

T-248

JESS ROWLDGE, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

DATE OF INTERVIEW: FEBRUARY 20, 1968

TRANSCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

GENERAL SUBJECT: PEYOTE RELIGION AND NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

YOUNG MEN PARTICIPATING IN PEYOTE MEETINGS

LEARNING TO CONDUCT MEETINGS

NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH AND OTHER CHURCHES

JESS'S EARLY EXPERIENCE IN A PEYOTE MEETING: DECISION TO PURSUE  
FORMAL EDUCATION.

AMOUNT OF PEYOTE TAKEN AT A MEETING

TEA MADE FROM PEYOTE AND OTHER FORMS OF PEYOTE

DRYING PEYOTE FOR LATER USE

PEYOTE : ITS FLOWER AND THE FUZZ ON THE PLANT

PEYOTE MEETINGS : DOCTORING

JESS'S THOUGHTS, DURING A PEYOTE MEETING, ON INDIAN PEOPLE AND RELIGION  
THE BIBLE AND PEYOTE

NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH : MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH : MONEY FOR HOLIDAY DINNERS

WHY PEYOTE MEETINGS HELD

SELECTION OF MAN TO RUN MEETING

LEARNING TO CONDUCT MEETINGS : DESCRIPTION OF PEYOTE RITUAL

JESS'S PEYOTE PARAPHERNALIA : DISPOSITION OF TO YOUNGER RELATIVES

GETTING A CHIEF PEYOTE

NUMBER SYMBOLISM

ARAPAHO SACRED BUNDLES AND LODGES

LODGE MEMBERSHIP INCOMPATIBLE WITH MODERN LIFE

INDIANS CAN PERFORM MYSTERIOUS FEATS

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 this 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 is a continuation of the interview begun on T-247.