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JESSE ROWLDGE, ARAPAHO
INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN
TRANSCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 4-4-68

GENERAL SUBJECT:

ARAPAHO HISTORY OF THE 1890's

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

SITTING BULL AND MANNER OF SIGNING OF THE JEROME AGREEMENT
MONEY WITHHELD FROM INDIANS' PER CAPITA PAYMENTS AND USED TO PAY
DEPREDAATIONS CLAIMS
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON SITTING BULL
MORE ON JEROME AGREEMENT AND MISUNDERSTANDING WITH GOVERNMENT
HOW UNEDUCATED INDIANS CALCULATED MONEY SUMS
INDIANS' FEELING ABOUT LAND
MANNER OF CHOOSING ALLOTMENTS, AND FAMILY GROUPINGS
STOCK RAISING AND FARMING BY INDIANS IN EARLY DAYS
OPENING RESERVATION TO WHITES: INTERACTION OF SETTLERS WITH
INDIANS
ATTORNEYS TRYING TO BE HIRED BY INDIANS, AND AGENTS' MANIPULATIONS
JESSE'S INTEREST IN ARAPAHO HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGISTS HE WORKED
WITH
AGENT WOODSON IMPORTING DRAFT HORSES FROM FRANCE AND INDIANS'
DISLIKE OF HEAVY BREEDERS
JAMES MOONEY'S WORK WITH ARAPAHOS IN THE 1890's AND INDIANS'
FEELINGS TOWARD HIM
"YELLOW MEDICINE" GATHERED BY COMANCHES AND KIOWA-APACHES AND
TRADED TO ARAPAHOS
MORE ON JAMES MOONEY

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jesse 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 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, Jesse 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-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. Jesse 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. Kroeger, James Mooney, Morris Smith, Sister Inez Hilger, and Fred Eggan.