

T-203

JESS ROWLDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 2-27-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: ARAPAHO MEN'S SOCIETIES; STORY OF ORIGIN OF RED AND BLUE BLANKET; MEDICINAL PLANTS; ETC.

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

ARAPAHO MEN'S SOCIETIES: THE FOX COMPANY  
WINTER SUN DANCE.

FOX COMPANY: JOINING AND DANCING

SUN DANCE: SELF-TORTURE AND PARAPHERNALIA

FOX COMPANY: DANCE AND LEADERS AND RELATION TO OTHER SOCIETIES

GIVING AWAY FOR NEW FOX MEMBERS

ADVICE GIVEN BY ELDERS TO FOX MEMBERS

PRAYER

JESS'S MARRIAGE AND MARRIAGE CUSTOMS

STORY ABOUT MANY-ELKS AND THE FIRST RED AND BLUE BLANKET

PRESENT DAY DIFFICULTIES OF COMANCHES, KIWAS, AND KIOWA-APACHES

FOX COMPANY: TRAINING OF YOUNG MEN ON WARPATH DUTIES

WOMEN GOING TO WAR: ANECDOTE

PLANTS USED FOR MEDICINE

FASTING AND SACRIFICE TO OBTAIN BLESSING OR FAVOR

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT: Jess Rowldge was born 1884 and is a well-known and respected leader among the Arapahoes. 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 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 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.