

and perhaps their moccasins. Their dance costumes--aprons, belts, and kilts--were hung up behind their places on a branch, or thrown over the strips of canvas which were tied up along the lower five feet of the walls on the south and west sides of the lodge. Most of the moccasins worn by the dancers were fully beaded with traditional Arapaho geometric designs.

The dancers stayed in the lodge from the time they enter on Thursday at midnight till the Sun Dance was over, shortly after sunset on Sunday. They slept and rested in the lodge, and occasionally smoked. When they had to go to the rest room they went out in pairs to a latrine located a short distance east of the speaker's stand. One pair would go at a time, and as they returned, another pair would go out. Whenever they went out, they wore their moccasins and covered themselves from head to foot with their quilts, and they avoided looking directly at people. No one spoke to them. When dancers were either entering or leaving the lodge for this purpose, the announcer would often ask people to stand back away from the entrance, and make a path for them.

Throughout the period of the Sun Dance--from midnight Thursday until after sunset Sunday--the dancers were not allowed to eat or drink. According to John Pedro, the dancers are watched at all times to be sure they do not weaken and take something. John said there were certain men whose job it was to watch the dancers and even men outside the lodge watching them to see that no one brought them any food.

The first dance began soon after the dancers came into the lodge. This would have been about 12:30 am Friday morning, July 11. After some preliminary speeches, mostly in Arapaho, prayers or talks, a painted rawhid or parfleche was brought from the west side of the center post over to where the drummers were seated. The drum was located just south of the entrance on the east side of the lodge, close to the walls. The man holding the parfleche motioned four times toward the drum, as if he were going to throw it on the drum. The fifth time he threw it on