

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
ARAPAHO 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 Rowledge 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.