

of the row was a small cedar tree. This may have been the same cedar tree that had been placed outside the Rabbit Tipi on the west side.

I never did get a good view of the altar because it was hidden by the center post and other items from where spectators were permitted to sit or stand to watch the proceedings. Also the lodge was heavily brushed on the west side so that spectators could not peer in there, and also the strips of canvas tied along the lower walls prohibited any viewing. From what I could see, I presume the altar constructed this year was similar in most respects to those described by Dorsey for the years 1902 and 1903. I could make out the excavation with the buffalo skull within, and see the plugs of grass in the eye sockets. I could see the sticks flanking the excavation, and, of course, the small trees lined up behind the buffalo skull. According to Dorsey the Medicine Wheel was kept on a willow stick support behind the buffalo skull when not in use. I could not make out the sods in which brushy sticks were placed, but I know they were there as a number of men filed out of the lodge Friday morning to procure them. For details on the altar and its construction, therefore, I feel Dorsey's description is still adequate. I think containers or pouches of herbs and other ceremonial equipment were placed at the base of the center post close to the altar, but of course I could not see this area.

Every day in the morning, each dancer's family brought in a great amount of food for the dancer's grandfather. At the same time they brought a bucket of fresh water and a bundle of sage wrapped up in lengths of cloth. The buckets of water and the bundles of sage were placed around the base of the center post, while the containers of food were set down in the middle of the space between the center post and the brush walls. By the time the food from all 23 families was brought in, most of the space around the center post was occupied by the food, although a pathway was kept open between the food and the items clustered about the base of the center post. Later in the day the water was used by the dancers to wash off