

it's up to them. But we have to back them up. That's about all. (Is there anything different about your Gourd Dance group from these others, like the Kiowas--do you have different songs or anything like that?)

The Arapahoes, they have their own starting songs. They're supposed to have a little ceremony in there, but they kind of set that aside. They just go ahead. These benefit dances--you know how these programs are carried out--we Starhawks just do our part. But I don't know how this pow-wow is going to come in. How they're going to handle that, we don't know. The original way is what they call "our big brother." They generally send us--select--two. They're the ones that tells them how to carry it on. But now, we're going into this other kind of organization like having a chairman, and officers, so if that's the way they want it, we just let them have it that way. (The chiefs let the new organization have officers to run things, instead of sending "big brothers" to be directors.--jj)

(So it's different today from what it used to be?)

Yeah. The chairman and vice-chairman preside. Of course they take it to the organization to approve of things.

COSTUME AND PARAPHERNALIA

(Is there anything about your costuming that's different from these other groups?)

No. We never did get together on that. We just do like the Kiowas--the way they dress. I don't know what they're going to do when they get together on it. See, our color (The Arapaho color) is blue. Background is always blue. So I don't know what they got in mind--I really don't know. The chairman, Stanley Sleeper, was telling the members to get blue shirts. He want all of them to have blue shirts. And the women were supposed to get blue blankets with a medallion on it. They had that medallion made, but it costs a little bit too much money yet. It has a picture of a Starhawk, or hawk. That's the medallion they'd used on shawls and men's shirts. An emblem, yeah. Several have been made, but I think we chose that one that Archie Blackowl made. He's an artist. He's Arapaho and he's Cheyenne, too. He's the one that designed this emblem.