

T-240

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.