

(Well, are these calicoes tied on all of those poles?)

Yeah. There's just--it's about maybe seven, eight, nine, ten peoples tie calicoes on one pole. And another one the same way--all the way around. They all laying down. And they put that--I don't know what's in that--they got all kinds of grass--I don't know what that is. Cheyennes and Arapahoes, they'd know what it is. They put that on there like that, and then they put them poles on top. (Alfred may be talking about the bundle of sticks and other items that are tied to the fork of the center post before it is raised. Then the rafters would be tied to the center post fork above this bundle of sticks.

(Now did you say that's where they make the prayers for good luck?) There's prayers going on all that time they're putting it up. Individuals. Somebody be talking all that time. Just like--you take somebody over there--your grandchildren. Children or your grandchildren, you go over there, and you tie that on there, and it's kind of a rubdown. Tie that on there, and make a few wishes and prayers. And somebody else come right by you and do the same way. And after everything's tied, they put that center pole up. Put that center pole up, and then just a little while, they got that arena fixed. Then when they get it all--kind of a skeleton-life--that frame. Round, like a arbor. Then they come in with these cottonwood limbs. And they kind of insulate it. (Put brush around the outside. This provides both shade and privacy, but as people gather around to view the Sun Dance ceremonies, they tend to open up holes in the brush and make peep holes.--jj) Sometimes you have to work your way through to even peek through, you know. But that generally wears out when people gets around it. They start hacking it up. Maybe by the last day you can see plum through it.

SUN DANCE: HOW PERFORMED

So that's really wonderful. That's where my grandpa was--they sing. They sing four days without stopping. Course, the singers are rotated. You know, they--just like certain group comes in, they sing. They sing till about--oh, in them days, they got good singers! They got lot of songs, too. They sing till about noon, I guess. Another group comes in and they sing till about