

T-247

JESS ROWLIDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

DATE OF INTERVIEW: FEBRUARY 20, 1968

TRANSCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

GENERAL SUBJECT: PEYOTISM ; ARAPAHO MILITARY SOCIETIES

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION : ANTI-PEYOTE LEGISLATION  
NORTHERN ARAPAHOS GETTING PEYOTE IN TEXAS  
PEYOTE VENDORS  
NEW MEXICO PEYOTE  
LIPAN AND MESCALERO APACHES AT COMANCHE PEYOTE MEETING  
JESS'S CONVERSION TO PEYOTE RELIGION  
ARAPAHÓ GHOST DANCE : BELIEFS ; PARTICIPATION OF JESS'S FAMILY  
ARAPAHO MILITARY SOCIETIES  
ARAPAHO GHOST DANCE : LATER HISTORY OF SITTING BULL ; HIS CURE IN  
PEYOTE MEETING  
GHOST DANCE: HAIR ORNAMENTS AND SYMBOLISM  
USE OF PEYOTE OUTSIDE CONTEXT OF PEYOTE RITUAL  
PEYOTE AS CURE FOR INSECT BITES  
MEDICINAL USES OF PEYOTE  
SNEEZING MEDICINE  
MEXICAN WOMAN GIVES JESS GOLD PESOS  
MEXICAN KICKAPOOS  
PEYOTE FOR ARTHRITIS  
EXTENT OF JESS'S PARTICIPATION IN PEYOTE RELIGION  
JIM HUDSON  
EARLY ARAPAHO PEYOTE LEADERS  
ARAPAHO SOCIETIES : WATER DRIPPERS AND MYSTERY LODGE  
NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH ORGANIZATION

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jess Rowlidge 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, 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 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.

NOTE: This interview continues on T-248.