

Everybody took a whack at him but he got through without being killed, although very much bruised. The boys have the same practice in their games sometimes. However, it was on foot.

I have seen two ~~real~~ Sun Dances. I saw some year before last and last year but they were just sham. I have seen only two real Sun Dances with sacrifices. The last one I saw lasted three days. The main ones that dance are those that are cut right on the breast have ropes hanging down from the pole. The dancer keeps on dancing until the rope breaks. Sometimes it breaks the first day. The relatives of the young man who is dancing are always anxious to see the rope break and they would consider ways and means to jerk the body and sometimes pay the master of ceremonies to jerk it so the relative wouldn't suffer so much. It was very painful. They bled a great deal. The man was supposed to try to break away himself. However, they were usually too weak. They couldn't pull out the stakes. You are not supposed to give any sign of suffering. You would be a coward if you were to complain of the pain. The object of this was the fulfillment of a promise. The object of the ceremony was not to show bravery but while fulfilling a vow you are supposed not to show cowardice. That is a time when they are fulfilling a vow which takes bodily pain. There are times when a warrior is known to be enduring all kinds of suffering. They start out pretty early to begin to undergo pains and tortures. When boys are together sometimes as soon as they are able to play with the crows from 6 or 7 years of age on up. Before they are 10 they are supposed to know something. They may have been required to take part in this follow-the-leader game or do something that shows bravery.

Boys sometimes imitate the Sun Dance, with cactus spikes and sometimes tie themselves with strings because they break easily.

It was the custom for the men and boys to jump in the river every morning during the spring and summer and