

enemy's possessions such as bear claws, shirts, moccasins, war club and any ornament of the dead enemy.

The war party was an imitation of the tornado. The war party circled and circled getting closer and closer till the warriors got off their horses and had a hand to hand battle with the enemy or stockade or what have you. All articles taken in a war party was at the disposal of the leader, a good leader was a good war leader and always had a good following. A poor leader did not have much followers and he had to prove himself to the tribe. The war leader was an unselfish man and he gave all the spoils to his followers and if there was anything left he took them.

The songs that are sung are very old and they are individual hero songs made for a man who has distinguished himself in battle. Some new songs have been sung today for veterans of the World War I and II, and the Korean War. And now a song has been sung for the boys in the Viet Nam War.

The pow-wow dancing is common today, they pay no respect to this good old time ceremony. Anybody can dance that has some kind of costume. The plume feathers are seen today in the bustle and crow and plumes are used today by small children and fancy war dancing.

There was no such thing as straight dancing in the early days as the old men danced their own way of just dancing straight as they had lumbago, rheumatism, or arthritis. The young boys danced in fancy costumes and had their own variation of dance. Today even the women have lost their way of dancing as they try to dance like the men do.

The only contest the Poncas had was with the Sioux or visiting another tribe was the feather pulling contest. This was a highly skilled manly dance. A feather about four inches high was stuck in the arena or dancing place and the Sioux on one side and the Poncas on the other side. They must pick this feather up with his teeth without any arms on the ground or must keep in motion while doing his turn. The one who picked it up in the quickest, and most graceful way was considered the winner. This was done once a year and the day was called "A day of grace or peace." Then the next year the other tribe would visit on a