Buffalo family, who had the Ponca peace-pipe, were asked to be the first to put up their teepees and select a place for the camp. After this was done the whole tribe pitched their teepees in a circle around this pipe teepee. Men were asked to build a circular brush arena for the dancers. This was done voluntarily. After this was done the different tribes of Osages, Kaw, Otoe, Pawnees, Cheyennes, and Sac and Fox, were given a place outside of the Ponca circle or camp, as they did not allow any tribe to camp in the Ponca circle of its own camp. When everything was in order, the head men of the camp elected 4 or 5 men to go and look for a tall stately willow and cut and trim the tree of its branches, leaving a little at the top. This tree was the sacred tree as was found by a young warrior on a scouting mission. He told of finding a tree that was slight at night by some mysterious way and that the Thunder Birds were using it for a roost. It seems that this tree had four paths leading to it, or the four winds and the creatures that came to it, left their skeletons and skulls at the base of the tree. So that is how the Poncas prepared to attack it and kill it like a human being. Afterwards it was brought by horses and a wagon without a box and hauled to the west side of the Sun Dance Lodge. The main body of Poncas on horseback were with this group following with their gifts to be given away at the tree cutting ceremony. As the tree was hauled back to the camp, the warriors on horseback put on a sham battle. As the warriors came towards the camp, they came as a tornado would, round and around until they took the camp. Every man had his horses camouflaged with grape vines and leaves, hand prints of red, white or black, eagle feathers on their tails and broadcloth around his horse's throat, good saddle or blanket and their shields and a high powered rifle and six shooter for close fighting and a scalp knife, war bonnet for the chiefs and all kinds of ornaments for the warriors, like roaches, eagle, hawk and crow feathers. After circling the camp by fours they were singing their war songs and the women folks were cheering. The old men that did not go were talking and encouraging the young braves and older warriors and complimenting them for the great thing that has happened this day.