

there, you could camp. Well, the tribes, they like to camp together. Like the Apaches, they like to camp together. Because they don't camp all around there. There's a certain area there on that camping ground. Their big camp was kind of a horseshoe shape--that camping grounds. And they got that Sun Dance area right in the middle--almost at the west edge, you know. They won't allow anyone to camp behind that--that Sun Dance (lodge). And it's really wonderful, to see it. Sometimes I talk about it once in a while, what I seen. And of course we be camping there for three or four days before the dance starts. So, when you gonna start, well, seems like they--these young mans, they ride a horse through the camps and sing. These fellow, you know. Sometimes they get their girlfriends right on behind them. Ride in the camp. And when they get through riding, well, they take their girlfriend--whoever it is that's riding with them--they take them back to camp with them. Course, you're not allowed to talk with the girls, you know, them days. They was strict. So when that Sun Dance starts, it's really wonderful. And these Indians over there--the Cheyenne-Arapahoes--they really believe in it. Their sacrament or something, I don't know. I never did get the full details of it. What I seen, well, it's wonderful. And it's something that's worth remembering. And when these boys ride--I'd say in the early part of the evening--when that's over, well, next morning, well, early in the morning, these menfolks, they go down to the river and pick out a cottonwood tree. Pretty good sized--say about two foot in diameter, and it's about thirty or forty feet tall. And they cut kind of a fork-like. (They cut a large cottonwood trunk that has a fork in the upper end. This is for the center post of the Sun Dance Lodge.--jj) It's the shape of a bean-shooter, or beanstalk--whatever they call it. And they drag it. And when they drag it, they got a man riding--mounted on a horse. They got a long rope. He's dragging a rope, and it's got a brush of these cottonwood (tied to it). I guess you know what a cottonwood tree is--this brush. And he's dragging it in front of that big log there what they're dragging--what they gonna use for center pole. They drag that. Menfolks, they drag it by hand. I don't know--it's good many of them drag it by hand.