informant in communicating knowledge about Arapaho culture. He has known and worked with such people as A. L. Kroeber, James Mooney, Morris Smith, Sister Inez Hilger, and Fred Eggan.

NOTE: W. E. Bittle was present and occasionally participated in this interview. Interview was held at home of Jess's daughter in El Reno.

SHAMANISTIC TRICKS

(Tells a story about sleight-of-hand) How can you tell that's how he done it? He made several of them like that. But one man told us one time a boy went in there and got the same kind of money. Merchant put that coin in the register and gave him his change, and they said that man, when he got his money, he found