

on the west side and the pipestem or mouth piece facing east. A crescent of the sun and moon, a large one, was made toward the rising sun with four pieces of fire wood laid in the inside of this crescent, four markings were drawn on top of the crescent representing the four winds or directions. Now the area is complete, sage is placed for the dancers with canvas to sit on. The sun dance lodge was built in circular shape, opening on top and the entrance to the east, bent willows formed the shade with branches and covered with canvas on top.

Teepee poles with long calico or goods was placed on the east side in the ground by the family for each dancer, here the family placed food, groceries, blanket or a whole string of horses or one good horse to give away in the dancers honor. Smoking hot food was given to the drummers. When too much food was brought they gave it to the people who were there. This food was a sort of temptation and made the men try that much harder.

When the dance started on the first day all the participants were brought from the four sacred teepees and lined up early in the morning all facing east toward the rising sun. All the participants raised their right hand to the sun and cried and prayed with their leaders for the Almighty, Giver of Life on this earth to take pity on them, their family and the Ponca People, as well as other tribes in the area. Then the drummers sang a song to the sacred pipe, after this song another starting song was sung, then a song to the peace pipe again, then to the sun of which there were many. They danced till noon then took a short rest period. Then a leader would take his bunch of dancers and dance in a group, then go back to their seats. Then another group would dance the same way. Then they would all get up and dance three or four songs. This would keep on all day long, the men facing the sun all day, until the song was sung ending the day.

The men slept all heading toward the sacred pole, the pipe, skull and the ornaments around the fire place.

At night the buffalo police patrolled around the tent or lodge to see that no deserters got away. If a deserter was caught he was returned to his leader and he decided to do his