

among the spectators and families of the dancers as they anticipate the successful completion of the dance.

This year, the Sunday dance began about three o'clock in the afternoon. After the first 12 or so songs, there were a number of breaks for giveaways. The various families of the dancers held specials at which they gave away many things--blankets, shawls, yard goods, etc.--in honor of their relative who was dancing. As the dance resumed between giveaways, not all of the dancers participated at the same time. A number of them sat or reclined in their places resting, and, presumably, keeping some strength in reserve for the final dance. I was told later that it was mandatory just to dance the first twelve songs and then dancers could rest as needed. Apparently the grandfathers help decide whether or not they must dance.

The specials were over late in the afternoon. As the sun drew near the Wind River mountains in the west, the Sacred Pipe was carried out of the lodge by Josephine White (see above). There were some more talks and announcements made in Arapaho. The afternoon had been hot and dusty and clouds were gathering. For a time it looked as if a storm might blow up. By sunset, however, the clouds began to dissipate and shafts of sunlight streamed down through them. The back-lighted mountains, together with the patterns of clouds and shafts of sunlight just above them, provided a dramatic backdrop for the final portion of the dance.

As soon as the Pipe had been taken out, the announcer called for volunteers to clear the brush away from the west side of the lodge. The trees forming the walls were removed and lain end to end in two straight lines radiating out from the west side of the Sun Dance lodge in V-formation, opening toward the setting sun. Spectators were not allowed to stand within the lines forming the V. Several people had told us that the path must be clear between the dancers and the sun--no camps, no people, or other obstacles.

The final song began just as the sun touched the mountains. All the dancers,