

Sometimes they drag it about a mile, I guess. North (?) you know. And this fellow, he be riding a horse, and he drags this brush in front of it. And when they come up to where they're gonna stand this pole up, well, they got these--they look like rafters on a house. And that arena is round. It's kinda wide, you know--in diameter, and it's round. It's pretty good sized. And they put poles around this arena. Same way, it's like a fork. These poles, these rafters, they put them up there--where it's forked. Of course, it's built like a arbor. You've seen how our arbors is built? They got these outside poles. They got them so far apart. And then put poles on top of it. Clear on around. And they put these poles up. Before they do that, well, it's ceremonies going on, all this time. (Sun Dance Lodge is built of a number of forked posts set in a circle and a large forked center post in the middle. The outside posts are connected by horizontal stringers, and then a rafter goes from each outside forked post to the forked center post. Then the sides are filled in with brush.--jj) And they got a tent right west of there. That's where "medicine folks" are at, I guess. I don't know. They got these poles laying down opposite directions, from this arena, where they could stand them up. (The rafters or upright forked posts, before they are raised.)

OFFERINGS OF CLOTH TIED TO UPRIGHTS AND/OR RAFTERS

And they tie these--what do you call these? Calicoes. (Strips of cloth, or lengths of cotton cloth) Our grandma always take us. Some way in the ceremony they make sort of some kind of wishes--interpretations. They wish luck. Kind of a prayer, like. And they tie these calicoes on there. Just like ribbons, you know. Boy, you could see lot of them. Just like--well--you've seen these filling stations--they got them little--what do you call them?

(Those little flags?)

Yeah. Those little flags. Yeah. But these (the lengths of cloth) are tied to the poles.

(To those poles standing upright?)

Yeah, just poles like that, and they got another one this way and another one just like--like cut pie, you know. That's what it's like.