

after we have passed on, then after that--anytime after that. But that food is to help us to get situated on the happy hunting ground." So he laid this plan out to the chief. For all the chiefs to go back and tell all of the tribes to start taking part of this--part of this teaching and keep that tradition alive from now on. Because they say if we didn't carry out this particular ceremony, why then the skeleton had the right to come back and take one of the living. And he said that was what he was doing that night--come to take one of the living when the man and baby had run away from the wigwam. So from that day on, the story was handed to me, the Senecas started burying their dead and they started to have what we call Ten Day suppers or Ghost Suppers. And when we have ten days from the time the person has been placed into the ground--we give this feast. And then a year from that particular day, for four years straight, we give these same feast. And at this feast, the food is cooked with no salt. Because the Senecas says that salt is--as the Bible says, salt is the salt of the earth, and would tie us to the earth. So you cooked the food as the unleavened bread was cooked, so that there would be no ties to the face of the earth so that the spirits may come, partake of the food and then return from where they came. No one is allowed to throw anything away. The Indians don't throw nothing away until the next day after the feast has been passed. Because they say if you throw anything away, you make a mockery of the spirits that's coming and there is enough food left on one bone that we would normally throw away--the living would throw away--that one spirit could feast on it for a year. So nothing is throwed away until the next morning.

(Is that why--do the Senecas like the Quapaws, when they have a feast, carry some of the food home with them, you know, they have this custom of bringing the blanket and--)

Yes, Miss Neiberding. That's one of the very instances. Because of this very incident, because when this skeleton would ask the chief and the chief had told