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JESS ROWLDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 4-4-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: SOME EVENTS OF THE RESERVATION PERIOD

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION ON KINDS OF BERRIES EATEN  
THE KIOWA CHIEF, BIG BOW, GIVES THE SNAKE DANCE TO THE ARAPAHOS  
WOMEN NOT SUPPOSED TO HANDLE EAGLE FEATHERS  
BUFFALO DANCE AND EXAMPLES OF TEASING-BEHAVIOR  
ARAPAHO CUSTOMS REGARDING ADOPTION AND MAKING OF FRIENDS  
GIFT GIVING  
GIFT EXCHANGE BETWEEN JESS AND APACHE BEN  
FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, 1888  
MAKING OF NEW GRASS LEASES  
PRAIRIE FIRES  
FEAR OF INDIAN UPRISING  
JEROME COMMISSION  
INDIAN PRISONERS SENT TO FORT MARION, 1875  
JEROME AGREEMENT AND HOW INDIANS SIGNED

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 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.