

ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION GIVEN IN THIS INTERVIEW

This interview was aimed at obtaining information on the Arapahoes' use of land and experiences in farming during the early part of the Allotment Period. The information given in this interview would seem to indicate that, while many Arapahoes performed some cultivating, few if any were ever able to farm on a market scale. Horse raising may have been an important economic activity in the pre-Allotment period, but declined as individual allotments and homesteads were fenced off. Some Arapahoes were probably successful subsistence farmers. However Arapahoes fell early into a pattern of dependence upon their white neighbors and government officials for services involving marketing of their crops. And also early in the allotment period began the system of leasing Indian lands to white farmers and ranchers and the subsequent development of the Indian landlord/white lessee/relationship. The Arapahoes also supplemented their cash income in the early allotment period by performing farm labor for neighboring whites.

Below is a diagram of the allotments received by Jess and his family, along with a brief summary of dates and land use data contained in this interview. Unfortunately, the whole story behind the use of these allotments by Indians is not clear in this interview, and additional data are needed for the complete picture. Especially confusing is the discussion where Jess indicates that he and his father and his mother may have traded or exchanged their original allotments for other allotments one mile north of the original allotments. This exchange may have been made because the original allotments were somehow rendered unsuitable to them as a result of a drainage canal having been put through them. However, this part, and the nature and location of the drainage canal are not explained here, and the interviewer (myself) failed to notice this during the interview and clarify the situation. Hopefully additional data will be obtained from Jess later on this. The accompanying diagram, ~~that~~, while not showing precise locating, does illustrate an Indian family selecting contiguous allotments, and the proximity of white neighbors who leased part of their lands.

Also data in this interview shows the Rowledge's may have followed an Arapaho preference for matrilineal residence, though no doubt utilitarian factors influenced residence decisions also. Immediately after allotment the family lived on the mother's land and had their house built there, moving to Henry's east 80 probably after the opportunity came up of leasing the mother's land to Mr. Lookabaugh, a cattle ranch entrepreneur. Later both Jess and his brother, Henry, sold their own allotments and their father's land and moved away to live on their wives' lands. (J. Jordan, 2-23-71)