

or right kind of approach or right kind of discussion about this here Star Clan. Now Henry Bates, he says the same thing, "I don't approve of it--of them initiating people like that and dancing in these four positions." That's kind of a medicine way or ceremonial way. Other than it's good plain entertainment--just good plain enjoyment, that's all. But going as far as doing that kind of a way, it don't fit in there. It don't fit in there at all because it never was known to be carried on that way. (Well, who were the guys that were really, basically, the ones that decided to reorganize?)

Let's see--I think it's these boys that-- Really, the one who wanted to organize is this John Sleeper himself. And John Sleeper, Clyde Sleeper--he lives in Omaha--and Stanley (Sleeper). Then they got this Nelson Sage, Jr. He got interested. Because he says that his dad belongs to this clan. So he thought he automatically ought to be eligible to take the reins and carry on where his dad left off. That's what he thought. And that's the way he told it. That's what he told us. He told me and Glen that. So that's what made him go into that--that he should take up where his dad left off. But, as far as Virgil (Franklin), I think his dad influenced to join up and dance with the boys wherever he wanted to. Then this thing came up to where he wanted to dance with them boys. After they all got together they was a good enough bunch in there, "Well, boys, why don't we organize our own Arapaho group?" Well, that's where they planted that little seed. It just kept a-growing. Now, I don't know--I haven't been to their dances for so long I don't even know what's going on.

CHEYENNE BOWSTRING SOCIETY AND GOURD DANCE GROUP

(I've been interested in watching this group organize--)
I tell you, where it all started from was way back there in the early days. After all the older people had died and gone beyond, there was no one active enough to pick it up where the older people had left off. They really didn't know too much about it. They really didn't know who was eligible to go ahead and sing these songs. Then they went on to where the Cheyennes, they had their own clan--what they call "Bowstring." They have their songs.