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JESS ROWLIDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: DAVID JONES

TRANSCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

Interview Date: July 28, 1968

GENERAL SUBJECT: AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL AND COMMENTS ON ARAPAHOS AND RELATIONS WITH OTHER TRIBES

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

BACKGROUND COMMENTS ON HIMSELF AND ARAPAHO TRIBE  
A COMANCHE RELATIVE AND ARAPAHO RELATIONS WITH COMANCHES  
HUNTING OTTERS ON THE NORTH CANADIAN RIVER  
HOW ARAPAHOS MADE SADDLES  
MAKING OF BRIDLES WITH GERMAN SILVER DECORATION  
PEACE MEDALS SYMBOLIC OF CHIEF'S RANK  
DUTIES OF ARAPAHO CHIEFS  
COMANCHE CHIEFS  
QUANAH PARKER: HIS BACKGROUND AND ABILITIES  
COMANCHE BANDS AND COMMENTS ON SOME COMANCHES HE KNEW  
INDIAN DRESS STYLE  
ARAPAHO CHIEF'S PIPES  
JESS'S FATHER'S BACKGROUND AND STORY OF THE NAME, ROW-OF-LODGES  
JESS'S SCHOOLING AND HIS FATHER'S ACCIDENT  
JESS'S EDUCATION AND WORK WITH ANTHROPOLOGISTS  
ARAPAHO CLAIMS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT  
MORE ABOUT HIS COMANCHE RELATIVE  
ARAPAHO RELATIONS WITH COMANCHES AND KIOWA-APACHES  
EARLY HISTORY OF ARAPAHOS AND GROS VENTRES (ATSINA)  
HOW ARAPAHOS CAPTURED EAGLES FOR THEIR FEATHERS AND KILLED ELK FOR THEIR TUSKS  
BEAR CLAWS TRADED TO OTHER TRIBES  
ARAPAHO WOMEN'S DRESS STYLES COMPARED TO OTHER TRIBES  
JESS'S GRANDDAUGHTERS  
ARAPAHO ETHOS  
GETTING MISCAL BEANS IN TEXAS AND MEXICO

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jess Rowledge was born in 1884, and is a well-known and respected leader among the Arapahos. He is fairly well educated and articulate, and has travelled 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 Arapahos 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 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 had given him some of his 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 work with such people as A. L. Kroeber, James Mooney, Morris Smith, Sister Inez Hilger, and Fred Eggan.

NOTE: At the time of this interview David Jones was a graduate student in Anthropology, participating in the Summer Field School in Ethnology conducted by Dr. W. E. Bittle.