

JESS ROWLDGE, ARAPAHO  
 INTERVIEWED BY: J. JORDAN  
 TRANSCRIBED BY: J. JORDAN  
 INTERVIEWED: APRIL 16, 1968

GENERAL SUBJECT: CHIEFS AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION: GIFT EXCHANGE

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

PIPES, DANCING WITH  
 CEREMONY FOR NEW CHIEF  
 TRADITIONAL RELIGION: TERM OF BLESSING RECITED IN PRAYERS  
 WHY JESS NEVER JOINED CERTAIN SOCIETIES: CONFLICT BETWEEN TRADITIONAL  
 CEREMONIALISM AND CONDITIONS OF MODERN LIFE  
 CHIEFS  
 INITIATION CEREMONY WITH A BROTHER SUBSTITUTING FOR A PERSON WHO IS  
 ABSENT  
 REFUSAL OF INDIVIDUALS TO JOIN A SOCIETY: AVOIDANCE OF MEMBERSHIP  
 BY FLIGHT  
 RECENT TRIBAL ELECTION: GETTING VOTES BY BUYING LIQUOR FOR VOTERS  
 TRIBAL CHIEFS ON TRIBAL COUNCIL  
 CONTEMPORARY POLITICS AND PERSONALITIES  
 DUTIES OF TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS: SCHOLARSHIPS  
 CHAIRMAN OF TRIBAL COUNCIL: HOW SELECTED  
 TRIBAL COUNCIL  
 CHARITABLE ACTS IMPORTANT FOR MAN RUNNING FOR TRIBAL COUNCIL  
 SUPPORT OF RELATIVES: RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS BETWEEN  
 RELATIVES  
 IMPORTANCE OF ABSENTEES AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS  
 VOTING REQUIREMENTS: DISQUALIFICATION FOR FELONY  
 PRESENT CHAIRMAN LIVES OUT OF STATE  
 ARAPAHOS AND CHEYENNES LIVING IN WICHITA AND OKLAHOMA CITY  
 RAISING COTTON: USE OF THE PROFIT FOR HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES  
 CHILDHOOD: CHILD'S FAMILY GIVING AWAY ON CERTAIN OCCASIONS  
 GIVEAWAYS: PERSONS GIVEN TO  
 DISTINCTION BETWEEN GIVING AND TRADING  
 GIVING TO FRIENDS: BESTOWING OF A NAME  
 JESS'S FRIENDSHIP WITH APACHE BEN: ARAPAHO RELATIONS WITH KIOWA-  
 APACHES

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.