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JESS ROWLDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 4-9-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: LIFE IN EARLY ALLOTMENT PERIOD

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

SOLDIERS AT FORT RENO DURING SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

SOLDIERS, COWBOYS AND INDIANS AT EL RENO

TOWN OF EL RENO STARTED

INDIANS SOLD ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ILLEGALLY

TOWN OF GEARY, HOW STARTED AND NAMED

HAMLIN GARLAND AND ERNEST THOMPSON SETON

EFFORTS OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND GOVERNMENT TO CHRISTIANIZE INDIANS.

JESS'S SUMMER WORK WITH THRESHING CREWS AND AS A COWBOY

INDIAN LAND USE: LEASING, ETC.

PICKING OUT ALLOTMENTS

JESS'S WORK AS A COWBOY

INDIANS TRADING RAWHIDE ROPES TO COWBOYS

RATIONS: BEEF ISSUE

"MADSTONES", USE OF IN TREATING DOG BITE

BEEF ISSUE: DIVIDING THE CARCASS

USE OF BEEF HIDES

ANECDOTE OF A MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN A BROTHER AND SISTER

MEXICANS AMONG THE INDIANS

ARAPAHO TERM FOR MEXICANS MEANS "BREAD PEOPLE."

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 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, He 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 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 had 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.