

other two was straight, but somehow, my mother said it was supposed to be forked--the end. We still got it a little wrong yet. That feather's supposed to be sticking up at the tip. That one we never did--

(Is that how your mother said it was?)

Yeah--that's the way it's supposed to be. Now you take these staffs--these owners--we don't know who owns that hook. But we know that Old Man Achilta is the one that had that hook. And I believe Capitan had the other one--that hook. But them forked ones might belong to Old Man Taho and Old Man Josh. 'Cause that's the families (that owned them). These staffs cannot be transplanted.

INHERITANCE OF STAFFS AND WHIP USED IN BLACKFEET DANCE

(What do you mean by that?)

Well--they cannot go to another family--the staffs. Just like our leaders--our chiefs--they're just like England over there--they just got that one throne--come down from generation. So it's the same way with that staff. The leaders supply them. Whip man and four staff bearers. In case there's one of them that's passed on, these other three get together and they pick one of the family they think would be the best--have better wisdom or better ambition or better knowledge. And respect. One they think would be fit for carrying it. That's the kind of a person they look towards as a leader.

(Who had these staffs when you were starting it up again?)

Well, I don't know--

(Like awhile ago you said Gertie had one and I don't know who else you said)