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JESS ROWLDGE, ARAPAHO

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW: 12-5-67

INTERVIEWED BY JULIA A. JORDAN

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GENERAL SUBJECT: PEYOTE RELIGION AND HOW ARAPAHOS GOT IT FROM KIOWA-APACHES

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

MEXICAN FAITH HEALER IN EL PASO

ARAPAHOS GET PEYOTE RELIGION FROM KIOWA-APACHES

ARAPAHO RELATIONS WITH KIOWA-APACHES

FORM OF OLD TIME PEYOTE RITUAL AMONG KIOWA-APACHES AND ARAPAHOS

WOMEN IN PEYOTE MEETINGS

ANECDOTE ABOUT A PARTICULAR MEETING WHEN PEYOTE WAS EXTRA STRONG

WOMEN IN PEYOTE MEETINGS

KIOWA-APACHE WOMEN HAVE PEYOTE MEETINGS

ROLE OF WOMEN IN PEYOTE MEETINGS

STORY OF ORIGIN OF PEYOTE RITUAL

OLD TIME PEYOTE MEN: COMANCHES, LIPANS, ETC.

PEYOTE USED TO BE SUPPLIED BY A WHITE TRADER

ARAPAHOS GOING TO TEXAS AND OLD MEXICO

OPPOSITION TO PEYOTE RITUAL IN EARLY DAYS

QUANAH PARKER'S INFLUENCE ON PEYOTE RITUAL

STATEMENT ON ARAPAHO RELIGION AND PRAYERS, INCLUDING SIGNIFICANCE OF  
SACRED PIPE

MEDICINE BIRD AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ARAPAHO PEYOTE WAY

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 StarHawk 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 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 worked with such people as A.L. Kroeber, James Mooney, Morris Smith, Sister Inez Hilger, and Fred Eggan. Mr. Rowldge was born in 1884.