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*Indian Institute
University of Oklahoma*

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JESS ROWLIDGE, ARAPAHO

TRANSCRIPT OF TAPE MADE 4-23-68

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

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GENERAL SUBJECT:

MARRIAGE, REPRODUCTION, BIRTH CONTROL

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

MARRIAGE

COURTSHIP: GIRL'S REPUTATION AND BEHAVIOR OF SWEETHEARTS

STORY OF JESS DECEIVING HIS GIRL FRIEND

HOT SPRINGS' CURING POWER

VENERAL DISEASE

METHODS OF BIRTH CONTROL -- STERILIZATION OF FEMALE

CHILDLESS COUPLES

BIRTH CONTROL METHODS

SEXUAL INTERCOURSE PERMITTED WITH SPOUSE'S RELATIVES

JEALOUSY OF SPOUSES

INTERCOURSE WITH SPOUSE'S RELATIONS

INDIANS PATRONIZING PROSTITUTES

STORY OF JESS BEING PROPOSITIONED BY WHITE PROSTITUTE

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Jess Rowledge is between 82 and 84 years old 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 StarHawk Society, one of the old age-grade 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 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. Mr. Rowledge was born in 1884.