

thing we used to do is pick up a feather with our teeth--about that high. We'd get down there-- I went as far down as picking up silver dollars with my teeth. The hardest thing to do is pick a silver dollar up.

(Would it be standing on end?)

Flat!

(Would that be in the nature of an exhibition?)

Yeah. They still do that over here at Ponca City. They had a big what you call a "Feather-pulling contest." Feather stands about that high--about an inch and a half. The quickest time a man makes is the winner. Just like roping in the rodeos. Last time I walked to the Ponca City park and we got there that evening. And I don't know how the Poncas knew I was out there. That evening they called my name to bring your group. I went out to the dance ground. There was just two of us. So we went out there and we danced with them. And the last night of the dance they was having contest. There were just two of us down there dancing. And the way he beat me, he had three of his uncles judging. That's where I lost out. And the crowd jumped up and said, "Give it to the Arapaho--he won it fair and square!" They pretty near had a gang-fight over it. I told them, "Oh, let him have it--he needs it!" The next morning quite a few came up and asked me when I was going back and how. I said, "I'm going back same way. We came up here afoot and we're going back afoot." They said, "No, you're not. We're going to send you home on a bus." Which they did. They was so ashamed of the way it turned out--what their tribesmen done. Yeah, that was among the Poncas. You take a man from a different tribe, if you're up at a dance, they cut you out over there. They don't want their money to go out to other places. They want to keep it around Ponca City. So I quit going over there. And when my health start breaking I quit dancing.

(How old were you about that time you were at Ponca City?)

I must have been about forty.

(You already were married and had some family then?)

Yeah. I went up there--their best dancers.

(Did you make your own costume?)