

ARAPAHO SUN DANCE: LAST SUN DANCES IN OKLAHOMA

(Back there in your young days, did the Arapahoes have a lot of dances?)

Oh, they used to--you know, when they used to have what they call Sun Dance.

About once a year they used to dance. But before Christmas or Thanksgiving they used to have dances. And hand games. That's what they ysed to have.

(Imogene: Like holiday celebrations. That's what they used to have.)

And this Sun Dance, well, they used to fast, them that danced. Fast three days. The fourth day they used to eat and drink.

(Imogene: Well, it's those that made vow.)

Yeah. And nobody couldn't go in and just run around in there. You had to look on from outside. ?And they used to have leaves all around, you know. Cottonwoods.

(Imogene: Well, it was one of the latest sacred doings that I know of, this.)

(Well, were they still having Sun Dances when you were born?)

(Imogene: Well, I can remember. I must have been about twelve years old.

That's the last one I seen, down. Down at Geary. They used to have it mostly around Greenfield and Geary. This one was at Geary, the last one I saw. I was about twelve then.)

You seen one over here.

(Imogene: That's Cheyenne.)

Oh, Noble! You seen Cheyenne Sun Dance--?

(Imogene: No, Arapaho Sun Dance--)

Well, Noble, he was Arapaho. Noble Prentice.. They had Sun Dance over here.

We used to just walk over there. There was Bill Williams and Frank Charcoal.

That's why they call this place "Noble's last stand." He died after that.

(Imogene: But really, I don't remember--)

Well, you used to all play too much.

(Imogene: Well, you know, as far as I can remember he used to be the one