

T-169

JESS ROWLDGE, APAPAH  
TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW 12-5-67  
INTERVIEWED BY JULIA A. JORDAN  
TRANSCRIBED BY JULIA A. JORDAN

GENERAL SUBJECT: MANNER OF OBTAINING PEYOTE FROM TEXAS AND OLD MEXICO

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION ON CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS

DISCUSSION OF RECENT TEXAS LAW AGAINST PEYOTE AND EFFORTS OF INDIANS TO GET IT CHANGED

MANNER OF GETTING PEYOTE IN TEXAS

STAR-SHAPED VARIETY OF PEYOTE

NEW MEXICO VARIETY OF PEYOTE

PEYOTE FROM OLD MEXICO

TRIP TO OLD MEXICO TO GET PEYOTE IN 1903

JESS'S TRIPS TO GET PEYOTE

GATHERING SAGE AND CEDAR IN VICINITY OF THE PEYOTE FIELDS

MEDICINAL EFFECTS OF THE SAGE GATHERED NEAR PEYOTE FIELDS

STONES FOR TYING DRUM AND PETRIFIED SHELL TO PUT INSIDE DRUM

PEYOTE MEETING HELD OUT IN THE PEYOTE FIELDS

CURING OF MEXICAN AT PEYOTE MEETING

PEYOTE USED TO TREAT SNAKEBITE

MORE ON PEYOTE MEETING HELD AT PEYOTE FIELD: FORM OF PEYOTE RITUAL

DIFFERENT TRIBES GOING TO TEXAS FOR PEYOTE

USE OF MEXICAN GOLD COINS FOR MAKING JEWELRY

RITUAL PERFORMED WHEN FIRST PEYOTE IS FOUND

KINDS OF APAPAHO PIPES, INCLUDING COMMENTS ON SACRED PIPE

PRESENT DAY INDIAN DANCE DRESSES AND MOCCASINS

MEXICAN-AMERICAN VENDORS OF PEYOTE

RELATIONS OF INDIANS WITH WHITE RANCHERS NEAR PEYOTE FIELDS

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jess Rowldge is between 82 and 84 years old 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-grade 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 has given him some of his greatest personal fulfillment as well as inspiration. Jess is no stranger to the role of teacher-informant in communication 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. Mr. Rowldge was born in 1884.

(This interview is continued on T-170)

PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION ON CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS

-- of the Commissioners' plan for education, like the school kids here -- high school and grade school and their parents lives here. And the School Board and the parents meets periodically, see, monthly, and the committee that represents our district is