took place in Oklahoma in 1902 and 1903. The Arapahoes are still very strict about the fasting requirement. The dancers are not permitted to eat or drink during the Sun Dance and are closely watched at all times. They do not leave the lodge except to go to the latrine during the ceremonial and then they go in pairs. One of the duties of the grandfather is to help his dancer endure to the end. I did not learn in detail the things that go on between a grandfather and his charge, but I was told that the grandfathers encourage their dancers, talk to them, and when the dancers have reached the limit of their endurance, they have "medicine" or "power" to help them over this crucial time. John Pedro said the grandfathers have a medicine which they blow on the dancer when he is overheated and weak and feels he can go no further. This medicine feels cold to the dancer and has the effect of reviving him and giving him energy to continue. Alonzo Sankey told me a "good grandfather" meant everything in the way a dancer could endure his ordeal. A "good" grandfather apparently watches his dancer closely, and is a good judge of how much reserve he has and what condition he is in. He knows when to talk to him and how to encourage him to go on, and he may give him some things to help him through the critical stages. Everyone wants all the dancers to endure to the end of the Sun Dance and not to drop out. During this dance the youngest dancer, a boy of about 17 years, did collapse and have to be taken out of the lodge on Sunday afternoon. However he had already received his final day's paint and so technically he completed his vow. It may be that a grandfather on Sunday, anticipating his dancer's fainting or collapsing, may hurry to get the final paint on, so that the vow can be completed.

The Closing Dance

The conclusion of the Sun Dance and by far the most climactic portion of the whole ceremony is the final dance which takes place at sunset on Sunday, the last day. At this time the brush walls are torn away from the west side of the lodge and all the participants dance facing the setting sun. Feeling runs high