

T-239

JESS ROWLIDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jess Rowledge 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 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. He was born in 1884.

GENERAL SUBJECT: POLITICAL ORGANIZATION INCLUDING MATERIALS ON PRESENT  
CONSTITUTION AND TRIBAL COUNCIL AND TRADITIONAL AND MODERN CHIEFS

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

TRIBAL COUNCIL: PAYMENT OF MEMBERS AND ELECTIONS: DRUNKS VOTING  
JESS'S INVOLVEMENT IN TRIBAL POLITICS  
OKLAHOMA WELFARE ACT AND WRITING OF CHEYENNE-ARAPAHO CONSTITUTION  
DECISION OF CHEYENNE-ARAPAHOS NOT TO ADOPT A CHARTER  
PERSONS WHO HELPED IN DRAFTING CONSTITUTION  
JESS'S DEFENSE OF CONSTITUTION  
ATTEMPTS TO DO AWAY WITH CONSTITUTION  
OLD PEOPLE WHOSE OPINIONS WENT INTO CONSTITUTION  
PRESENT DAY CHIEFS: MANNER OF SELECTION, ETC.  
SUSPENSION OF CHIEFS FOR NOT PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES: CASES OF YOUNG BEAR AND SAGE  
OLDER CHIEFS: LEFT HAND, LITTLE RAVEN, AND SOME OTHERS  
POWER OF LITTLE RAVEN AS POLITICAL AND CEREMONIAL LEADER  
TRADITIONAL CHIEFS: DUTIES  
POLITICAL ORGANIZATION IN EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY: GENERAL COUNCIL AND CHIEFS  
DUTIES OF CHIEFS  
QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHIEFS AND PUBLIC CEREMONY FOR NEWLY ELECTED CHIEF  
REFUSING TO BE CHIEF  
GIVING NEW NAME TO NEW CHIEF  
DISPOSITION OF NEW CHIEF'S OLD NAME  
JESS'S EXPERIENCE IN BEING SELECTED AS A CHIEF: GIVEAWAY IN HONOR OF NEW CHIEF

(This interview is continued on T-240.)