

That is true. We have sort of let that particular dance pass away from us as well as our worship ceremony of praying of the White Dog. Lot of these tribal customs have been let go and lot of us are sorry today that we didn't pay any more attention to those things and know more about it at this day and time. Now for instance, the False Face Dance as we known as--as it is known as, is the dance that we used to use for doctoring ceremonies--more of a medicine dance in other words. The men in this particular dance--no women taking part in this particular dance--and this particular dance was strictly all men and they were a clan. 'Cause you will know in the Seneca Tribe here in Oklahoma--this northeastern tribe, we have two clans. We have the north and the south clan, one of a deer clan and the other is the wolf. I understand back in New York their two clans up there are turtle and the deer. But here, we also had a False Face Clan, as well as we had a Shuck Face. The False Face Dancers were a particular clan and they were mostly the type for doctoring. At the time that this clan was in action, I was a rather small boy--about oh, ten or twelve years old. A lot of the songs I don't remember. But I do know the men that made these masks--each man made his own mask. The color of his mask depended upon what time of the day he received the wood to make the mask. And what I mean by receiving the wood--He went in the morning to the woods--he went to the woods--went to this particular tree that he would make his mask out of which was mostly generally sycamore lot of 'em or cottonwood. They went in to the woods mostly and got cottonwood. They use these particular woods because they were a light wood when they was dry and they was seasoned why they wouldn't make too much weight. They also had another thing that they use that they claim when they dance--they danced with the deer hoof rattles or about--below their knees. And they also carried--I was told they carried fresh cow manure for the smell of faces--the victims that made fun or ridiculed their dances. And their belief was,