

taken and brought up close to the two priests sitting on the southwest side of the center post by the altar and set on the ground. Thus each of these priests would have a number of dishes of food for themselves and their families, although no one dancer was cooking for them. The priests gave each dancer a small piece of bread. John Pedro said it was fry bread. Then each dancer, in turn, walked clockwise from his place to the lodge entrance on the east, and then walked to a spot just southwest of the center post, passing between the food and the items clustered just at the base of the center post. Facing the center post, the dancer raised his hand holding the bread aloft and then brought it down, as if offering the bread to heaven and earth. The dancer's grandfather stood beside him or behind him, telling him what to do, or coaching him. As the dancer lifted his bread toward the sky, the grandfather held a stalk of sage aloft. Someone--possibly one of the Sankeys--told me that the bread thus offered had been dipped in coffee by the priests. I am not sure of this. John Pedro did not think it had been dipped in coffee. He said that a small portion from all the food was used in this offering. John also said the dancers offered this food to the four decorated rafter poles, and in this way blessed all those who had tied things to them. Thus all persons who had vowed to tie something on the rafter poles received a blessing through this action of the dancers. After being offered to the rafter poles, the food was "put to mother earth," according to John. Probably it was then buried in a small hole close to the center post (?). After each dancer had thus offered a portion of food to the four decorated rafter poles and to the earth, the food was taken out of the lodge by the grandfathers and their families.

There was then a break in the activities while the grandfathers and their families went to their respective camps and ate. I was told that the grandfathers passed out the food they received among their relatives and friends as they saw fit. Since this food had been blessed in the Sun Dance lodge, it was considered a blessing to eat of this food, and none was wasted or thrown out. John Pedro said, "The food has been blessed in there. They take it and divide it up."

While the grandfathers were eating, the dancers rested. Later the grand-